



**Georgia Mountain Chapter**

Military Officers Association of America



Don Brown, President

GA Mountain Chapter MOAA

P O Box 1703

Dahlonega, GA 30533

**Next Year's 8th Annual Warrior  
Golf Classic 11-13 Jun 17  
Lake Lanier Islands**

**GMCMOAA Officers:**

**Ben Sartain - 1ST VP**

**Walt Stanish – 2D VP**

**John Bredfeldt – Treasurer**

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**Other Members of the Board:**

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**Mike Seely Ron Viles**

**Jack Thompson Paul Wingo**

**Ray Wright Larry Lobaugh**

Dear GMCMOAA Members,

By the time you read this we will have held our first luncheon meeting at the Golden Corral in Cumming. The change of time and venue is an attempt to increase participation and to respond to requests from some members that cannot drive at night.

Our chapter has once again entered into the period of time that all efforts must be doubled to ensure the success of the Warrior Classic Golf Tournament, 11-13 June 2017. The For The Warriors Foundation sponsors this fine program and we assist them by seeking players and donors and by furnishing manpower. At this time, we have secured only a few wounded warriors for participation and the enlisting of paying teams has been slow.

The Classic, the Foundation, and the Chapter need your assistance. We need donors who can and will donate money for prizes for the tournament. We need volunteers to assist before and during the day of the tournament. This is nothing new, we have done this for several years and we need to do it again.

We will be resuming our presentation of medals and certificates to the Junior ROTC Program at 20 high schools in our area. Ray Wright has charge of this program and will be asking for volunteers to make one or more presentations. Some of the

presentations will take place in early April. This is a rewarding event in that you meet the young people manning our JROTC units and make a significant contribution to their status with the medal and award. Please volunteer.

We have been remiss in recognizing members who are ill, hospitalized, or have suffered loss of family members. I would like you to notify me if you know of any of our members in this situation. A phone call to one of us or our Chaplain Chad Cartwright, could make a difference.

Our next meeting will be April 20th at the Board of Education building in Dawsonville. We are working with an area restaurant for meal planning and luncheon meeting time. If we are successful, you will notified by our secretary and in our regular notices.

Thank you for your membership. Thank you for your participation. Thank you for working diligently for the success of our chapter and our tournament.

I am proud of the accomplishments we continually attain for our chapter.

Still serving,

Don

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

Our chapter normally meets in Dawsonville in the Dawson County Board of Education Building, 30 Main Street, on the **third Thursday of each month** (Sep-May). However, **this March's meeting will be in a different place.** (See below):

The June meeting will be at the golf tournament. There are **no** Chapter meetings in July or August.

**Mar 16: GA Mtn Chapter MOAA Luncheon Meeting, Golden Corral, Cumming, 1130-1300**

Apr 16: Easter

May 14: Mother's Day

May 29: Memorial Day

**Jun 11-13, 2017: The Warriors Golf Classic, Lake Lanier Island Resort and Golf Club**

Jun 19: Father's Day

Jul 4: Independence Day

Sep 4: Labor Day

Oct 9: Columbus Day

Nov 11: Veteran's Day (Observed on 10th)

Nov 29: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 25: Christmas Day

### WARRIOR GOLF CLASSIC

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, our chapter will host our 8<sup>th</sup> annual For The Warriors Dinner and Golf Classic at the Lake Lanier Golf Club. This event is sponsored by our affiliate the For The Warriors Foundation.



**This is our big fund raising event** for the year for the Foundation and it requires **HUGE support** from our chapter to assist them in seeking donors and players, by dining with the warriors and their families, and by manning all the activities involved in the golf classic.

During this event, we will invite around 30 wounded veterans and their families from the surrounding area. They will be treated to meals, lodging, recreation, and a golf outing.

To make the event a memorable occasion, corporate sponsors are solicited for funds and also to form a golf team of their own to compete in our outing. They choose three of their players and pay for four. They are then placed with a wounded warrior to complete the foursome. This team makeup maximizes the interface between the sponsors and the warriors.



Each year, our chapter and our Foundation have gained great satisfaction, notoriety, and recognition hosting this great event.

It does take a lot of effort to put this together, but teamwork and determination always seem to make it happen. Please sign up and support this in any way you can. We need manpower, fund raisers, bag fillers, guides, hole monitors, etc..

