

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MOAA TRUMPET

FORT BENNING AREA CHAPTER



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April Update from the President

We had a great meeting April 15. I want to thank both of our Guest Speakers, **LTC Mike Feret**, the Professor of Military Science for the "Cougar Battalion" at Columbus State University, and **Ben Stahl**, who has volunteered to lead the Chapter's Scholarship Committee.

LTC Feret talked with great pride about the Columbus State



Biff Hadden gives LTC Feret a Certificate of Appreciation

University ROTC Program, and his Cougar Battalion of Cadets and Staff. He has had one of the very top ROTC Battalions in the nation and in the Southeast. In the past our Chapter partnered with his ROTC Battalion, and we are committed to revitalizing this partnership. They are creating a new Soldier Lounge, for both soldiers and spouses and Cadets attending CSU, and they could use some furniture and a flat screen TV. If you have any ideas please let us know. If you know of a business that would like to make a donation that would really go a long way. The ROTC Battalion and Staff are moving into a new location, which is the former Regional Law Enforcement Academy building on the North side of University Boulevard, across from the main entrance of the University. LTC Feret is always looking for Officer Mentors and guest speakers on Leadership and military experiences. If you are willing, let Frank McCanham know as he maintains our speaker roster. Next year we hope to be able to offer a \$500 scholarship as part of our long term partnership with this great Battalion.

**HAIL NEW MEMBERS:
Scott Larese, COL (Ret) Army**

Massing of Colors, April 25 Next year we will have a MOAA Color Guard represented.



Ben Stahl, who volunteered to head the Scholarship Committee, has formed a professional team, and they have created a cover letter and an application form. These have been, and are being circulated around all of the local High Schools in a proactive approach. The Chapter will award three \$1,000 scholarships this year.

One of these is because of the generosity of Mrs. Hallock, and the others are through the generosity of all Chapter members who donate to the Scholarship Fund. To all donors and to the Scholarship Committee - THANK YOU.

Governor Deal signed new legislation on easing the ability to get Military Veteran Drivers Licenses, and expanding Veterans Courts at NIM April 15. These resulted from Veteran involvement and shows support of importance to veterans in Georgia. He also signed into a law a bill which makes it mandatory for all Georgia hospitals to accept TRICARE.

The Military Compensation Review Commission was scheduled to visit in April, but will now visit in the August-September time frame and we will notify all of the dates when announced to encourage participation.

We are close to having the new Fort Benning Chapter MOAA Web Site ready for the Board to review and offer input; then it will go live to all members. It is our plan for you to be able to download past newsletters, voice your concerns on a blog, pay your dues on the web site if you choose, and keep up with the activities of the Chapter, and legislation that is affecting all of us.

We are looking for business sponsors for our Fort Benning Chapter and will display their business cards in the newsletter and on our web site. Please thank your Chapter's sponsors.

See our schedule of events where MOAA leadership/participation is encouraged, and remember we are made stronger by each members's support and participation. We have members presenting medals to ROTC and JROTC Cadets as they finish the school year. To all volunteers, we say "THANK YOU".



Very Respectfully,

Biff
Mayo A. "Biff" Hadden
Chapter President

Ladies Auxiliary

LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Fort Benning Club

Social: 11:30 a.m.

Dinner Served: 12 Noon

May Hostesses:

Cheryl Wadsworth
Melba Spurlock

May Menu:

Fresh Fruit Salad
Country Captain Chicken on Rice
Squash Casserole
Broccoli
Rolls, Tea & Coffee
Dessert - Ice Cream w/Cookie
Sit Down Lunch: Cost \$14.00



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

May Luncheon Program

BINGO WITH JUDY!
PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS!

The food is always delicious and the table decorations delightful! You may even win one, and it's a fun time to catch up on the latest news with our friends that we don't see or talk to every day.
See you there!!

2014 Annual Dues are now PAST DUE

Please support our club by paying your
2014 Annual Dues, \$10.

This club is for YOUR ENJOYMENT.

