



MECMOAA CHAPTER NEWS

Never Stop Serving

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 14 Jan

Lunch Bunch

11:30 @ Cafe 111
111 Broyles Drive,
Johnson City
RSVP - Louise Clites
423-928-3200

Sunday, 19 Jan

Membership Brunch

11:30 @ Blackthorn
Club at The Ridges
Guest Speaker:
TJ O'Neil
Cost: \$25 at door
RSVP to
mecmoaa@gmail.com

Tuesday, 11 Feb

Lunch Bunch

11:30 @ Yong Asian
House, 405 Roy Martin
Rd, in Gray
RSVP - Mary Ward
423-477-3159

A President's Message: We Wish You the Best This Holiday

By: Dana Atkins

December 18, 2019 (Source: moaa.org)

We have much to be thankful for as we celebrate the holiday season, close out MOAA's 90th year, and as we welcome what 2020 will bring.

This past year was a momentous one. As you read this, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is near the finish line, packed with legislation to help our service members, veterans and their families. A highlight is the long-fought full repeal of the widows tax. The 3.1% pay raise for our troops is a sign our country recognizes their service and its challenges. MOAA was there every step, keeping issues like medical billet cuts and military housing echoing in the halls of Congress.

You may be struck, as I am, with the December issue of Military Officer. Our members shared their memorable holiday moments, spent overseas and downrange. The issue also shared some of the classic military paintings of Norman Rockwell. His images capture a nation's spirit of service. His visualization of the Four Freedoms that President Franklin D. Roosevelt shared as reasons for entering WWII are iconic. Rockwell portrayed the "best of America," something we see on display most during the holidays, through our giving spirit.



As we enjoy these freedoms, we are reminded of the sacrifices, then and now. We say a special prayer for those overseas and away from families as we gather with ours. We wish everyone the best this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We thank Lt Gen Atkins for his inspiring words, as his message is simple and heartfelt. His reference to our Military Officer magazine leads to our next topic: your resources and benefits as a MOAA member.

If you've visited the MOAA website since September 26, you likely noticed the new format. According to MOAA, "The new site allows visitors to find what they need faster and access more information that's relevant to them—just a click, tap, or scroll away." It appears they hit the mark. Here's a screen shot of the home page:



Within MECMOAA, we've also been busy redesigning our website. Past President Gary Rabetoy led the initial creation of our chapter website many years ago, and since that time the technology and interfaces we used have become outdated. So, Gary stepped forward again to re-host our website through GoDaddy. The finished product is very close to launch (ECD early January), and we'll communicate all the details as soon as it's ready for member access. Thank you, Gary, for all you do for MECMOAA!

MECMOAA Leadership Transition: Honoring Paul and Sherry Williamson

Colonel (Ret.) Paul T. Williamson has served MECMOAA with the utmost dedication and professionalism as our Vice President over the last year. He has been a critical member of our team in everything we've done during our 40th Anniversary year, and his experience and vision have informed our thoughts and actions as we consider our future possibilities. He is happily married to his wife, Sherry Lynn, who is also a very active part of our chapter.

Paul has been a MOAA member for over 30 years. He and Sherry are faithful servants to both national and local MOAA communities, and together, they have decided it's time for beach life. After much thought and planning, they opted to build their retirement home in Myrtle Beach, SC, and will be moving there in February 2020.

Paul is a native of Pikeville, KY, retired from the U.S. Air Force after serving 31 years. During the time of the draft, Paul's lottery number came due, and he enlisted in the Air Force in August 1970 after completing two years of college. Having been taught to fly by his father, a Commander in the Civil Air Patrol in Pikeville and former Navy Petty officer during WWII, Paul was hoping that he would be afforded an opportunity to be selected to serve in some sort of technical field of aircraft operations or maintenance. Unfortunately, after basic training he was selected to work in the

Accounting and Finance field, was transferred to Sheppard AFB, TX, for a three-month training program and then to Maxwell AFB, AL, as his first duty assignment.