Over the past seven years, the For The Warriors Foundation and our Chapter, through donations and sponsors, have **been able to host 224 warriors and 121 families during the Golf Classic. We have also established five scholarships at UNG and at the Riverside Military Academy** for children of veterans.

We have also **donated over 500 gift bags to VA and the Fisher House, and have donated over \$64,000 in support of veteran charities.**

Our POC for this event is Paul Wingo. Contact him with your area of interest so that he may coordinate your efforts.

### MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

"Promote and protect a strong national defense and lead our nation to honor its commitments to all who have served."

### GA MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MOAA

#### Mission Statement

"To advocate for our community and connect it to the nation we serve."

The Georgia Mountain Chapter of MOAA (GMC MOAA) is a non-profit veterans association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors.

Membership is open to all who hold or have ever held a commission or a warrant in any component of the U. S. Army, Navy, USMC, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

Dues are \$25 per year and are due the first of December.

### TRUMP SELECTS GENERALS

President Trump recently selected three Generals to serve in Cabinet-level positions: retired Army LTG Michael Flynn as national security advisor, retired Marine General John Kelly for Homeland Security, and retired Marine General James "Mad Dog" Mattis for the Defense Secretary. (LTG Kelly has since resigned and was replaced by active duty Army LTG H. R. McMaster).

The nation's Founders specifically set up our government for civilians to oversee the military, not the other way around.

*The New York Times* believes that it is dangerous for Trump to give so much political power to men trained to see military force as the solution to all problems, particularly since the war on terrorism has made the military "the dominant institution in how the U. S. engages with the world."

Relax - - President Trump is not forming a "junta," said Rich Lowry of the *NationalReview.com*. Perhaps liberals forget, but when President Obama took office, he appointed three generals to top posts, and the "republic survived."

Four former generals - - George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, and Dwight Eisenhower - - have even served as our nation's president, with no threat to the principle of civilian rule.

Military men are actually less likely to favor the use of force than civilians, said Charles Dunlap in *Vox.com*. "Most officers have seen the horrors of war firsthand" and understand it must be used only as a last resort. LTG Kelly had to bury his own son, who stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan, and GEN

Mattis has already persuaded President Trump to drop his support for waterboarding.

Still, it may seem that the President has an infatuation with the military. Perhaps it's from his father's decision to send young Donald to New York Military Academy at age 13 to straighten him out. It was there that it is reported that he became fascinated with WW II Generals MacArthur and Patton, and was drawn to the generals' straight talk, and the kind of aggressive leadership style he has adopted for himself.

### GENERAL JAMES MATTIS NEW SECDEF

General James "Mad Dog" Mattis was recently selected as the 26<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Defense. Gen Mattis retired four years ago from the Marine Corps after serving 41 years of active duty. His last command was as the CG of the U. S. Central Command, where he was in charge of all American forces in the Middle East.



GEN Mattis was highly respected among his troops and often visited them on the front lines. He is also known to be a dynamic speaker, using a smattering of candor and blunt talk in his presentations.

He is an extremely well read scholar and reportedly has over 7000 books in his personal library. He co-authored the manual on counter-insurgency with General David Petraeus.

Gen Mattis graduated from Washington State College in 1972. He is 66 years old, is single, and has no children.

### EISENHOWER SERIES COLLEGE PROGRAM

On February 16, 2017, Paul Wingo and Jack Thompson attended the Eisenhower Series College Program held at Georgia College in

Milledgeville. The presentations were made by the U. S. Army War College students and moderated by War College instructor COL Eric Crider. A variety of topics were discussed and are summarized below.

COL Chris Becking (USA) stated that the U. S. infrastructure is in critical shape. Our roads and bridges are given a grade of B-, while airports rate a D+. The cost to bring everything up to speed would be \$3.6 trillion. This is a staggering amount and the nation does not have that kind of money; therefore, the repairs can not be done all at once.

LTC John Crawson (USA NG) reported that the National Guard is no longer a "beer drinking weekend warrior" outfit. They receive the same training and equipment as the active force. Their units have been deployed to the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. They also have a role in border security if called to duty by a Governor or the President.

