



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

SEPTEMBER 2024



Thursday Sept. 19th AU Club 6PM

Presentation: European Military Cemeteries from WW1

Guest Speaker: Bob Cochran

At the end of the First World War there were many hundreds of military burial grounds. They range in size from large cemeteries located in or near a village or town which had been behind the old Front Lines to small groups of battle-field burial and individual plots. These battlefields and cemeteries contain the resting place of many thousands of soldiers of different nationalities who died during WWI.

Bob Cochran graduated Auburn University in 1974 and was commissioned into the Navy through the ROTC program.

Bob served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years retiring as a Commander, Navy pilot flying P-3s. He served on the USS John F. Kennedy. He was stationed in Jacksonville, FL; Corpus Christi, TX; Norfolk, VA; Maxwell AFB, AL; Carlisle, PA; Wales, UK; and deployed to the Indian Ocean, North Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Sicily, Iceland, and Bermuda. Bob also visited 63 different countries during his Navy career.

He graduated Law School in 1997, practiced law in Auburn, taught Business Law at Auburn University part-time from 2005-2008, and began full-time teaching in 2008. He is married to Karen, and they have three grown children—Christy, Kelly, and Clint.



Order from the menu below,
and each person/couple pays their own bill.

Appetizers:

Chicken Egg Rolls \$11
Fried Green Tomatoes \$14

Salad:

Clubhouse Caesar \$8/\$12
House \$8/\$12

Add Chicken \$8, Add Shrimp \$13, Add Salmon \$12

Dinner:

All Served with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus
8 oz Filet Mignon \$40
Grilled Salmon \$25
Panko Crusted Chicken \$25

**Next Dinner Meeting
September 19, 2024
1800 —Thursday— 6 PM**

**1650 Yarbrough Farms Blvd.
Auburn, AL 36830**

Take Shug Jordan Pkwy to
North Donahue Dr. and go north.
After 1/2 mile turn left
onto Yarbrough Farms Blvd.,
and the AU Club is on the right.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107

or by email to

bohler1107@charter.net

by Tuesday, Sept 17th by 9PM.

Board Meeting was Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

As of August 31, 2024, the chapter has:		2024 Dues	
72	Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
10	Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2	Associate Members	\$5	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
84	Total Chapter Members		

Per Chapter By-laws, you must become a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter. October's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, Oct. 7th, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
 \$2534.40 8-31-24 Bank Balance
 No outstanding items

Minutes from August General Meeting

- The LUAU general meeting was held at the Grove Hill pool club house and was called to order by Chris Richie at 5:10 p.m.
- There were thirty members and guests (Judith Gibson and Gayle Kucera) present. Chris welcomed everyone to the first general meeting after summer break.
- Chris recognized Jeff & Judy Bohler for their hard work setting up the Luau every year. Jeff was also recognized for winning the Harris Communications award for our MOAA website.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by B.J. DeBardeleben.
- The prayer was offered by Earl Allen.
- Cocktail hour started at 4 p.m. and an excellent dinner followed the meeting.
- There was raffle time and four members won prizes. (page 5)
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Secretary
 BJ
 DeBardeleben



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 2024 Meeting Dates

Sept 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 17th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Dec 14th</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11AM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>



Some of ECAC-MOAA board members attended a National MOAA webinar on August 14th for Leadership Training. Here are some fun facts about MOAA.

- ✦ There are 360,000 National Members and 60% of them have life membership status.
- ✦ 393- councils, regular chapters, satellites chapters, and virtual chapters in the USA.
 - ◊ Chapters 342
 - ◊ Councils 34
 - ◊ Satellites 11
 - ◊ Virtual 6 (Lawyers, Nurses, Chaplains, Spouses, Etc.) with 1,000 members
- ✦ Make sure you are “opt-in” for communications on your online account.

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!