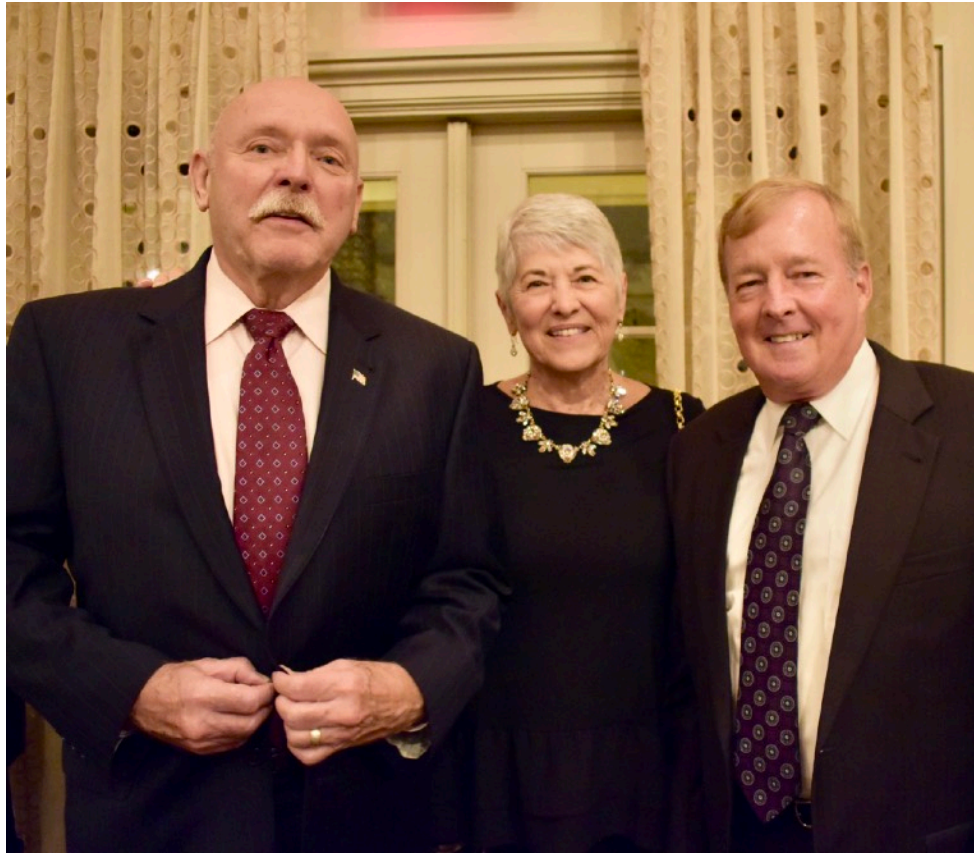
During his time at Maxwell AFB, he opted to finish his BS degree in Business with an emphasis in Accounting. After much consideration, Paul decided he would like to work toward law school, so he pursued an MS in Criminal Justice. After two years, he graduated with an MS degree with a double major in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Things happen for a reason, and while studying for the LSAT in preparation to apply to law school, his martial arts instructor, a Technical Sergeant (TSgt) and Combat Medic encouraged him to seek a commission, possibly in the Medical Service Corp (MSC). Going down that path was a totally different mindset for Paul. However, at the TSgt's urging, Paul sought council from two different MSC officers stationed at the Maxwell AFB Hospital. After further thought and discussion, Paul decided to forgo his current plans for law school and applied for a direct commission in the MSC. Not successful on the first try, he waited one year and reapplied. On his second attempt he was selected for and awarded a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1976, and he reported to MSC training school at Sheppard AFB, TX.

Paul served in numerous healthcare administrative positions during his next 25 years to include medical logistics, medical

readiness, human resources, and squadron and deputy group commander. He is a Life Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Professional in the Academy of Healthcare Management. His favorite time was serving in Germany for almost ten years, and while there was deployed to Naples, Italy, Bosnia, Denmark, and other locations throughout Germany. After serving in Germany, he was assigned to Keesler AFB Medical Center, Biloxi, Mississippi, as the Medical Center Administrator for two years, and then he was selected as the CEO for the Southeast TRICARE Region, where he finished his career after a two-year stint.

Upon retirement, Paul began work as a healthcare consultant, Senior Manager, with First Consulting Group (FCG), Long Beach, CA, and after seven years of advancing through various leadership and management positions, he was selected as the Director for Government Healthcare Operations at the FCG offices in Washington, D.C.

After working for over 50 years, Paul decided to *retire/retire* and elected to become what he jokingly said was a "professional volunteer." Over the past three years, he has been a volunteer at Johnson City Medical Center in the Department of Research and Development and served on the Johnson City Development Authority, Johnson City Regional Planning Commission and the Johnson City Historic Zoning Commission.



Paul and Sherry,

*The members of MECMOAA consider you lifelong friends
and will be forever grateful for your service with us.
We wish you the very best in many new adventures
from your Myrtle Beach headquarters!*

Your New Vice President: LCDR (Ret.) John Rice

At our annual business meeting in November, we elected John Rice as our next Vice President. John is a long-standing member of MECMOAA and a familiar face to many of you. We'll spotlight John and his wife Janet in an upcoming newsletter, but rest assured that we've gained a true professional on the Board of Directors.

Welcome, John!

New Year, New Membership Dues.

If you haven't paid your 2020 membership dues of \$20, please do so before or at our brunch meeting next month. If you have any questions or concerns, just contact Tom Shaffer at 423-426-1416 or email mecmoaa@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays!

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions to mecmoaa@gmail.com.

If you received the newsletter in printed form and would rather receive it via email, please send us your email address and update your profile on the MOAA national website—you'll need to login to update your profile with MOAA.

Never Stop Serving



40

YEARS OF SERVICE

MECMOAA

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Military Officers Association of America
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