LTC Monica Radtke (USAR) reported on the role of women in combat roles. She stated that 3 women had recently graduated from Ranger School and one had been selected for a Ranger assignment. She said that gender should not be a criteria - - only one's ability to do the job. She pointed out that this was the official policy of DOD. She also stated that physical standards should not be lowered to accommodate females. Lots of discussion followed her presentation.

Overall the topics were well explained, but the answers on the topic of Women in Combat seemed canned and leaned toward the belief that American culture has evolved to the point that women in combat positions is the wave of the future -- only time will tell.

Thanks, Paul and Jack, for going to this seminar and for this feedback.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain Chad Cartwright

### POLITICAL DIVERSITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

We have been through one of the most "interesting" campaign seasons in my memory and it seems that at least half of the country is mad at the other half for "reasons" that are beyond the pale. We have elected a President and have a selection that was made purely on the Electoral College, as provided for in our Constitution.

We are a **nation**. We owe our allegiance to a document and not to a person, to the rule of law and the processes outlined therein. We have rights incorporated in that document that we hold dear. Even though it protects us all equally and we may not like what is being granted to some, but tough, get over it and move on.

It behooves us all to remember that we are a **United States**. We must take a deep breath and remember that we may think some are out to destroy us personally with their proclivity to whatever political position they may hold, but we also must respect their right to hold those beliefs. Nobody needs to get in anybody's face to laugh, high five, or denigrate the losing side or to vent, throw a tantrum, or otherwise publicly display riotous behavior towards the winning side.

Remember, "This, too, shall pass."

Our country has survived many crises and turbulent times and it will survive this as well, but only if we keep our relationships open, honest and respectful. We must remember that we all share at least two things: a Constitution and a shared humanity.

For those who will refuse to listen to reason, there is a passage in the Gospel of Matthew that comes to mind: "Shake the dust from your feet and move on." Let the passage of time be the final judge of both of us. Some things are worth it, so ask yourself, "Is this

the hill I want to die on?" Most of the time the answer will be no.

I leave you with these words to think upon. We are all members of a fairly small segment of our population. We were all given a commission to defend the Constitution and it behooves every one of us to remember that simple fact - - you do not have to like it, you may not have even deeply considered what you had committed your life to when you repeated that oath, but it stands to this day and has not expired.

Just as many of you have done the same when you were baptized, took the altar call, or otherwise made a commitment to the Lord. Both are deeply spiritual in nature, both require close examination from time to time, and both also require us to be in relation with one another. Stay frosty, my friends. Chad

#### MEMORIAL DAY



**With Honor & Gratitude  
We Remember**

Memorial Day (May 29<sup>th</sup>) is a Federal holiday that was established for remembering those who died while serving in the military service. It is observed each year on the last Monday of May.

It originally was known as Decoration Day after the Civil War in 1868, when Union veterans established it as a time to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

#### AMERICA'S MILITARY CHALLENGE

President Trump is now overseeing several ongoing combat operations that began during previous administrations.

Some 8,400 U. S. troops are still deployed in Afghanistan, the longest-running war in U. S. history, to train and assist Afghan troops in fighting the Taliban. About 5,000 troops are assisting the Iraqi army against ISIS, while another 500 Special Forces fighters are leading the battle against ISIS in Syria.

In Yemen, the U. S. has been targeting Al Qaida in the Arab Peninsula and helping Saudi Arabia fight a proxy war against Iranian-backed rebels.

In Libya, the Pentagon sent two B-2 bombers to take out suspected ISIS camps just a day before Trump's inauguration.

In addition to those combat theaters, the U. S. has bases scattered around the globe, including South Korea, Germany, Turkey, Japan, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Spain.

So far, the Trump administration has given mixed signals about whether it plans to escalate existing conflicts and about who is setting policy. "Our government continues to be in unbelievable turmoil," GEN Tony Thomas, head of the military's Special Operations Command, said last week. "I hope they sort it out soon, because we're a nation at war."

The U.S. is taking a leading role in the fight against what's left of the Islamic State in Syria, Iraq, and part of Libya. Last year, the U. S. bombed ISIS strongholds in Libya, including the key port of Sirte, for weeks.