ECAC-MOAA LUAU 2024



Top Left: Charlotte DeBardeleben (&BJ) won the Hawaiian bag with a Jim ‘n Nicks \$10 gift card **Top Middle: Debbie Wynn has the best Hawaiian outfit!!** **Top Right: Danny and Lynn Sample won the Hawaiian patio dishes** **Bottom Left: Tom and Debbie Wynn won Hawaiian beach towels** **Bottom Middle: Bob and Jenny Head won Hawaiian lotion and \$15 gift card from Jim ‘n Nicks** **Bottom Right: Bill and Nancy Hecker arrive to pay as BJ and Charlotte DeBardeleben are substitute treasurer/greeter for the luau**



*East Central Alabama Chapter
 Won the 2024
 Five Star Harris Communication Award
 For Website Excellence*



Thank you to our Director of Social Media, Jeff Bohler, for being a great webmaster and having our chapter website meet National MOAA standards. He also manages the chapter’s Facebook and Linked In accounts. Please check the last page of this newsletter for links to these digital feeds and send in a request to be added to these accounts if you are not a member yet.

Auburn Student Veteran Association (ASVA) Invites You To Come Share an Event ASVA's GALA (A Scholarship Event)



When: Friday, October 11, 2024

Where: Grand National Marriott Hotel

3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail

Opelika, AL 36801

Time: 7:00 PM CST (Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:00 PM)

Dress Code: Black Tie or Senior Dress Uniform

Keynote Speaker: Jeff Struecker

The chapter has supported this organization over the years by sponsoring a table and/or by our members purchasing tickets to attend this event as a group. For this year's event the ECAC-MOAA board voted to donate \$400 to ASVA, and we ask our membership to go online at the website below to purchase individual tickets this year. The \$180 ticket per person is tax-deductible and hopefully our chapter will be well represented. If your business would like to sponsor a table which seats ten people check out the red, white, and blue table package for \$1,800 which is what our chapter has done in the past. Donations to ASVA can be made on the website, and there are also scholarships which can be sponsored as well.

www.asvastore.com/gala-red-white-blue-table

www.asvastore.com/gala-individual-ticket

Copy and paste the address line into your search box to get to the website. Go to the GALA tab and scroll to the bottom for the table and individual icons to purchase items. The donation tab is separate and has icons for the "Operation Iron Ruck" and Auburn Student Veterans Association.

The ASVA is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit student organization committed to supporting Auburn University's student veterans and their families.

27% of Veterans attending Auburn University work Full-Time.

15% of Veterans attending Auburn University have children.

The Grand National Marriott Hotel has rooms, but the deadline for the ASVA block of rooms has passed. It doesn't hurt to ask if there are any rooms still available with the ASVA discount rate, though. Please call Marriott Reservations at 334-741-9292 if you plan to make it a night out.



National MOAA's 2024 Summer Legislative Advocacy Campaign: Take Action Now on Critical Issues Facing the Uniformed Services and Veteran Communities

In this pivotal year for our nation's servicemembers and veterans, MOAA remains at the forefront in the fight for key legislative changes. Our spring campaign event, Advocacy in Action, saw hundreds of supporters from across the nation gathering on Capitol Hill to spotlight critical issues affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA is grateful to you and others who have engaged in our advocacy efforts through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. To sustain this momentum, we are urging you and our more than 360,000 members to engage with elected officials during the congressional summer recess. Legislators will be in their home states for the next month, providing a unique opportunity for personal outreach.

Key MOAA advocacy priorities:

- **Junior Enlisted Pay Raise:** Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House NDAA calls for servicemembers E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform. While the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for servicemembers E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise).
- **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration:** Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not address the issue.
- **Major Richard Star Act:** Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this important issue, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

Even though our summer has come to a close, our chapter's Director of Legislative Issues would like for you to check the Legislative Action Center on your online account for updated information on these advocacy issues. This article is from an email from National MOAA.

Ronald Barto

Director of Legislative Issues



“A Good Plan, Violently Executed Now,
Is Better Than a Perfect Plan Next Week.”

Gen. George Patton

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.

		Chair Positions	
President:	Mike Horsefield	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
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:	Jim Matthews



**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
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