



# MAC/MOAA RIVER REGION REPORT

MONTGOMERY AREA CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
5793 CARRIAGE BARN LANE  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36116  
WEBSITE: [WWW.MACMOAA.ORG](http://WWW.MACMOAA.ORG)



VOL 55

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER for NOVEMBER 2021

ISSUE 11

## MAC/MOAA EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2021

PRESIDENT	CDR MIKE URQUHART, USN	478-4224	ARMY REP	COL ED SMITH, USA	538-2875
1 ST V.P.	LCOL LYNN OBORN, USAF	224-1247	NAVY REP	CDR MIKE URQUHART, USN	478-4224
2 ND V.P.	MAJ RHONDA EDWARDS, USAF	799-9474	USAF REP	LCOL JOHN TERINO, USAF	239-9299
SEC/TREA	LCOL JOHN CAMP, USAF	272-8061	USMC REP	LCOL MARK BARNHART, USMC	285-2406

PAST PRESIDENT LCOL LEE CONNER, USAF, 315-2290

MAMO SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, 3066 ZELDA ROAD, PMB #392, MONTGOMERY, AL 36106

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just a short note as we wind down our 2021 activities and begin preparing for the next calendar year. Lee Connor has submitted the new/proposed slate of Officers for the Executive Board. We should be bringing that up for your consideration and vote at a business meeting/luncheon in the very near future. Anne Toms continues to forge ahead with our special event plans despite the chaos surrounding travel requirements, as well as keeping us up to speed on all things related to the Alabama VA system; Jacques Jarry and Lynn Oborn are already elbow deep in the planning and execution of the next spring Golf tournament in support of our MAMO Scholarship Program; Lew Nyman has been diligently keeping his ear to the ground to ensure we have the latest information regarding impactful legislation; and the chapter Historian, George Cully, has been quietly studying our options to sponsor a physical commemorative at Maxwell AFB in honor of former Chapter member, LT Gen Charles Cleveland. It may seem slow at times, but your Executive Board is constantly engaged on your behalf!

That said, I wanted this month's message to include a quick "Shout Out" to our membership for their continued support and participation in our monthly Chapter business meetings and luncheons! Our October gathering was well attended by sixty-nine (69) members and guests at the Arrowhead Country Club. Still no word or plans to re-establish Chapter operations at Maxwell...but we'll be hawking our options/opportunities as we continue to slog through the uncertainty and social restrictions associated with the tail end of this pandemic. For now...please plan on attending and breaking bread with friends and associates at our 17 November (**Wednesday**) Chapter meeting!

Once again, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Matthew Schwonek, Director of the Department of International Security at the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), for his exceptionally well received presentation titled "Understanding Russian Cyber Operations".

As always...Please stay safe, healthy, and hopeful. Looking forward to seeing everyone once again at the November Luncheon.//Mike

### CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

<b>AUXILIARY</b>	
Mrs. Jody Welling	399-8203
<b>BX/COMMISSARY</b>	
Col Sean Cassidy, USAF	356-4220
Terri Cassidy	356-4220
<b>CHAMBER</b>	
Col John O'Connor, USAF	220-6532
<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	
Col(CH) Larry Layne, ANG	312-9188
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
VACANT	
<b>GOLF</b>	
LCol Lynn Oborn, USAF	224-1247
Maj Jacques Jarry, USA	451-1240
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	
Capt George Cully, USAF	277-2165
<b>HEALTH</b>	
Col Jeff Hightaian, USAF	322-6852
<b>LEGISLATIVE</b>	
LCol Lew Nyman, USAF	273-9655
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Col Nelson Smith, USA	834-9383
<b>NEWS LETTER</b>	
Capt Rene Williams, USAF	322-6778
<b>PUB/COMM</b>	
Col Steve Linder, USAF	273-8908
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	
LCol Peter Brambir, USAF	286-3680
<b>SPEC EVENTS</b>	
Col Anne Toms, USAF	273-8713
<b>TRANSITION (temporary)</b>	
LCol John Camp, USAF	272-8061

