


**ECAC**

# ECAC Newsletter

[www.ecacmoaa.com](http://www.ecacmoaa.com)
**AUGUST 2025**


Our August MOAA meeting will be a luau party, so come dressed in your favorite Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, coconut bra, leis, or any fun colorful attire.

The party starts at **4:00 pm** with piña coladas, margaritas, macadamia nuts, and tropical fruit as some of the appetizers. And yes, there will be spam!

The Hawaiian dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and there will be plenty of pineapple and coconut.

After dinner we will have a short business meeting followed by hula dancing, coconut contests, and more piña coladas. Aloha!

## Next Dinner Meeting 1600 —Saturday— 16 August 2025

The location for the meeting this month is at the  
**Grove Hill Club House**

Turn into Grove Hill Subdivision off Moores Mill Rd.  
 Club house is on the left by pool.

**Please RSVP at 334-826-1107** or by email to  
**bohler1107@charter.net** by Thursday, 14 August 2025 by 2100.

Cost: \$35 per person  
 (cash or check only)

Raffle: \$5 optional

Time: 1600--Social

1700--Dinner

If you need a ride, or  
 have questions, please  
 call 334-826-1107.

This month's meeting is a  
 membership drive, so if  
 you know of a retired officer,  
 reservist, or officer on active  
 duty who is not a member of  
 our organization please  
 invite them to attend. Send  
 an email to the RSVP  
 address with their phone #  
 and a newsletter will be sent  
 to them. We have 69  
 members at this time.

### Menu

#### Salad

**Chicken Teriyaki w/ Pineapple**

**Hawaiian Pulled Pork**

**Rice/ Sweet Potato**

**Green Beans**

**Dinner Rolls**

**Beach Cake**

**Tea & Water**

## Board Meeting was Monday, August 4th, 2025.

### As of July 31, 2025, the chapter has:

### 2025 Dues

58	Regular Members	\$50	Per regular member.
11	Surviving Spouse Members	\$25	Per Widow/ ROTC student
2	Associate Members	\$5	Per Past Widow/Associate
<b>71</b>	<b>Total Chapter Members</b>		

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

September's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, September 8th, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg  
 \$2674.42    6-31-25    Bank Balance  
 No outstanding checks or debits.

### 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!

Replace your old ID card  
 by the end of 2025 year

If you have an old legacy ID card that is green, blue, pink, or orange, it needs to be up-date to the new Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (ISCD) card by the end of 2025. It looks similar to a driver license. Replacement of the indefinite (INDEF) expiration date cards, such as those used by retirees and incapacitated dependents, "must be completed at the customer's convenience prior to the paper-based card termination in 2026.







Kathy Holtz on the right with her daughters, Isabella Holtz and Heather Holtz at the May general meeting at the AU Club.

East Central Alabama Chapter, MOAA  
Minutes of the General Meeting  
May 15, 2025

- ✦ The last general meeting of spring was held at the AU Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:15 p.m. There were 22 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ruby Lynn (Mike's granddaughter) and was amazing! Her photo to the right.
- ✦ Mike introduced his other grandchild Shepherd Lynn. Kathy introduced her two daughters, Isabella and Heather.
- ✦ The blessing was offered by Gordon Bugg.
- ✦ We ordered from the regular menu and the food was fantastic.
- ✦ We will now take the summer off!
- ✦ Our next meeting will be the Luau on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the Grove Hill pool.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:37

Secretary  
BJ  
DeBardleben



President Mike Horsefield, right, with his two grandkids, Ruby Lynn, center, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and left on the chair is Shepherd Lynn.



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.

### ECAC-MOAA's 2025 Meeting Dates

<i>Aug 16th</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>4PM</i>	<i>Grove Hill Club</i>
Sept 18th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 20th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Dec 13th</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Horsefield Home</i>

### Insurance Plans Through MOAA

MOAA members have access to valuable programs through MOAA Insurance Plans, including MEDI-PLUS TRICARE Supplements, life insurance, and help with medical transportation costs. It's easy to apply and get the protection you need. Visit [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com) or call (800) 247-2192.



