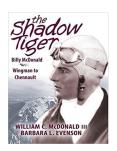


### **ECAC Newsletter**

ecacmoaa.com



SPETEMBER 2020



The Shadow Tiger: the Flying Experiences of
William (Mac) C. McDonald, Jr.

By
William (Billy) C. McDonald, III

This month we are happy to welcome as our guest speaker, Mr. Billy McDonald. Please join us on September 15<sup>th</sup> for our first Zoom virtual meeting to hear Billy share his knowledge and insight on his father, Mac McDonald in his book, <u>Shadow Tiger</u>. Billy McDonald grew up hearing stories about flying and about his father's experiences in China, and as an adult, he was stunned to discover front-page stories about his dad's career. After five years of research and another year working with his co-author, Barbara Evenson, to create the final book, McDonald has immersed himself in the history of aviation in Alabama and in China during the 1930s and 40s, as well as, the experience of Americans in China during that era.

His father's 30,000 page collection is now housed at the Smithsonian and will be on the internet for all to view. Billy spent three weeks in China meeting with multiple museums that showcase the history of American flyers with the Flying Tigers and the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC). Mr. McDonald currently serves on the board of CNAC Heritage Fund and the Southern Museum of Flight.

### Next Meeting 1900 — Tuesday — 15 September 2020

The location for the meeting this month is a virtual experience by Zoom. You can connect by clicking on the following link:

https://troy.zoom.us/j/99185878987?pwd=MndJcWpZU3F2WEthSGRCNE45dHZwZz09

Meeting ID: 991 8587 8987

Passcode: 594601

Billy McDonald's book, "The Shadow Tiger", is available for \$39.95 on Amazon Prime (https://www.amazon.com/Shadow-Tiger-McDonald-Wingman-Chennault/dp/1945333030)

















#### ECAC-MOAA's 2020 Meeting Dates

Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	<b>Moores Mill Club</b>
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	<b>Moores Mill Club</b>
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
April 21st	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
June	None		
July	None		
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	4 PM	Cancelled COVID-19
Sept 15 <sup>h</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA



Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and

contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. It is the Monday of the long weekend known as **Labor Day Weekend**.



### 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.



Blood Cancer Awareness Month 2020 Blood Cancer Awareness
Month is an international
event that's been helping to
tell the story of blood cancer
each September for 10 years.



People with blood cancer have the best chance of surviving and then living well when they're diagnosed quickly and treated with the best medicines. We're making good progress but this September we're asking you to help break down the barriers still standing between people with blood cancer and the best treatments for them. If we work together, we can do great things that accelerate the development of new treatments and give people fairer access to the best ones we have today. Because helping people get the treatment they need, saves lives.

#### **PATRIOT DAY**



**SEPTEMBER 11** 

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved naming **September 11 "Patriot Day"** to commemorate the anniversary of the **9/11** attacks. In 2009, Congress named **September 11** a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Patriot Day is a United States national observance that honors the memory of those who were killed in the September 11 attacks. It was first observed in 2002, after the proclamation by President George W. Bush. In 2009, President Barack Obama rededicated it as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. It is not a public holiday therefore government offices, educational institutions and businesses do not close on this day. On Patriot Day, the national flag is flown at halfmast on all United States government buildings and establishments. Individuals are also encouraged to display flags on their homes. A moment of silence is traditionally observed at 8:46 AM. Many organizations and establishments hold memorial ceremonies to honor the victims of 9/11. A moment of silence is traditionally observed at 8:46 AM. Many organizations and establishments hold memorial ceremonies to honor the victims of 9/11.

### The History of Grandparents Day

**Grandparents Day** is always celebrated on the **first Sunday** after Labor Day.

Marian McQuade hoped to establish a national day that would honor grandparents, and in 1970 she began a campaign to do so. McQuade raised awareness about senior citizens throughout the 1970s. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National Grandparents Day. Each year, the president issues a proclamation to keep the tradition going.



Grandparents Day has both an official flower and song. The official flower is the **forget-me-not**, and the song is Johnny

Prill's "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa." Both were chosen by the National Grandparents Day Council.



#### **CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY**

Formerly called "I am an American Day" (1940) and then "Citizenship Day" (1952), this observance's long new name (2004) is called Constitution Day for short. It marks the anniversary of the date on September 17, 1787 when the final draft of the Constitution of the United States was signed by delegates to the Constitutional Convention after months of wrangling. The framers of the Constitution had been arguing constantly as they met in secret, but they had leaked reports to the press indicating that all was well. "So great is the unanimity, we hear, that prevails in the convention, upon all great federal subjects, that it has been proposed to call the room in which they assemble 'Unanimity Hall."

The Federalists (as they came to be called) argued through June and most of July and reached an agreement on July 16. After deciding to leave out a bill of rights -- because everyone was worn-out and they thought there was no need for such a list -- the framers completed the final draft on **September 17** and made it ready for submission to the states for ratification. The American Bar Association and other organizations make an effort to mark this anniversary by sponsoring symposia and, in some cases, offering free legal advice.



