



B I N G O

We are mixing it up a little for the September meeting!

Instead of a speaker, we will be playing 5 games of Bingo. The prizes will be cash, based on the number of bingo booklets sold, and will increase in payout as the games proceed.

Each booklet of 5 games is \$5, and you may purchase as many booklets as you want. Please bring cash to pay for your booklet(s).

The game we call "bingo" actually started out as "beano." The history of the game dates back to the mid-1500s. "Lo Giuoco del Lotto D'Italia," or the Italian Lottery, was all the rage. Players had cards with numbered squares on them, and the winning numbers were drawn out of a sack. It has since transformed across Europe and aided in the delivery of academic lessons with little ones.

When the game reached North America in 1929, it became known as "beano". It was first played at a carnival near Atlanta, Georgia. New York toy salesman Edwin S. Lowe renamed it "bingo" after he overheard someone accidentally yell "bingo" instead of "beano." It is still used for educational purposes today in America to teach children and to teach English as a second language.

Next Dinner Meeting 1800 –Tuesday–17 September 2019

The location for the meeting this month is at the
Saugahatchee Country Club

3800 Bent Creek Road Opelika, AL 36804

Take Bent Creek Parkway which is Exit 57 off I-85. Go the opposite direction of the Sam's Club/Sports Academy stores and through the residential section.

Saugahatchee Country Club is on the left before Hamilton Road.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107 or by email to bohler1107@charter.net by Sunday, 15 Sept. 2019 by 2100.

<p>Cost: \$20 per person</p> <p>Time: 1800--Social 1830--Dinner 1915-- Program</p>	<p>Date: Sept. 17, 2019</p> <p>Place: Saugahatchee Country Club</p> <p>If you need a ride or have any questions call Judy at 334-826-1107.</p>	<p>Menu</p> <p>To Honor the Bingo Game</p> <p>Something Italian</p> <p>With</p> <p>Bingo Cupcakes</p>
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August Meeting Minutes

- Pledge by Mike Horsefield
- Prayer by Mike Golden
- Welcome: Patty Patten from the Auburn University AF ROTC who is a very new member, new member Mike Vinzinski brought his wife-Julie, Wynell Davis and Meg Burritt are back.
- Charlie Block, By-Law Committee Chair, talked about the proposed By-Laws which was sent to everyone by email before the luau. Mike Golden explain the 4 executive members (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) are the same, but the 4 directors would be a change from 3 and they will have specific duties now. Charlie Block made a motion to accept the new By-Laws and Earl Allen seconded the motion. The membership voted and passed the proposed By-Laws from the Board.
- Mike Golden announced that Marilyn Horsefield will send out a job description for the positions and that nominations will be finalized at the September meeting.
- Judy Bohler gave instructions for the luau meal line, along with recycling bin for colorful cocktail glasses and plastic bottles. She thanked Mike and Marilyn Horsefield for helping to set up and to decorate this morning; she thanked Mike and Cathy Golden for cooking the BBQ and preparing the food tables; she thanked Earl Digman and Louise Henn for arriving early and preparing the appetizer table, and she thanked Jeff Bohler for helping with set up, decorating, and bartending.
- Luau Dinner
- Bill Broome talked about the Wreaths Across America program. Each wreath is \$15 through the website. Look for the section in the newsletter about how you or a friend can donate. Our chapter receives money for every wreath bought with our chapter code or use the website address in the newsletter which will go directly to our chapter's code.
- The chapter was still looking for guest speakers, especially for September. Marilyn made a suggestion of a Bingo night for September which was well received by the members.
- Earl Digman mentioned the Challenge Coins are for sale for \$5.
- Raffle winners are Bill and Carol Luther for the wine in the pineapple bottle holder and Timothy and Michy Aja for the Publix gift card.

A joint service transformation initiative has resulted in the first official online vacation travel site, American Forces TravelSM,

with Priceline[®]

as the service provider. The site offers travel deals and benefits just for you! American Forces TravelSM provides access to a wide selection of discounted rates on hotels, air fare, rental cars, vacation packages, cruises and much more!

<https://www.americanforcetravel.com/>

MWR Resources

MOAA Vacations

*LET US HELP PLAN
YOUR DREAM VACATION!*

As the official travel agency for MOAA, our mission is to provide the very best vacation experience for every member. In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with your fellow MOAA members from across the country we have also negotiated special value-added offers to enhance your next vacation.

