

2014 MOAAFBAC OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President/Chairman	COL Biff Hadden	706-615-2455
President Elect		
Vice President		
Secretary	LTC Frank McCanham	706-324-2926
Ass't Secretary	LTC Dan Smith	
Treasurer	COL Joe Thornton	706-327-1101
Ass't Treasurer	MAJ Tom Lokey	904-868-9540
Staff Judge Advocate	COL Bob Poydasheff	706-327-9415
Auxiliary President	Jan Litton	

DIRECTORS

MAJ Roy Burns	2014-2015	706-323-9387
LTC Gary DeMars	2014-2015	334-291-9864
LTC Sam Nelson	2013-2014	706-568-4592
COL Bob Madayag	2014-2015	706-321-0065
LTC Don Mortenson	2013-2014	706-718-4879
COL John House	2013-2014	706-573-2389
LTC Earl Cheal	Immediate Past Pres.	706-575-6761

COMMITTEE CHAIRS-Volunteer not Elected

Auxiliary Rep.	Glenda Osborne	334-298-1076
Chaplain		
Commissary/PX	LTC Nev Holder	706-561-7870
CVVC	LTC Sam Nelson	706-568-4592
Legislative	LTC Gary DeMars	334-291-9864
Membership	COL Biff Hadden	706-615-2455
Military Affairs/NIA	COL Dick Nurnberg	706-321-0065
Newsletter	Ron Allison, Galaxy Printing	706-322-3864
Personal Affairs	LTC Dave Smart	706-323-9765
Programs	Trish Hadden	706-953-5201
ROTC/JROTC Awards	1LT Don Dakin	706-561-8082
TOPS Liaison	COL Joe Thornton	706-327-1101
Public Affairs/Flags	CW4 Johnny Hemingway	706-568-4854
Scholarships	LTC Ben Stahl III	706-576-6681
Webmaster	COL Bob Madayag	706-327-6573

PLEASE VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE

<http://moaafbac.com>

Return Service Requested

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Ft. Benning Area Chapter
P.O. Box 6613
Columbus, Georgia 31919-6613



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January Update from the President

Happy New Year!!! I have to admit, I have already broken several of my New Year's Resolutions and I am behind on getting a fitness program going. Hopefully, some of those New Year's Resolutions will hold and keep us moving forward to a better, safer and kinder nation.

With the arrival of 2014, there have been a lot of changes affecting retirees. There is no more Army Knowledge Online (AKO) for retirees - one good thing is, that will mean one less password to remember. However, with that came the requirement to add a civilian email address to my-Pay to ensure you receive notification of your monthly checks, and to obtain your 1099 so you can file your income taxes. With that change, my Pay decided that they need to get more security minded; therefore, another very long and very complicated password that has to be changed every 60 days. And, don't try to use one that you have remembered from a few months back - that won't work either! There are challenges to our VA Disability Pay with our Retirement Pay.

MOAA National has recently gotten in touch with all chapters to make sure they have our correct list of officers and directors with their correct email addresses. Please take a moment to make sure our Chapter has your correct information. We do need to make sure our information is current and correct. Please take a few moments to review what we have and if it needs changing, please let us know.

Obviously, our representatives in Washington have decided that the Active and Retired Military promises made when we signed on the line to give our life for our nation are not worth the paper they were printed on and have decided to balance the budget and increase spending with the money that they would have paid to us. That also includes those wounded warriors and disabled. Keep watching our website and reading our Legislative Updates to keep abreast of what is happening. There has been a lot of talk about changing this decision after the first of the year - however at this time it is more TALK. Let's see how much action follows that talk. Please keep those cards, letters, email and phone calls going to our Washington representatives and let them know what you think of their actions.

It is a Goal to strengthen our Chapter and Auxiliary relationship. Note from MOAA National - Provide your chapter and surviving spouses the latest information from MOAA National concerning auxiliary members. Find out how auxiliary members can help your chapter. As an essential element of our One Powerful Voice®, surviving spouses are an integral part of MOAA.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR CHAPTER DUES - Our Chapter NEEDS YOU!
Please fill out the Membership Renewal Form and send it to the Chapter and Please include your email. Email newsletters will be longer and will be better color than it has been in print.