## **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://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/1593 30/Overview

### Secretary's Report

September 2020

As of August 31, 2020, the chapter has:		<b>2020 Dues</b>	
67	Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
12	Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2	Associate Members	<b>\$5</b>	Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
81	Total Members		
Please	e mail a check to ECAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 124,	Aubur	n, AL, 36830-0124. Or, bring your check to a

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 September Board of Directors meeting was on Tuesday, September 1st at 1300 by Zoom videoconference. All members were present.

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 08/01/2020 to 08/31/2020

Balance Forward from 08/01/2020 \$5,229.73

Deposits/Credits \$00.00

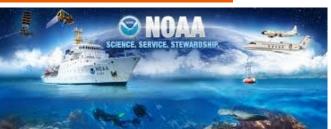
Withdrawals/Debits \$00.00

Service Charges .00

#### Ending Balance as of 08/31/2020:













**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.

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.

### **MOAA News**

### TRICARE's Uncertain Future: How MOAA Is Working to Protect Your Benefit

By: Karen Ruedisueli - SEPTEMBER 02, 2020



Military Health System (MHS) reform, directed by Congress via the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), touches almost every element of the system. While MOAA has most recently been fighting for increased reporting requirements and congressional oversight of military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts, we have also been monitoring potential changes to TRICARE since discussions on the next generation of TRICARE contracts, known as T-5, began last year. There is still time to influence T-5. The draft request for proposal (RFP) was just released, and T-5 requirements are still being shaped. The current TRICARE T-2017 contracts run through Dec. 31, 2022.

The key takeaway: While we appreciate congressionally-directed TRICARE reforms are intended to improve access and quality of care, as well as the Defense Health Agency's ability to address contractor performance issues, they must be carefully coordinated with other MHS reforms and consider the impact on TRICARE program costs. Otherwise, beneficiaries could face inadequate TRICARE network availability in some areas, pressures for higher out-of-pocket costs, and a rocky transition to the new contractors. The FY 2017 NDAA directed DoD to implement TRICARE reforms designed to improve access to health care, health outcomes, and health care quality; enhance the beneficiary's experience of care; lower per capita health care costs; incorporate innovative ideas and solutions; and develop and continuously refresh high-performing networks of health care providers at the national, regional, and local levels. The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has expressed concerns that the T-5 acquisition strategy will continue the East/West two-region approach and may not incorporate reforms directed by the FY17 NDAA. In its report for S. 4049, the Senate version of the FY 2021 NDAA, the SASC noted the existing contract structure "limits the [Defense Health Agency] and does not comport with the reforms directed by this committee." The SASC report directed DoD to "review the legislative reforms enacted over the past several years and report to the committee on how the acquisition strategy for the next set of TRICARE managed care support contracts incorporates those reforms in a manner that increases competition and beneficiary choice." The committee went on to say that keeping a two-region setup "will neither provide the DHA with options to swiftly address contractor performance issues or shortfalls nor will it incentivize contractors to comport with the most high quality, innovative, and costeffective industry best practices to improve quality of care for TRICARE beneficiaries and to maximize returns on DHA investment."

In response to the SASC report request, DoD released the Report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate: TRICARE Managed Care Support Contract Structure earlier this month. In the report to the SASC, DoD recommended maintaining the two-region construct in T-5 but incorporating phased demonstration projects to test and evaluate multiple contract/network offerings, as well as other health care innovations. The first phase will require the two managed care support contractors (MCSCs) to conduct demonstrations, similar to the Kaiser Permanente pilot in Atlanta, designed to increase beneficiary choice and test health plan innovations. In later demonstrations, DHA would award limited local or market-based contracts in each region directly to health care organizations, including plans or providers. First, DHA will need to compete a separate contract to satisfy TRICARE's unique administrative needs related to eligibility, enrollment, and encounter data.

#### **MOAA's Position**

MOAA's top priority is protecting beneficiary access to high quality care and the value of the military health care benefit. We support congressionally directed TRICARE reforms aimed at better serving beneficiary needs, improving integration with MTF leadership, and facilitating a more agile, cost-effective approach. Reforms that provide DHA with options to swiftly address contractor performance issues are particularly important. However, since the FY 2017 NDAA was passed, MOAA has had concerns about simultaneously increasing demand for TRICARE network care (via MTF restructuring and rightsizing) while also changing the TRICARE supply of network care (via a transformed TRICARE construct). We also suspect the new approach may result in higher TRICARE program costs that will create pressure for higher beneficiary out-of-pocket costs. In its report to Congress, DoD cites possible cost increases related to potential reductions in provider discounts and the cost of a back-end administrative contract to handle eligibility/enrollment/ encounters. MOAA believes the approach outlined in DoD's report to the SASC has merit. It is important to test and evaluate TRICARE changes before rolling them out programwide. It is also critical to allow time to integrate TRICARE reforms with MTF restructuring and rightsizing efforts that could dramatically increase demand for TRICARE network care. Instability in the civilian medical system resulting from COVID-19 is also likely to impact TRICARE reform efforts and must be considered. All TRICARE changes being discussed as part of T-5 are still just under consideration - nothing is definite. MOAA will continue to monitor T-5 efforts and advocate for beneficiaries throughout the process. Regardless of eventual T-5 specifics, we urge DoD and Congress to ensure any TRICARE changes and pilots/demonstrations are monitored closely using robust metrics to assess impact on beneficiary access to care, the quality of that care, and the cost to beneficiaries and DoD.