### Calendar News and Events

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>2 Nov - Board Meeting</b>   | <b>17 Nov (Wednesday) - Chapter Meeting</b>       |
| <b>15 Nov - Deposits due for Mediterranean Cruise</b>                | <b>7 Dec - Board Meeting</b>                      |
| <b>8 Dec - (Wednesday) Chapter Meeting</b>                           | <b>15 Mar 22 - Full Prepayment due for cruise</b> |
| <b>24 June - 10 July 22 – Eastern Mediterranean Cruise</b>           |   |
| <b>17 Sept - 25 Sept 22 – Hudson River Valley/Niagara Falls Trip</b> |   |

## TAPS

The Montgomery Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America extends its deepest sympathy to: **-LCOL BRONISLAW F. BARANOWSKI** and family on the death of his wife, **JEANNIE BARANOWSKI**, on 23 Sep 21

**-LCOL WILLIAM C. HUTCHINSON** and family on the death of his wife, **PATRICIA HUTCHINSON**, 28 Aug 21

## DUES!! DUES!! DUES!! 2022

Chapter dues for 2022 are due on 1 January 2022 and are late if not received by 2 March 2022. Please send your DUES CHECK for \$20.00 (no charging) payable to MAC/MOAA. You may pay as many years in advance as you want at \$20.00 per year.//John

## NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Our speaker for November will be Ed Grimes, the newly elected Montgomery City Councilman for District 1. He will be giving his perspective on where Montgomery is and where it is going through the eyes of a newly elected councilman.//Lynn

## OCTOBER LUNCHEON



Dr. Matthew R. Schwoneh, Chairman of the Department of International Security, ACSC, with President Mike Urquhart

## TRAVEL AND SPECIAL EVENTS

"Travel with people you know at group rates"

### CRUISE

For those of you on the "go list" for our cruise to Croatia, Greece, and Turkey, you were sent info about the trip and the registration form by email. I have already received a few deposits. If you are on that list and you somehow did not receive those emails let me know and I will resend.

**The latest news on that trip is that we now have one ocean view stateroom available.** If you are interested let me like as soon as you read this. People are traveling again, and accommodations are not easy to secure. If you want to see the schedule for that cruise, go to Holland America's web site and search for "14 -Day Greek Enchantments and Aegean Sunsets" with dates of 25 June – 9 July. That cruise departs and returns to Venice. If anyone has questions about the cruise, please email me at [silverwings6@att.net](mailto:silverwings6@att.net).

### HUDSON RIVER VALLEY & NIAGARA FALLS TRIP

Those who have been following this know, we are now on our fifth set of dates for the trip; 17 Sept – 25 Sept 22. All of this is thanks for covid, and restrictions related to travel and crossing the northern border. Things can be all the sweeter if one must wait for them and we certainly have been waiting for this one! For those of you who have reservations, you do not need to do anything at this time. When I have the date for the final payment, I will email you. For those of you not on that list, and who might be interested, let me know and I will send you the schedule and all the places and events that we are so looking forward to enjoying.

### 2023

Believe it or not, it is time to begin planning for 2023. Because of unforeseen circumstances we now have two longer trips scheduled for 2022. In the past we have tried to have one shorter trip and one longer trip each calendar year. So, for 2023, where would you like to go? We will be discussing this in upcoming board meetings, but please email me your suggestions. Where have you always wanted to go? What place or places have you especially enjoyed and would like to revisit? We welcome all suggestions.//Anne

## HEALTH NEWS

### Pharmacy Information:

As a result of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, TRICARE **pharmacy copays** will increase **starting 1 January 2022.**

Starting 1 Jan, TRICARE copays for prescription drugs will increase as follows:

#### --TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (Up to a 90-Day Supply)

---Generic formulary drugs: from \$10 to \$12

---Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$29 to \$34

---Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68

#### --TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacies (Up to a 30-Day Supply)

---Generic formulary drugs: from \$13 to \$14

---Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$33 to \$38

---Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68

**NOTE:** Prescriptions obtained at **military treatment facility** (MTF) pharmacies still have **zero out-of-pocket cost**.