God Bless America, Our Troops and Their 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)

Benjamin and Ann Stahl
(in memory of COL (Ret) Ron Jebavy)

COL (Ret) and Mrs. Biff Hadden
(in memory of Roy Leggett)

Legislative Update

ISSUE #1 COLA Watch

The Consumer Price Index continued to climb in March, rising to 232,560. It now stands 1.0 percent above the FY2014 COLA baseline of 230,327.

ISSUE #2 Re-enroll in TRICARE Prime

More than 170,000 TRICARE Prime beneficiaries were forced out of Prime and into TRICARE Standard on October 1, 2013 as a result of changes made in the most recent round of TRICARE contracts.

The contracts reduced Prime Service Areas to within 40 miles of a military hospital, clinic, or base closure site.

The FY 2014 Defense Authorization Act grandfathered many of those affected by the reduction in Prime Service Areas. Specifically, it offered coverage to former Prime beneficiaries if they:

- Live in a ZIP code that was a Prime Service Area as of September 30, 2013, and
- Live within 100 miles of a military medical treatment facility.

Roughly 76,000 beneficiaries meet the requirements to be "grandfathered" into TRICARE Prime and are eligible to re-enroll if they choose.

TRICARE officials announced the long awaited re-enrollment procedures this week.

On April 28, TRICARE will mail instructions to affected beneficiaries. They have until June 30th to re-enroll in the program.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MAJ (Ret) Tom Lokey, US Air Force *MOAA Chapter Treasurer - UGA Dawgs - Banker*



Tom hails from Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1969. While at the University of Georgia Tom was a student trainer for football and other sports for two seasons, '67 and '68, during one of which Georgia won the 1968 SEC Football Championship.

Tom graduated from USAF Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas in November 1969. After attending the Administrative Officers Course at Keesler AFB, Mississippi, Tom was assigned to the Fourth Tactical Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, North Carolina. In 1971 Tom moved to the Armed Forces Courier Station at Don Muang RTAFB in Bangkok, Thailand, then later relocated to the 1400 Supply Squadron at Scott AFB, Illinois. After Tom separated from active duty in December 1972, he joined the AF Reserve, serving at Spence Field in Moultrie, Georgia. Upon deactivation of that unit, Tom served in the Public Affairs Office and the 402nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron at Robins AFB.

In 1979, Tom became an Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) for the Air Force Academy and AFROTC scholarship program and served as Commander of the Georgia ALO Program, supervising 45 officers. As an ALO, Tom counseled and evaluated hundreds of students, many of whom were successful in obtaining appointments or scholarships. Tom was honored as the Outstanding Commander in the Southeast in 1985, and Outstanding Commander in the Nation in 1986. Tom retired from the reserves in 1989, having earned the rank of Major and awards, including two Meritorious Service Medals and two Air Force Commendations medals.

Tom then went to work at Fourth National Bank (now SunTrust) and First Federal of Columbus, which was acquired by Barnett Bank. Barnett transferred Tom to Jacksonville, Florida in 1992 as the Regional Manager of Compliance Services, responsible for twelve banks. Tom stayed in Jacksonville after Barnett was acquired by Bank of America, working as Vice President and Senior Compliance Officer in Risk Management, and specializing in regulatory compliance of consumer internet banking. Tom moved back to Columbus in July 7, 2013 to be closer to family and best friends.

Hot Seat Questions

1. What year was it, and how old were you when you joined which branch of the military?
1969, 21, Air Force
2. Why did you join the Armed Forces?
Life long desire, Dad in USAAF during WWI and retired from USAF Reserve
3. What's one word you'd use to describe your time in the military? **Camaraderie and sense of purpose**
4. What did you want to grow up to be as a child? **USAF Pilot**
5. What's your biggest pet peeve?
People not using turn signals when changing lanes and turning.
6. Name of your favorite sports team, college or pro? **University of Georgia**
7. Who inspired your life the most, and why?
Coach Wayman Creel (high school) and Coach Erk Russell at University of Georgia
8. What's the most memorable moment in your life?
Working in 800 year old pub in SW England, summer between high school and college
9. What's the oddest thing in your garage or attic? **Steel storm shelter**
10. What's your biggest fear?
Losing the ability to care for myself and live independently.
11. What's the best advice you would give someone?
Don't make major decisions when you're angry or depressed.
12. How long have you been a member of the MOAA Ft. Benning Chapter?
Summer of 2013 after moving back to Columbus.

