

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**FEBRUARY 2025****Presentation: MOAA Goals and Legislative Issues 2025****Guest Speaker: National MOAA Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret)****When: Feb 20th 6PM at Saugahatchee Country Club**

As Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, Capt. Frank J. Michael is responsible for direct support of MOAA's robust nationwide network of more than 400 active and engaged affiliates as they influence legislation, serve their local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA brand awareness nationwide. He coordinates with senior headquarters staff, as well as national oversight committee and board leadership, to improve and support the vibrancy and effectiveness of MOAA's affiliate network. Michael also provides in-person support to council and chapter activities and events, and plans and organizes quarterly council and chapter leader in-person workshops and other training opportunities.

**Career Highlights:**

- Commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47 (HSL 47). Led Navy helicopter relief efforts following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.
- Commanded *USS Boxer* (LHD 4). Participated in the 2011 Captain Phillips rescue operation in the Indian Ocean.
- Extensive experience in nonprofit program and volunteer member support.

<u>Menu</u>	Cost of Meal	Next Dinner Meeting
Salad	Per Person	February 20, 2025
Roasted Pork Loin	\$45 cash/check	1800 —Thursday— 6 PM
Grilled Chicken Breast	Arrival	Saugahatchee Country Club
Vegetable Medley	6:00-6:30	3800 Bent Creek Pkwy
Broccoli Casserole	Dinner	Opelika, AL 36804
Garlic Parmesan Mashed Potatoes	6:30-7:15	Please RSVP
Mac n' Cheese	Presentation	House 334-826-1107
Cobbler	7:15-8:00	or Cell 334-559-4243
Water/Tea	Departure	or by email to
	8:00-8:30	bohler1107@charter.net
		by Monday, Feb. 17th

Board Meeting was Monday, Feb. 10, 2025.

As of January 31, 2025, the chapter has:

2025 Dues

71 Regular Members	\$50	Per regular member.
10 Surviving Spouse Members	\$45	Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$25	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
83 Total Chapter Members		

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

March's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, March 10th, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg

\$2121.40 1-31-25 Bank Balance

No outstanding items or deposits

Income: \$25 Wreaths Across America

Minutes from the January Chapter Meeting

- ✦ Meeting called to order
- ✦ Prayer was said.
- ✦ Pledge by Ron Carson with a flag Debra Beatty-Bugg brought.
- ✦ 22 members and spouse were in attendance for the social
- ✦ Chris Richie talked about upcoming events with a representative from national MOAA in February and the ROTC Banquet in April.
- ✦ Chris also mentioned it was time to pay dues for the 2025 year.

Mark Your Calendar

April 17, 2025:

The ROTC Banquet at Saugahatchee Country Club which celebrates the students who receive our MOAA award is on this date. Many family members and instructors attend this event, so we ask our membership to assist in recognizing these recipients. Please save this date for our biggest event.



ECAC-MOAA's 2025 Meeting Dates

<i>Feb 20th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
Mar 20th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Apr 17th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
May 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Jun/July	No Meetings		

**Medicare Advantage**

Open Enrollment Period started on Jan 1, 2025 and closes March 31, 2025.



Quote of the Month:

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

Mark Twain



The Auburn Planesmen R/C Flying Club,

<https://auburnplanesmen.org/>

is located on a private full-scale (700 feet long by 100 feet wide) grass runway, flying radio-controlled electric, glow, gas, and turbine-powered aircraft. There is a solar-powered battery charging station for 12V and 120V battery chargers. You can expect 5-7 of the flying club members out every weekend, most likely on Sunday afternoons.

Check out the website for more information.

FYI: Distaff Club

If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that there is a local organization called Distaff Club for military spouses. They restaurant hop on the second Wednesday of the month in the Auburn/Opelika area. Traditionally, the February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend/Valentine to lunch and the December meeting has an ornament exchange. They enjoy getting together to socialize and getting to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year and collected at the restaurant in the summer. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. Come join us!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF...

John Robert Sellers

June 26, 1928 ~ December 18, 2024 (age 96)

John Robert "Bob" Sellers passed away peacefully at his home at Morningside Assisted Living of Auburn, AL on December 18, 2024 at the age of 96. He was born on June 26, 1928 in Manchester, GA to Elmer and Margaret Sellers and grew up in Opelika, AL. In 1946, he joined the armed forces and was assigned to the Marine Corps base camp in Lejeune, NC. After graduating from special training in 1946, he was deployed to the Pacific front. Later in 1950, he also served in Korea.

In 1951, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the USAF until his full retirement as a Major in 1972. Bob Sellers was a brave and loyal soldier, as well as a patient and loving father. He loved to play golf and travel. He married Dorothy Bulin in New York, NY in 1949. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Accounting in 1952 and continued a distinguished accounting career until retirement.

John R. Sellers is survived by his son, John Sellers (Kim) of Auburn, his daughter, Judy Fields (James) of Union Springs, AL and numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wives Dorothy and Helga and his brother Veston "Bud" Sellers. Also preceded in death by his loving partner and best friend of the last 25 years, Judith Perkins who is in the photo. They lived in Opelika and loved to share many traveling adventures across the United States.



Dr. Norma Bruce Brewer Nabors

04/10/1928 - 01/09/2025

Dr. Norma Bruce Brewer Nabors, 96, passed away Thursday, January 9, 2024 at her home in Auburn, Alabama. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama to the late Dr. Arthur Melville and Nellie May (Stine) Bruce.

Norma started her college years at the University of Montevallo, she was a beauty and junior and senior class presidents and received many honors including Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges and Who's Who in the South and Southwest. Graduated in 1950 with a B.S. degree in physical education, she went on to earn a M.S. from Troy University and an Ed.D. from Auburn University. She taught in Louisiana and Alabama and retired from the State of Alabama's Department of Post-Secondary Education.