https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-seeks-12-month-grace-period-for-new-tricare-select-enrollment-fee/?ite=1785&ito=2538&itq=2e9fbe28-fa62-42ab-a36e-3d08e572e83c&itx%5Bidio%5D=617731

### The President's Corner:

### Greetings all and happy September!

First and foremost, I just wanted to pass on the good news of the birth of our two grand-children! Ruby Rose was born 4 months ago and Logan James was born last month! We are so thrilled with our grand babies and I could not resist the opportunity to share the news of our blessings with you! They are precious!

These children are two very bright lights shining through the truly bizarre times we're living through and provide me with some much-needed perspective. My conclusion is that everything is going to be alright, so don't let anxiety ruin your day. Covid is still an issue, so keep up whatever it is you've been doing. I believe the nation is close to fielding a vaccine. Respecting the threat, your MOAA chapter will continue to postpone our dinners until we're sure it's safe to get back together again. My guess right now is sometime in 2021.

Until then, we're going to experiment with virtual meetings and actual guest speakers with the idea that everyone can join on their computer. Information is provided in this newsletter on how to join the September 15th meeting. Please plan to be with us and let's see if this works.

Additionally, we have a MOAA Facebook page you can join and be a part of. This page is still in its infancy so there isn't a lot to it just yet. Our vision is to provide a means of providing information to our membership in a timely fashion with a little bit of a social aspect to it as well. Please no political posts or attacks – we're only looking for information relevant to our membership and a means to communicate in near real-time with everyone about matters that are relevant to all of us. Search for "ECAC MOAA" within Facebook to join.



# **Congratulations ECAC!**

The Chapter has racked up several national awards over the last two years. In addition, **East Central Alabama Chapter** turned **50** on **April 15th**.

















2019

### **Legislative Chair—Charlie Block**

### **National, State & Local News**

What follows below are excerpt from various MOAA document. MOAA will advise us when the Public Hearings will occur.

The Military Coalition is concerned with proposed eligibility changes to ANC through the Federal Register rules process. The proposed changes to eligibility are service and mission discriminatory and do not account for all-important military honors for those who would be forced to use a different cemetery. These concerns, and proposals to alleviate them, were outlined in an Aug. 14 letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

In the letter, the coalition recommends grandfathering eligibility to account for those who have already intended ANC to be their final resting place. The letter also recommends non-contiguous expansion of ANC as the cemetery reaches capacity. This would facilitate burials and inurnments with military honors replicated from ANC, where such individuals had been eligible. Among the proposed changes, the Army has said preference for below-ground interment will go to service members killed in action, Medal of Honor recipients and World War II veterans.

#### Others eligibility for below-ground interment:

- · Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
- Recipients of the Purple Heart
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities
- Former prisoners of war
- Presidents and vice presidents
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

### Above-ground inurnment would be authorized for:

- World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees
- Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment
- Veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an American scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce that focuses on the conditions of the oceans, major waterways, and the atmosphere.



NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources and conducts research to provide the understanding and improve stewardship of the environment.



### **NOAA MISSION**

To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and



manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

Dedicated to the understanding and stewardship of the environment.

**NOAA** is an agency that enriches life through science. Their reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep the public informed of the changing environment around them.

From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

### 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.



**NOAA's** roots reach back more than 200 years: **NOAA** is America's environmental intelligence agency. In 1807, President Thomas Jefferson founded the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (as the Survey of the Coast) to provide nautical charts to the maritime community for safe passage into American ports and along our extensive coastline. The Weather Bureau was founded 1870 and, one year later, the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries was founded. Individually, these organizations were America's first physical science

agency, America's first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and America's first conservation agency. The cultures of scientific accuracy and precision, service to protect life and property, and stewardship of resources of these three agencies were brought together in 1970 with the establishment of NOAA, an agency within the Department of Commerce. In 2020, NOAA is celebrating its 50th anniversary.



Governor Kay Ivey issued her seventeenth 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 Friday, October 2, 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



(1) Pursuant to 17-11-3{e) of the *Code of Alabama*, and without limitation, due to the State of Emergency issued by the Governor of Alabama on March 13, 2020, as amended, any qualified voter who determines it is impossible or unreasonable to vote at their voting place for the General Election on November 3, 2020 due to the declared states of emergency, shall be eligible to check the box on the absentee ballot application which reads as follows:

"I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls.

- (2) Any qualified voter of this state who applies and successfully submits an application, with proper identification, for an absentee ballot pursuant to this Emergency Administrative Rule shall be eligible to vote an absentee ballot for the **General Election on November 3, 2020.**
- (3) All Absentee Election Managers and any other election officials of this state are hereby directed and instructed to follow this Emergency Administrative Rule and accept all absentee ballot applications filed hereunder immediately.



#### **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 <u>Absentee Ballot Tool</u> 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</u>
   Office 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