**Tricare Open Season:** Last month I mentioned Tricare open season begins 8 November 2021 and ends 13 December 2021. The rates were just released. You will see an overall average dental premium will increase by 0.81% and vision will increase by 0.95%. For more information visit <https://www.benefeds.com/tools> //Jeff

### SCHOLARSHIP

**Scholarship News:** Congratulations to Mrs. Carolyn Gibbs for winning the October 50/50 (and Thank you for donating your \$80 winnings back to the Scholarship). The new “paperless” system has gotten great feedback... No searching for paper tickets at the end of lunch or trying to read the small numbers on the tickets. Thanks to all of you who support the monthly drawings!

### Scholarship Applications!!

Applications will be due back by February 15 2022. If you have a grandchild, neighbor, etc. tell them to go to [www.macmoaa.org](http://www.macmoaa.org) and look for the link at the top right. Or they can scan this QR code on their smart phone to also get to the application.//John O’C





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Visit our showrooms on Eastern Blvd.  
or shop our inventory at  
[JackIngramMotors.com](http://JackIngramMotors.com)

### COLA Watch

After years of puny increases in their Social Security checks, older Americans will likely get the equivalent of a big raise next year. The 68 million people -- including retirees, disabled people and others -- who rely on the benefits, will receive a 5.9% cost-of-living adjustment next year because of a COVID-19-related spike in inflation, according to the Senior Citizen League. Such a rise would far outpace 1.4% average bumps in Social Security payments since 2010 and amount to the largest increase since 1982, according to the Senior Citizen League.//Lew

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

**Defense Bill:** A key step in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process came Sept. 23, when the House voted 316-113 to pass its version of the bill. Senate Armed Services Committee leadership [filed their version of the NDAA](#) the day before; that chamber must now complete its floor amendment process and vote on its version before the chambers can

conference the bill to resolve differences between the versions. Here are some highlights on the House and Senate versions of the NDAA, which includes many MOAA-backed improvements to military pay and benefits programs.

**Pay Raise:** A 2.7% military pay raise is included in both the House and Senate bills, and some lawmakers have noted the increase does not keep up with inflation. This raise remains tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) but fails to address a pay gap of 2.6% when pay raises fell below ECI in 2014-2016.

“The 2.7 percent pay increase for our military service members is simply not enough,” said Navy veteran Rep. Mike Garcia (R-Calif.) on the House floor. “For the average junior enlisted personnel member, this translates to roughly \$1.80 a day more for their service. This is unsatisfactory, especially given the gap between military pay and their civilian counterparts is currently at an all-time high.” Garcia is on the House Appropriations Committee and plans to work with Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chair of the appropriations defense subcommittee, to address the pay raise in conference negotiations.

### Basic Needs Allowance

Provisions from the Military Hunger Prevention Act are included in both versions of the NDAA this year and will authorize a new allowance for families that fall within a band of the local poverty line. The House version is stronger than the Senate version at this time. This [Advocacy in Action](#) topic is likely to progress through the NDAA conference.

### Health Care

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) version of the NDAA contains directive report language addressing two of MOAA's key issues.

- **Pharmacy Tier 4/Non-Covered Drugs:** The committee report directs the Defense Health Agency to establish an appeals process for coverage of TRICARE Tier 4/non-covered drugs, a [MOAA goal](#) since Tier 4 was implemented.
- **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing:** MOAA played a key role in [raising awareness](#) on U.S. reliance on overseas suppliers, including adversarial nations such as China, for prescription drugs even before the COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on that issue. The SASC report directs DoD to assess the feasibility of establishing a pilot project to increase the capacity of the U.S. to manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients to enable combat readiness and protect the health of the armed forces.

MOAA-supported TRICARE eligibility expansions, [TRICARE Young Adult](#) parity and [National Guard/Reserve coverage](#), did not make it into the House or Senate NDAA versions but will remain priorities next year.