Please Support our Chapter Sponsors

To be a sponsor, contact Trish Hadden at trishhadden1@gmail.com



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TAPS

Share our Prayers for their Families

MAJ (Ret) Roy Hilton Leggett, April 8
Survived by his wife, June

CPT Arthur Medlock, April 14
Survived by his wife, Betty

LTC (Ret) Paul Anthony Hird, April 27
Survived by his wife, Julie

FBAC MOAA CALENDAR 2014

MAY 20.....Chapter Meeting
 JUN 17.....Chapter Meeting
 JUL 15.....Chapter Meeting, Tentative, Martin Army Community Hospital
 AUG 19.....Chapter Meeting
 SEP 16.....Chapter Meeting
 OCT 20 - 24.....GEORGIA MOAA Convention Cruise
 NOV.....Dinner Party, Green Island, Election of Officers
 DEC 12.....Christmas Party, Green Island

VICTORY DRIVE FLAG SUPPORT TEAM

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

Legislative Update

(Continued)

To re-enroll, the beneficiary must submit an enrollment form, waive the drive time standards, and choose a Primary Care Manager (PCM) inside an existing Prime Service Area. The TRICARE contractors in your region will help you find an available PCM. Enrollment forms will be available at www.tricare.mil/forms/.

Eligible beneficiaries will be re-enrolled retroactively effective October 1, 2014, and are responsible for paying enrollment fees. Any claims processed during the retroactive period will be reprocessed as TRICARE Prime claims.

ISSUE #3 Veterans Benefits Bill Push

Over the last six months the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the full House have passed a number of bills that address the needs of veterans. In February, for example, the House unanimously (390-0) passed a measure that would require states to charge the in-state tuition rate for all student veterans who enroll at a public college within three years of separating from active duty. The bill would enable non-resident veterans to get a nearly cost-free education at any public college under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

The in-state tuition provision is embedded in multiple veterans' benefits bills that have not cleared the Senate.

The omnibus Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act (S. 944) was voted out of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs last fall on a bipartisan basis but failed to clear an accelerated "unanimous consent" vote on the Senate Floor.

In addition to the in-state tuition measure, S-944 would:

Permit surviving spouses who receive dependency and indemnity payment (DIC) from the VA to retain the pay if they remarry at age 55

Increase DIC for survivors with children for each month over a three-year period from the date of

Legislative Update

(Continued)

entitlement - currently, the increase is limited to a two-year period.

Require the VA to provide medical exams, counseling and treatment for veterans who file for disability based on military sexual trauma.

Authorize Gunnery Sergeant John D. Fry Scholarships to the surviving spouses of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (their children are eligible for the Scholarship.)

Establish that career reservists with no service under active duty orders may be honored as veterans

Expand complementary and alternative therapies, prosthetics and chiropractic care at VA medical facilities

Extend the date of eligibility from 1 Jan. 1957 to 1 Aug 1953 for health care for veterans and their dependents that were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune

Require states to consider military training for the purpose of issuing state licenses and credentials to veterans

Require federal agencies (other than the A and DoD) to plan to hire 15,000 veterans under existing law during a 5 year period after passage of the legislation

Require quarterly reports on the backlog of veterans claims

S--1982 includes a provision that would have repealed the 1 percentage point COLA cut on working age military retirees' pensions. Thanks to MOAA members, the Military Coalition, and other stakeholders, Congress repealed the COLA cut except for future entrants into military service.

Confused yet? So is MOAA. As with the COLA cut repeal issue, MOAA feels strongly that the way ahead on the veterans omnibus bill is a negotiated, bipartisan solution.

ISSUE #4 Bill Targets DoD Civilians

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and the House Budget Committee, introduced legislation (H.R. 4257) to require the Pentagon to reduce its 770,000 civilian workforce by 15 percent in the next five years.

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: MOAA FBAC, P.O. BOX 6613, Columbus, GA 31917-6613

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<http://moaafbac.com>

Return Service Requested

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