She was an avid gardener and award-winning artist, Dr. Nabors combined her artistic abilities by creating beautiful gardens and then painting her favorite flowers as well as members of her family. Family was at the heart of her soul and she treasured every family member, their spouses and children.

Married in 1950 to Leo Ira Louie Brewer, they had four children before divorcing in 1972. Dr. Nabors was preceded in death by her last husband, Colonel James F. Nabors, a highly decorated Army veteran, who retired with several honors, including four silver stars, one bronze star and two purple hearts, and her eldest son, Dr. Arthur Bruce Brewer.

Norma, also known as "Precious," is survived by her daughter (Barbara Brewer Taylor), two sons (Leo Ira Louie Brewer, Jr., and William David Brewer), two step-daughters, six grandchildren, numerous step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Military Officer Magazine Dec 2024 page 32

Title of Article: Surviving Spouses Fight for Critical Legislation

By Jennifer Goodale, MOAA's director of Government Relations for military family and survivor policy

MOAA recently joined more than 150 military survivors on Capitol Hill in support of the 2nd Annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Gold Star Families Advocacy Week. This effort, backed by more than 25 military and veterans' organizations, sought to address critical legislative needs that directly impact military survivors. This year's Hill event focused on advocating for the passage of four bill:

1. The Love Lives On Act (H.R.3651/S.1266) addresses the complex realities facing surviving spouses who remarry after losing a servicemember. Currently, surviving spouses lose access to certain survivor benefits when they remarry before age 55. This bill would allow surviving spouses to retain these critical benefits regardless of remarriage.
2. The Caring for Survivors Act (H.R.1083/S.414) seeks to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for eligible survivors. Currently, DIC paid by the VA is significantly lower than comparable benefits for other federal survivors, such as those in the civil service or law enforcement.
3. The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R.1045/S.956) would expand health care coverage under TRICARE to dependents of servicemembers up to age 26, aligning the program with civilian health care standards. Currently, military families often find themselves in position where their children age out of TRICARE coverage at 21 (or 23) if they are full-time students.
4. **The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act (H.R.2414/S.1119) addresses age limits like the Health Care Fairness Act, but it focuses on young adult dependents of veterans who die from a service-connected disability who are eligible for the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veteran Affairs (CHAMPVA). This bill would extend coverage to these children until age 26, ensuring that survivors of veterans have access to critical health care for their dependents.**

Advocating alongside these military survivors, coupled with MOAA's endorsement of these bills, underscores our commitment to all service-connected families. The importance of honoring the sacrifice of these survivors must go beyond extending sympathy and translate into actions that support the financial well-being of those left behind.

Getting these bills across the finish line will require a push from the entire military and veteran community. Contact your lawmakers using MOAA's Legislative Action Center (www.moaa.org/takeaction) to express your support.

Dues Payment

At the Sept & Oct Board Meetings the board discussed what the new dues should be after doing some research. Many clubs in the area are around \$75-\$95 per year. Our chapter dues have been \$20 **for over 30 years and haven't been enough the last few years to meet our chapter's needs or goals** due to inflation.

The chapter has been covering the tax, large group service charge, and tip for each person's meal for several years, so the price of meals would stay low when it was a set menu at Saugahatchee Country Club. The chapter has also covered room rentals. Using the AU Club and paying for our **own meals has worked well for the majority of our meetings, but the angled patio room isn't workable** with the 50- 75 attendance at special events like Feb. and April.

For a regular member, \$50 was suggested by the board and the chapter members voted at the October general meeting to raise it to this amount starting in the 2025 year. Surviving spouses in the future would pay \$25. Dues will be collected in January and February at the meetings. Payment is due by March 1st, so a new roster can be prepared. Look for an invoice in the mail with a stamped return envelope to mail your check after the February meeting.

If you have questions, concerns, or payment issues about your chapter dues, please contact the membership chair, Judy Bohler, at the email address bohler1107@charter.net which is the email the newsletter is sent to you.

Who Can Join MOAA Chapter?

Membership in the East-Central Alabama Chapter is open to any National MOAA member who is on active duty, reserve, retired, or a former commissioned officer or warrant officer in any component of the Seven Uniformed Services of the United States (U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The Surviving Spouse of these individuals are also eligible to join and participate as regular members. Additionally, we offer Associate memberships to 4th year ROTC cadets at Auburn University and Tuskegee University as well as to the living spouse of a regular Chapter member.

ECAC Mission Statement

The East-Central Alabama Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and was chartered in 1970. It serves the cities of Auburn and Opelika, Alabama, as well as the surrounding areas of Lee, Chambers, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Macon counties in Alabama. The mission of the East-Central Alabama Chapter is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors, and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

Join ECAC Online!
<https://ecacmoaa.com/join-ecac>

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

President:	Mike Horsefield	Chair Positions	
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Secretary:	BJ DeBardeleben	Tops:	Mike Horsefield
Treasurer:	Gordon Bugg	Membership:	Judy Bohler
Director Chapter Affairs:	Ron Carson	Personal Affairs:	Ron Carson
Director Communication:	Jeff Bohler	Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bohler
Director Banquet:	Judy Bohler	Web Site:	Jeff Bohler
Director Legislative:	Ron Barto	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Past President:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Ron Carson
		ROTC Awards:	Open
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
		State Council:	Ron Barto
		Legislative Updates:	Ron Barto
		MOAA News:	Ron Barto
		Chaplain:	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
P.O. Box 124
Auburn, AL 36831-0124



Editorial Policy. The East-Central Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.