### Day Zero Operation Iron Ruck

This event is on the same day as the Luau, but many members attend the morning event (9-1), and then come to the Luau at 4PM.

Operation Iron Ruck –Nov 25-29

Mark Your Calendar:

November 14, 2025

ASVA Scholarship Gala

The Auburn Student Veteran Association will be having their Gala on Friday, November 14th, which is a scholarship dinner for deserving veterans. The ECAC-MOAA board voted to make a \$400 donation like it did last year. There isn't a MOAA table this year, but our members can go online to the website when it is updated to purchase tickets to this year's event. Also, check the MOAA chapter newsletter in the next month or two for more information.



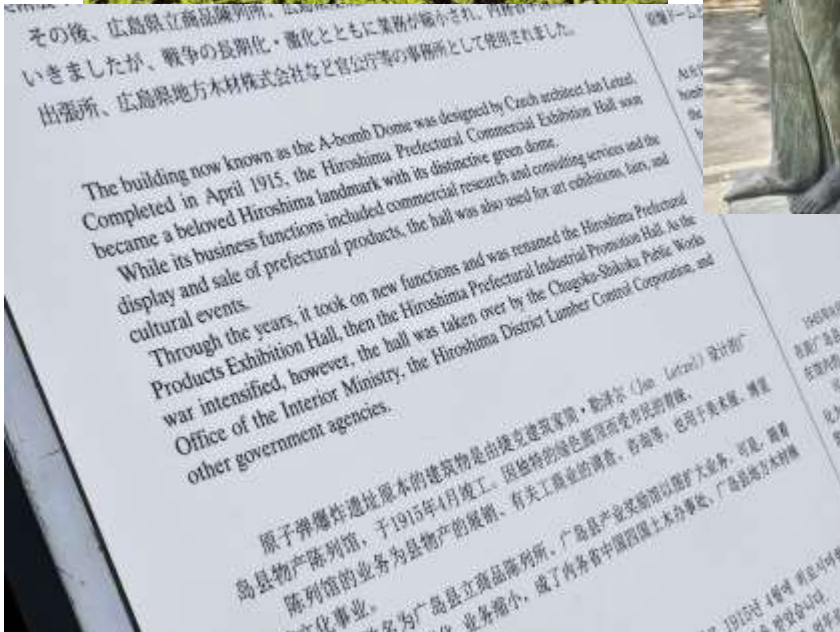
# 80 Years Since the Bombing of Hiroshima

On 6 and 9 August 1945, the United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, during World War II. The aerial bombings killed between 150,000 and 246,000 people, most of whom were civilians, and remain the only uses of nuclear weapons in an armed conflict. Japan announced its surrender to the Allies on 15 August, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki and the Soviet Union's declaration of war against Japan and invasion of Manchuria. The Japanese government signed an instrument of surrender on 2 September, ending the war. Wikipedia



Photo Left;

Angel of Peace statue with a thousand paper cranes on strings columns.



## Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome

In December 1996, the A-bomb Dome was registered on the World Heritage List as a historical witness conveying the horror of the first use of a nuclear weapon, and as a world peace monument appealing continually for lasting peace and the abolition of such weapons.

To help protect the dome, the national government designated the area around it as a historic site under the Cultural Properties Protection Act with a larger area in and surround Peace Memorial Park set aside as a buffer zone.

Photos courtesy of Judy Bohler two weeks ago in Japan.