We are starting off the new year with a great schedule. We are made stronger by each members support and participation

WELCOME ABOARD, LTC Karabasz
Our program on January 21 was presented by LTC Michael Karabasz, and he gave a very informative presentation on the Civil Air Patrol. (See separate article.)

Very Respectfully,

Biff
Mayo A. "Biff" Hadden
Chapter President

GUEST SPEAKER:
LTC Mike Karabasz
Commander, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program

LTC Mike Karabasz addressed the January 18th MOAA Chapter Luncheon meeting and gave an informative presentation on the mission of Civil Air Patrol, which is a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the US Air Force. They truly are "Citizens Serving Communities" and maintain and train for emergency services to meet requests and assist local, state and Federal agencies in emergency operations or activities. Civil Air Patrol performs 95% of all aircraft search and rescue missions and has saved thousands of lives by providing well trained, qualified air crews, as well as aiding in hurricane disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

LTC Karabasz is Commander of the Columbus Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, a rigorous program of sixteen achievements. Its three missions are to develop its cadets, educate Americans on the importance of aviation and space, and perform life-saving humanitarian missions. Cadets learn leadership, aerospace, fitness, character and must pass written exams to advance. Cadets earn promotions, leadership responsibilities, and collect awards.

LTC Karabasz's squadron helped with the *Wreaths Across America* program and is interested in exploring the possibility of the cadets assisting with the MOAA Flag Raising Project, which is placing the eighty flag poles and flags our chapter does three times each year down Victory Drive.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program relies heavily on volunteers. LTC Karabasz extended an invitation to MOAA members to attend their meeting on Thursdays from 7pm-9pm in the blue building next to the Radar Station at the Columbus Metro Airport. Come meet the Cadet Squadron, and see what talents and skills you learned about military customs, courtesies, drill and ceremonies that you can share. Your military expertise contains exactly the features a cadet needs to learn and to then achieve their individual self-discipline. Through the Cadet Program, Civil Air Patrol transforms youth into responsible citizens. Contact LTC Mike Karabasz for additional information at: Michael.j.karabasz.mil@mail.mil



COL Biff Hadden presents LTC Karabasz with a certificate of appreciation



Ladies Auxiliary

Luncheon: February 5, 2014
 Green Island Country Club
 Social Hour: 11:00 a.m.
 Lunch Served: 12:00 Noon

February Hostesses:
 Judy Bell
 Tucky Smith

February Menu:
 Tomato Bisque Soup
 House Salad
 Parmesan Chicken
 Potatoes
 Rolls, Tea & Coffee
 Dessert - Bread Pudding

Luncheon Cost: \$24.00

NOTE: The men are invited to the February Luncheon. We would love for you to come. The retired singles are also welcome. Just contact one of our callers and make a reservation by 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 3rd, or call Tucky Smith at 334-448-5514.

Sweetheart Luncheon Program:

Entertainment will be by the voice and guitar of David Tyler. He will entertain us with renditions of 40s and 50s Country and Gospel music.

Grab your "sweetie" by the hand and bring him to the Green Island Country Club for this delightful kick-off of the 2014 MOAA year, with great food and fun. You'll be glad you did!

REMEMBER: We are collecting 2014 MOAA dues. Please pay yours and receive your new club roster. Dues are \$10.00 and due in February.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA,
 OUR TROOPS AND FAMILIES**

Fran O. Cady
 706-761-7064

2014 Scholarship Honor Roll

LTC (Ret) Frank and Assunta McCanham
 (in memory of COL (Ret) James Kivicula)

Frank and Lorraine Kolar, Jr.

COL (Ret) and Mrs. C.S. Fabrigar
 (In memory of LTC (Ret) George Osborne)



ISSUE #1: COLA Watch

December COLA released: The Consumer Price Index increased slightly in December to 229.174. This remains 0.5 percent below the FY2014 COLA baseline of 230.327.

COLAs and Military Retired Pay: Government retired pay promises must be kept, including annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to prevent erosion of retirees' purchasing power by inflation.