**Parental Leave:** Both NDAA versions would help military families gain equity with their federal civilian counterparts, expanding parental leave, both primary and secondary to 12 weeks for the birth or adoption of a child and the long-term placement of a foster child. The House version updates regulations to ensure approved parental



leave is not terminated upon the death of the child for whom the leave was taken. Alternatively, the Senate version provides for the creation of a new leave category – bereavement leave – which would allow two weeks of leave to be taken at no charge upon the death of a spouse or child.

#### **Guard and Reserve Pay Parity**

Like the House version, the Senate includes a fix for incentive pay parity with the reserve component. MOAA has [long pushed](#) for this effort and applauds both chambers for including provisions to support reservists and the National Guard. Service members with special proficiencies like aviators, aircrew, parachutists, and many more will expect a pay increase once implemented.

NDAAs language in the House and Senate indicates selective service will grow to include women this year. The final report from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service recommended [women should register for selective service](#). Although MOAA remains committed to protecting the all-volunteer force and not returning to the draft, the report highlighted many important recruiting challenges. For example, the commission estimated 70% of 18-to-26-year-olds in the U.S. cannot meet the physical and psychological standards for service and provided important perspective to sustain and improve benefits for the all-volunteer force.

#### **The Next NDAA**

In addition to the health care priorities mentioned above, MOAA plans to continue its efforts on the following issues as part of the NDAA process in the coming years.

**'180 Day Rule':** Title 10 restricts a retiring military member from becoming a DoD civilian with a 180-day "cool off period." It is a frustration for hiring officials and retiring service members. Although there are exceptions to the rule for some industrial activity positions, the proposal to lift the restrictions for all GS-13 level positions and below will need to build support next year.

**Concurrent Receipt:** The House Rules Committee recently found the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) could not be submitted as an NDAA amendment because there was no identified way to pay for concurrent receipt for the 48,000 combat-injured veterans it would support. The bill must have a majority support to proceed in the House next year.

Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) will submit the Star Act as an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA later this month.

**Child Care:** Finding accessible, affordable childcare continues to be an issue for military families. Lawmakers in the House recognize this and included an expansion of a [pilot program](#) offering financial assistance to in-home childcare. The House version of the NDAA also requires DoD to report on the efficiency of the in-home child care licensing process and a study on the feasibility of offering drop-in child care options for spouses with service members who are deployed or away on extensive training.//**Lew**

### **THIS MONTH IN US MILITARY HISTORY**

**8 November 1950** While flying over Korea in his Lockheed P-80C "Shooting Star", USAF 1st Lt. Russel J. Brown spots a formation of Soviet MiG-15 jet fighters and engages, shooting one of them down. His is the world's first jet-on-jet aerial victory.

**9 November 2001** During the Battle of Mazar-e-Sharif U.S. Army and Air Force special operations forces ride into combat on horseback - the first cavalry charge by the United States military since 1943. Hundreds of Taliban and al Qaeda fighters are killed during the battle, and the Taliban withdraw from the Afghan city the following day.

**10 November 1775** The Continental Congress creates the U.S. Marine Corps with two battalions, consisting of "good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve by sea when required," to be raised in Philadelphia. Accordingly, Capt. Samuel Nicholas, newly commissioned as the Corps' first officer, sets up a recruiting station at Tun Tavern.

**11 November 1918** At the "eleventh minute of the eleventh hour," the War to End All Wars ceases with an armistice between the Allies and Germany. President Wilson proclaims 11 November 1919 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, and it becomes a national holiday by law in 1938. Congress amends the wording of the Act to read 'Veterans Day' in 1954.

**14 November 1965** Under the command of U.S. Army Lt. Col. Harold 'Hal' Moore, 450 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry are helicoptered in to assault a communist stronghold in Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley. Outnumbered three to one, the unit is nearly overrun by North Vietnamese Army regulars, but the Americans hold out for two days before being relieved. This clash marks the first major battle between U.S. and NVA forces during the Vietnam War.

**19 November 1863** In a brief presentation honoring the U.S. troops who fell during the Battle of Gettysburg (1-3 July 1863) President Abraham Lincoln says, "we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Lincoln's Gettysburg Address remains one of the most famous speeches in U.S. history.

