



# MECMOAA CHAPTER NEWS



## The Army-Navy Game

Army Black Knights 8-4		<b>13</b>	Final		<b>17</b>		Navy Midshipmen 4-8																		
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Table source: ESPN

Why is this our front-page news? Because our nation needed the Army-Navy Game to help close out this year. "America's Game" uplifted all who participated, whether on the field, in the stands, or via broadcast, in a way that only this kind of rivalry, tradition and sportsmanship can.

In 2021, the end of our war in Afghanistan erupted in a range of emotions, including anger, frustration and despair. Our military's use as an effective instrument of power in post-9/11 theaters of operation was in question. For some, the civilian-military divide grew ever larger. At the same time, the bonds among those who served in Afghanistan grew even stronger. While there sometimes seems to be no agreeable way forward to heal our collective national wounds, a richly-storied football game between two of our nation's military service academies seemed like a great place to start.

*Never Stop Serving.*

## **MECMOAA in 2021**

As this year draws to a close, it's fitting to ask the question: How is our Chapter doing as we head into the new year?

Throughout the year, we had steadfast turnout for each membership brunch meeting, with some interesting guest speakers. Current members brought 12 new members and spouses onto our Chapter rolls!

We welcomed:

George Brown and Joan Koelbel

Bill and Ann Woods

Brett and Alicia Monette

Russ and Amy Jowers

Jack and Nancy Butterworth

George and Karen Aprahamian

In October, **U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn** and her staff joined us for lunch. She answered your questions and provided her perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our nation. We've developed a good working relationship with Senator Blackburn's staff, so if you have an



issue or concern for her to address, please speak with our new Legislative Liaison, **Don Thompson**. Don is also on MOAA's National Board of Directors, so he's a fantastic resource for you in the legislative arena.

At our Annual Business Meeting in November, we honored **Tom Shafer** for his many years of service as our Chapter's Treasurer. Tom received the MOAA Outstanding Service Award, which can only begin to describe his contributions. While Tom is not going anywhere, he handed the reigns to our new Treasurer, **Brett Monette**.



**With these personnel changes, here is the current MECMOAA Board of Directors:**

**President: [John Rice](#)**

**1st Vice President (also Past President): [Jack Woolley](#)**

**2d Vice President & Webmaster: [Stan Gedelman](#)**

**Secretary: [Mary Shaw Van](#)**

**Treasurer: [Brett Monette](#)**

**Legislative Liaison: [Don Thompson](#)**

**Spouse Liaison: [Mary Ward](#)**

**Immediate Past President & Membership Chair: [Mark Tipton](#)**

**Past President [Gary Rabetoy](#) also advises the Board**

**Board members typically serve two-year terms, and the next elections are in 2022. So, if you would like to serve on the board, please let Mark or Mary Shaw Van know by speaking with one of them at an upcoming meeting. We welcome new members and new ideas!**

## **MECMOAA in 2022**

As of the publishing of this newsletter, 22 current members have signaled their intent to remain active in 2022 by remitting their Chapter dues. Members pay \$20 per year, and Surviving Spouses' dues are waived.

We will continue meeting over Sunday brunch at Blackthorn Club in The Ridges. To not interfere with church services, we begin gathering at 12:30 and enter the brunch line at 1:00. Cost remains \$25 per person, payable at the door. We meet the third Sunday of every other month, beginning in January. The 2022 schedule is as follows:

**January 16**

**March 20**

**May 15**

**July 17**

**September 18**

**November 20 (Annual Business Meeting)**

Please add these dates to your calendar now--what a blessing it would be to fellowship with all members and spouses at every brunch in 2022!

Note: If you recently joined or ordered **new nametags**, you can pick those up at our next brunch in January. If you have not ordered yours, be on the lookout for the next email to do so. Nametags are funded for members and spouses through membership dues.

## Advocacy Requires Action

Don Thompson, our Legislative Liaison, will provide information and updates on MOAA's top legislative priorities, as well as any relevant state and local issues, in future newsletters and membership meetings. However, we urge you to proactively stay informed and take appropriate action on key issues by referencing MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) (click the link, or go to <https://takeaction.moaa.org>). From there, you can navigate to a lot of information about legislative priorities, what you can do, how to contact your elected representatives, and even what to say.

To see what MOAA has already accomplished, read this summary:

### MOAA in Action: Major Legislative Accomplishments

As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

### *Not a MOAA National Member?*

If you're not a national MOAA member, we strongly encourage you to join. While a Basic Membership gives you access to a wide range of information and benefits, you might consider becoming a Premium or Life Member. Read more about the differences here: [MOAA Membership](#)

One more note on MOAA membership...as John Rice always says, "The magazine alone is worth the dues." If you're not familiar with *Military Officer*, check it out.

## **We'll see you at brunch in January!**

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions to [mecmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:mecmoaa@gmail.com).

***Never Stop Serving.***

Mountain Empire Chapter (MECMOAA) is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America

Mailing Address: PO Box 5024, Johnson City, TN 37602-5024

Email: [mecmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:mecmoaa@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.mecmoaa1.org/> (Webmaster - Stan Gedelman)

Facebook: [@mecmoaa](#)