Retired Pay versus Active Duty Pay Adjustments: Retired pay and active duty pay increases are different in most years because they are based on different compensation principles.

ISSUE #2: Retired Pay Cuts

Cuts to future military retirement are a breach of faith with the currently serving force and for retirees under age 62 - many who have experienced over 12 years of combat. Changing the deal has an immediate impact on the morale and welfare of those in uniform.

Reducing COLA by 1 percentage point each year before a person reaches age 62 has a serious and profound effect on life time earnings. If you've served, you deserve the benefits promised to you.

Slashing future military COLAs breaks promises made by the administration. Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Service GEN Martin Dempsey have both publicly said that any changes to military compensation and retirement would contain grandfather provisions.

The real facts about spiraling cost growth are being misrepresented by Pentagon leadership.

This is just the beginning. The bottom line? If Congress and the Pentagon can break faith on promises made, how can service members trust what their leadership says about health care, pay, and retirement?

Legislative Update

(Continued)

ISSUE #3: The Bottom Line The Military/Civilian Divide

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret)

The recent passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) was trumpeted as a bipartisan, two-year, sequestration-alleviating budget deal.

But, in reality, the budget deal was a backroom, eleventh-hour pact that was rushed through both the House and Senate before the holidays, bypassing the committees of jurisdiction and highlighting a growing military/civilian divide that fails to recognize the necessary sacrifice that comes with two decades of service.

Even though the budget deal would help ease the harmful effects of sequestration for two years for the Pentagon, doing so on the backs of servicemembers who serve our nation for more than 20 years is a disgraceful.

FBAC MOAA CALENDAR FOR

2014

- Feb 18 - Chapter Meeting
 COL Dan Barnett, Director Soldier Rqmt Div
- Mar 18 - Chapter Meeting
 COL Barry Wright, MOAA National
- Apr 15 - Chapter Meeting

VICTORY DRIVE FLAG SUPPORT TEAM

- May 17 - Flag Raising, Victory Drive
- May 31 - Flag Retrieval, Victory Drive

BOARD MEETINGS

- Feb 11 - Board Meeting
- Mar 11 - Board Meeting
- Apr 8 - Board Meeting

VA CONTRACTOR MISMANAGEMENT AND POSSIBLE FRAUD

The VA contracts with QTC Medical Group for medical services for veterans. OTC has an office on Veteran's Parkway in Columbus. QTC performs physicals on veterans, which are used in the processing of disability claims.

Several veterans have had issues with QTC grossly mismanaging their appointments and incorrect payments of mileage. One retired LTC requested a copy of his QTC medical report only to find gross distortions of his physical condition, including false statements and inconsistencies within the report. The report had the appearance of being a standard report, without correlation with reality.

If any veteran has been examined by QTC and their claim was denied, they should request a copy of the QTC report from the VA. It will likely take many months to get a copy. The veteran should then closely review the report details. Also, closely check the mileage paid because, there have been several instances where the mileage has shorted veterans, but none where the veteran was overpaid. Although the mileage amounts are not great, it is unknown if QTC is profiting from their shorting payments to veterans. If you, or someone you know has had any issues with QTC, please have them contact LTC A. Earl Cheal, USA (Ret) aec177a1@aol.com. Earl will be assembling evidence from veterans which can be presented to Senator Johnny Isakson, who is focusing on VA issues. Please pass this information along to all Veterans organizations, so together we can help protect veterans from unscrupulous VA contractors.

WISHING A HEALTHY RECOVERY:

Roy Leggett
 Bob Jordan



TAPS

Farewell to Great Friends

LTC (Ret) Richard Munn, Jr.
 Army, December 23, 2013

LTC (Ret) Roger Hewitt
 Army, December 31, 2013

MOAA Ft. Benning Area Chapter Membership / Renewal Application

Name _____ Rank _____ Branch of Service _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Name of Spouse _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Commission _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Retired Active Duty Reserve National Guard Widow Former Officer NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP. NO _____

MAIL TO: MOAAFBAC, P.O BOX 6613, Columbus, GA 31917-6613