*MOAA Mission Advocacy*  
*From June 2025 Military Officer Magazine page 21 by Staff*

**This year's Advocacy in Action event focused on these priority issues:**

- Unaccompanied housing improvements: MOAA seeks to improve funding and condition transparency by requiring an annual, publicly available report, which will highlight areas that need the most attention from DoD and Congress.
- **“Ending the Wait” report: MOAA will partner with other veterans service organizations to advance legislation that will lessen the time that veterans must wait before their toxic exposures are acknowledged by the VA.**
- Military Spouse Hiring Act: passage of this bill will allow businesses that hire military spouses to claim a tax credit, incentivizing them to hire more spouses.
- Military Health System access to care: MOAA seeks legislation for a digital access assistance platform that would allow beneficiaries to report challenges accessing care.
- **Legislation to improve support of veterans' caregivers: An existing bill includes enhancements to the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and expansion of home health and long-term care services.**

To learn more about each item and to find out how you can amplify **MOAA's voice:**

- Visit our AiA page at [www.moaa.org/aia](http://www.moaa.org/aia).
- Register at our Legislative Action Center via [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction).
- Call our toll-free number: (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

Ron Barto

Legislative Director



\*\*\*ATTENTION MEMBERS\*\*\*

Next month is the nomination month for positions on the board. Please be thinking of whom you would like to nominate or if you would like to volunteer to be on the slate of nominees. Voting for the new board will be at the October general meeting with a swearing in ceremony to follow. Terms are two years, and the positions are on the last page of this newsletter.

# Membership News



## *Katherine "Kay" Jane Pickett* October 9, 1927 ~ March 9, 2025 (age 97)

Katherine "Kay" Jane Pickett passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, March 9, 2025. Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at Jeffcoat-Trant starting at 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A funeral service will be 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 2025 at St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Kay was born in San Antonio, Texas on October 9, 1927 and was a Daughter of the Republic of Texas

Katherine is preceded in death by her husband Gen. Tolly Pickett Ret., her son Robert (Bobby) Hively, her brother Jerry Burdick. She is survived by her son Tony Hively, his wife Elizabeth Parker, their children Cheryl Hively, Rebecca Hively Caramanica, Caroline Hively, Heather Christian, Robert Scott Jones, Tiffany Jones Merritt, Great Grandchildren and significant others. Her nephew Steve Burdick, niece Katherine J. Burdick Neibank, and her sister-in-law June Burdick.

Kay worked as a civil servant for the Air Force until retirement. She was a multi medium artist including stain glass work, oil painting, ink sketching, ceramics and more.

Kay Pickett would attend regularly until she couldn't drive at night and was later house bound for the last seven years. Kay loved Christmas and hosted her "Angel Party" at Christmas time with mannequins dressed as angels in every room of the house. There were so many people invited that she had the cars valeted parked in the yard. It was a yearly spectacular holiday event, and you would hope to get an invitation that year.

### Surviving Spouse Corner: What to Know About National Cemetery Burials

By Cheryl Toland May 2025 Military Officer Magazine page 2 refers to online article at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

Servicemembers and veterans, and their spouses, are eligible for burial at national cemeteries. Also eligible are minor dependent children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities. An eligible spouse and children may be buried in a national cemetery even if they predecease the veteran.

If you or a loved one are considering burial in a national cemetery, here are three helpful considerations:

**Locate the nearest cemetery.** The VA operates 156 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico. However, not every state has a VA cemetery. To find a cemetery close to you, visit <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>.

**Plan ahead.** Make an emotional and stressful time less difficult by completing arrangements in advance. Learn more about the pre-need eligibility determination process, and fill out forms online, at this link. Other needed documents, such as a DD Form 214 or other separation documents, can be requested online.

**Know your resources.** Don't underestimate what the VA can do for you. You can learn more about VA burial benefits from local VA national cemetery offices, the National Cemetery Administration, and VA regional offices, toll-free at (800) 827-1000.

MOAA's publication *Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse* can provide further helpful guidance for getting your affairs in order. Premium and Life members can download the publication .

Please contact Kathy Barto, Sur. Spouse Liaison, by phone at 804-317-8588 or by email at [kjbarto3@verizon.net](mailto:kjbarto3@verizon.net) if you need assistance.



**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.



## 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	<b>Chair Positions</b>	
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:	Kathy Holtz
		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:	open



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.

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