**20 November 1962** With assurances that the Soviet Union would remove its ballistic missiles from the island, President Kennedy lifts the naval blockade against Cuba to end the Cuban Missile Crisis.//**George**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Just a short note to thank those who took with them the recruiting cards I passed out at our September luncheon. Each of you truly are our best recruiters of new chapter members. I'll have a stack of cards at each luncheon for those who didn't take one or to replace those you give away. Best regards.//**Smitty**

## **2021 Golf Sponsors**

Here is a list of the sponsors for the 2021 Golf Tournament. Please note who the sponsors are and when you visit their establishment, ask for the manager and thank them on behalf of MOAA for their support.

Jacques Jarry, Maj, USA, Ret

Lynn F. Oborn, LtCol, USAF, Ret

A special thanks to Buffalo Wild Wings for providing another tasty lunch and Arrowhead Country Club for hosting our tournament.

### **Scholarship Sponsor**

Reinhardt Toyota

BBVA

### **Major Sponsors**

MAX Credit Union

Dixie Electric

Regions Bank

### **Driving Range Sponsor**

Reinhardt Toyota

### **Hole Sponsors**

Baptist Health

Dixie Electric

H.O.A.R Construction

Bama Budweiser

Embassy Suites

MAX Credit Union

Renaissance Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center

Spherion Staffing Services

Buffalo Rock

Guardian Credit Union

Reinhardt Toyota

### **Major Contributors**

Sam's Club

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill

Carl Stevenson

### **Other Contributors**

BBVA Compass

Cork & Cleaver

LaZona Rosa

Texas Roadhouse

Kerry Crane

Bonefish Grill

Firebird Wood Fired Grill

Mid Town Pizza Kitchen

Outback Steakhouse

James K. Lowder Family Foundation

BURGERFI

Capitol City Oyster Bar & Grill

Your Golf Superstore

Mr. Gus' Ristorante

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

RESERVATIONS DUE BY:  
**13 November 2021**

- I will attend the Luncheon on Wed, 17 Nov 2021. My guests will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Check enclosed for luncheon, made out to MAC/MOAA. Mail to MAC/MOAA at above.
- Dues check enclosed, \$20/year made out to MAC/MOAA and mailed to MAC/MOAA at address above. May be included in check for luncheon.

✂-CUT HERE-RETURN ENTIRE FORM ABOVE INCLUDING THE ADDRESS LABEL---CUT HERE-✂

**GOLF**

We are going to begin very soon contacting sponsors and potential sponsors for the 2022 golf tournament. We need help in identifying foundations we can contact. Please help us. Send any information to Jacques Jarry at [jjarry61@gmail.com](mailto:jjarry61@gmail.com) or Lynn Oborn at [Lfoborn@yahoo.com](mailto:Lfoborn@yahoo.com)//**Jacques and Lynn**

**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS/ADVERTISERS NEEDED**

Someone finally stepped up to be our third major sponsor/advertiser to help cover our 2021 newsletter costs. I have also secured our first newsletter sponsor for 2022, but still need two more. A major sponsor or advertiser donates/pays \$300 per year and we acknowledge their support by including a business-card-size ad for their business or a charity of their choice in our monthly newsletter for twelve months. Sponsorships for shorter periods are available at a rate of \$30 per month. Please contact any business or individual you think might be interested in supporting us. We send out about 400 newsletters per month.//John

**EVENT: LUNCHEON**  
**WHERE: ARROWHEAD COUNTRY CLUB BALLROOM**  
**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, 17 NOV 2021, Social Time & Buffet at 1100, Speaker at 1200**  
**MENU: Buffet (Choice of three main dishes, sides, salad bar, bread, dessert with iced tea)**  
**COST: \$18.00**  
**SPEAKER: Ed Grimes, newly elected Montgomery City Councilman for District 1**  
**TOPIC: Where the City of Montgomery is and Where it is Going**  
**RESERVATIONS: Must be in by Saturday, 13 Nov 21**