<http://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/>

Sept 2020 Signature Tour— Germany

Veterans Legacy Memorial Now Available to Locate Deceased Vet's NCA Burial Sites

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) launched the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), 14 AUG, the country's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the preservation of the memory of the 3.7 million Veterans interred in VA national cemeteries. Each Veteran will have their own memorial page on the VLM, a secure, web-based platform that creates a perpetual memorial extending beyond the physical border of the national cemetery. "Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures "no Veteran ever dies" by honoring the legacy of our nation's Veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery.

"NCA, in conjunction with VA's Office of Information and Technology, built the architecture for the site starting with the information contained on every Veteran's headstone. In the initial rollout, the public will be able to search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the basic details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add historic photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran's memorial page. Such capabilities will include provisions that allows NCA to manage the site in a manner that maintains the same level of decorum our customers experience in our national cemeteries.

NCA manages many cemeteries, some that date to the Civil War era. Unfortunately, there may be a mistake in a Veteran's profile. For historic Veterans, this can be due to manual entry from old records; for Veterans of other periods, this can be due to an error in a form submitted to NCA. Whatever the reason, we want to make it right, and we may need your help. For some historic Veterans, the profile may be incomplete. Each Veteran's profile reflects what we do know about the Veteran. For example, it is not uncommon for a Civil War soldier's profile to have only a last name and year of death. Times were different, and that may have been all that was known.

If you believe that you have found an error, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Customer Support." You may also call (866) 245-1490. An NCA team member will listen to you share what you found. Each case is different, but NCA team members will work to rectify the Veteran's record. Errors are rare, but our goal is to have none. For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit www.va.gov/remember, or contact Dr. Bryce Carpenter, Veterans Legacy Program Manager, at bryce.carpenter@va.gov. Have questions about Veterans Legacy Memorial? Find what you're looking for at VLM FAQ. (Source: VA Press Release | August 23, 2019)

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.



<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159330/Overview>

LUAU 2019



Current Executive Board for 2019:

President— Mike Golden

Vice President—Gary DeMars

Treasurer— Earl Digman

Secretary/Newsletter—Judy Bohler

Directors— Caleb Pipes and Bob Recknor

Chair Positions:

Auxiliary Liaison—Marilyn Horsefield

TOPS—Mike Horsefield

ROTC Banquet—Bill Broome

Membership—Jeff Bohler

Legislative—Cathy Golden

Webmaster—Bill Broome

AL Council Liaison—Charlie Block

**NATIONAL MOAA 2019
LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
FIVE-STAR AFFILIATES**

Alabama

Alabama Council of Chapters

Coosa Valley Chapter

East-Central Alabama Chapter

Fort Rucker Chapter

Greater Birmingham Chapter

Huntsville Chapter

South Alabama Chapter

Our chapter received a 5-Star Award from National MOAA for the year 2019. Every year, MOAA's affiliates compete to receive a four- or five-star Levels of Excellence Award. This year, 135 of MOAA's very best councils and chapters earned five-star awards, while 23 above-average councils and chapters received four-star awards. This award is based on the 2018 calendar year programs and events.

Pet-Friendly Hotels with Military Discounts

This article by Sarah Hughes originally appeared on Military.com, the premier resource for the military and veteran community.

Animal lovers know that pets are like family, which is why so many of us have a hard time being away from our four-legged friends while traveling.

Whether it's a permanent change-of-station (PCS) move, a family vacation or a visit with friends, military families are often on the go -- and it's not always possible to leave pets at home during long trips.

Fortunately, there are many pet-friendly hotels that allow your furry companion to join you on your travel adventures. The hotel chains listed below offer both military discounts and pet-friendly accommodations so you can bring your pet and feel a little more at home while on the road.

1. **Best Western:** With more than 1,600 pet-friendly hotels across North America, Best Western offers a discount to military service members and allows up to two domestic dogs per room, with a maximum size of 80 pounds per animal. Other pet types, such as cats, are allowed at the discretion of each property and require prior approval.

2. **Choice Hotels:** Choice Hotels offers more than 2,500 pet-friendly hotels where your pets can stay with you. They also show their appreciation for military and government travelers with guaranteed one- and two-person rates.

3. **InterContinental Hotels Group:** At a discounted Military Appreciation Rate, Intercontinental Hotels Group offers military members, their families and pets places to stay all around the world.

4. **La Quinta Inns & Suites:** La Quinta knows that your pets are part of the family and welcomes them to their hotels. Active-duty service members, veterans and military spouses can save up to 12% at La Quinta's 800-plus pet-friendly locations from coast to coast.

5. **Motel 6:** Motel 6 is proud to offer all active and retired military personnel and their families up to a 10% discount at all of their more than 1,400 locations. Service animals and well-behaved pets are welcome, with a limit of two pets per room.

6. **Red Roof Inn:** Red Roof Inn welcomes your pet to stay for free at more than 500 locations, and offers a 10% discount on room rates for military and government personnel.

“The elevator to success is out of order. You’ll have to use the stairs, one step at a time.” –Joe Girard

TRICARE Survey Confirms Cost, Access Contribute to Satisfaction

MOAA recently completed the latest in a yearly series of health care surveys. With changes beneficiaries continue to experience, MOAA intends to maintain a close, ear-to-the-ground perspective and will survey beneficiaries annually. The surveys collectively reveal respondents are satisfied overall with their health care benefit.

Some groups much more so than others: For example, the respondents over age 65 who use TRICARE For Life (TFL) continue to express greater satisfaction with their benefit. However, when it comes to what they have to pay for their medications, they are increasingly dissatisfied. “Access to my provider has become more difficult with longer wait times for appointments. I stopped mail delivery of prescriptions because of the cost. While I travel further to refill my prescriptions, it is cheaper than the copay for the convenience, but now they are reducing medications available at the base hospital.” “As a retired member living on a fixed income, any increase in costs to include pharmacy costs, for myself and spouse would seriously jeopardize our health care. At 80 years of age I am seeing an increase in the need for more maintenance medications.

“From a general perspective, beneficiary respondents who use either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select continue to voice dissatisfaction with the cost of their care —and now many are experiencing access to health care issues more frequently as more military treatment facilities are reducing services. “Annual increases far outpace retired pay COLA and continues to grow far more than the healthcare I was promised when I joined the military. Finding doctors who will accept TRICARE, and who will accept TRICARE reimbursement rates, is more difficult every year.” “It’s become harder to access the MTF [military treatment facility] as a retiree, and we are sent off base to civilian providers and have to pay much more out of our pockets.” “I’ve noticed more-frequent referrals to off-base, civilian providers because it’s getting harder to get specialty care (like dermatology and cardiology) at the base.

“And to be sure, those who are currently serving are watching what is happening. Consider this service members experience: “As an active duty member, both my spouse and I receive excellent care through TRICARE. However, I largely attribute this to the fact that we get care at an MTF with high visibility. When I had Tricare Prime Remote while in a large metropolitan city, it was very difficult to first explain TRICARE, and then to get care through a network physician. I am greatly concerned about attempts to increase fees and costs for retired members, particularly when they are used to cut costs for the department.” The information MOAA gains through these surveys will continue to shape the legislative agenda into the new year.

In the meantime, let Congress know reducing military medical manpower affects real people – YOU!
[Source: MOAA | Kathryn M. Beasley| August 28,2019 ++]*****

Slate of Nominees for October Election

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: **open**

Director Legislative: Charlie Block

Past President: Mike Golden

Chair Positions

Surv. Sp. Liaison: Marilyn Horsefield

Tops: Mike Horsefield

Membership: **open**

Personal Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield

Newsletter: Cathy Golden

Web Site: Bill Broome

Digital Com: Jeff Bohler

News Release: Bill Broome

Chair Positions– **con’t.**

ROTC Awards: **open**

Monthly Mtg: Mike Golden

Guest Speaker: Jeff Bohler

ByLaws: Charlie Block

State Council: Charlie Block

Leg. Updates: Charlie Block

Mon. MOAA News: Charlie Block

New Members



Wynell Davis is a surviving spouse of Col. Dudley Davis. He served in the Army during WWII. She lives in Alexander City, AL and joined our chapter at the May meeting.





Omega "Meg" Burritt is a surviving spouse of Col. Richard Burritt. He was in the Marine Corp during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. She joined at the May meeting.



Lt Col Patty Patten is in the Air Force and works at the ROTC unit at Auburn University. She is a very new member by joining the chapter at the luau meeting.

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/>

Future Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

October 15, 2019 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee
 November 19, 2019 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee
 December 14, 2019 Sat 11 AM-1 PM Saugahatchee

2020

January 21, 2020 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee
 February 18, 2020 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee
 March 21, 2020 Sat 11 AM– 1 PM Saugahatchee or Old Towne Buffet
 April 21, 2020 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee Ball Room for ROTC Banquet
 May 19, 2020 Tue 6-8 PM Saugahatchee

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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