In Iraq, U. S. troops have been embedded with the Iraqi army as it tries to retake Mosul from ISIS. But Iraqi lawmakers say President Trump has endangered that relationship. The President is reportedly considering deploying ground troops to Syria to speed up the efforts to destroy ISIS, and has also said that he'd like to coordinate military efforts with Russia.

Analysts say that Russia is truly not fighting ISIS in Syria, but instead has deployed most of its troops, airpower, and equipment to shore up President Al-Assad in his civil war with various militias, including Kurdish militias allied with the U. S.

The 8,400 U. S. troops in Afghanistan maintain bases to support the Afghan government and assist the Afghan in fighting a continuing Taliban insurgency. The Pentagon has asked for more troops to help train Afghan forces and President Trump reportedly told Afghan President Ghani that he was considering a troop surge. The Taliban currently controls more Afghan territory than at any time since 2001.

In North Korea, the Stalinist dictatorship has just tested a new intermediate-range missile, indicating they are closer to creating an intercontinental ballistic missile that could reach the U. S. mainland with a nuclear warhead. In January, President Trump tweeted that this "won't happen!" He said that he would pressure China to rein in its rogue client state. China, however, has always been reluctant to intervene in North Korea, and has recommended that Trump deal directly with Pyongyang.

#### FY 17 DOD BILL NOW LAW

The FY 2017 DOD Authorization Bill is now law. This law made major changes to the DOD healthcare system.

First, the DOD healthcare system will be centralized under the Secretary of Defense by January 2018. Previously, the military healthcare system was run by each of the three services.

Additionally, the law changes the structure of Tricare Standard and Tricare Extra to Tricare Select and adds enrollment fees for Tricare Select. Tricare For Life was unaffected.

Secondly, the law mandates that the current Office of the Secretary of Defense be totally reorganized within a year, and that JCS and the component commands have their duties revised.

Finally, the law directs the Sec Def to propose a revised military pay system that more closely resembles a civilian pay system. As part of this provision, each service can determine which speciality career fields will allow people in the rank of O-5 and above to serve 40 years in service.

#### SENIOR ROTC

There is only one Senior ROTC program in our area. It is the

University of North Georgia on the Dahlonega campus.

This May the University will be commissioning 55 senior cadets as 2LT's in the U. S. Army, the USAR, and the National Guard.

Our Chapter will present the newly commissioned lieutenants with a MOAA Certificate of Commendation, membership in MOAA, and a set of Gold Bars.

Photographs are taken of each new 2LT during this presentation and sent to their hometowns as a local news release to their friends and relatives.

COL Don Brown (USAR, Ret) has been in charge of this program for several years and has done a great job for our chapter.

### JROTC PROGRAM

There are 20 JROTC units in the local high schools of our assigned area. The Senior Instructors (SI) of these programs will soon select their outstanding cadet in the Junior class.

Our Chapter coordinates with each SI and, at the end of the school year, several of our members will go to each of the schools and present the selected cadets with a certificate, a commemorative JROTC medal, and a gift certificate of \$100.

COL Ray Wright (USA, Ret) is our man in charge of this outstanding program. He tells us that the awards are always met with great enthusiasm from the cadets, their parents, the JROTC cadre, and the school officials.

### F-35 AIRCRAFT

The F-35 Lightning II aircraft is manufactured by the Lockheed Martin Corporation. The latest and greatest aircraft in the U. S. arsenal, it is a single seat, single engine, all-weather, stealth fighter designed to perform ground attack and air defense missions.



Some of the operating statistics are below:

- Speed: 1200 mph
- Range: 1350 miles
- Length: 51', Width: 35'
- Cost: \$94 million now, but costs will reduce to the \$80-85 million range with increased production.
- Built in Fort Worth

Everyone who has flown the F-35 absolutely loves its performance. In the two simulated dogfights reported so far, the kill ratio was 35-1, in favor of the F-35.

President Trump recently met with Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson about driving down the cost of the stealth fighter. He tweeted about the cost being "out of control" and that he might have more Boeing F-18s built if sufficient savings are not achieved.

### QUOTES TO REMEMBER

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." Abraham Lincoln

"Football is like life - it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority. People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society." Vince Lombardi

"To live in freedom, one must grow used to a life full of agitation, change, and danger." Alexis de Tocqueville

### POINTS TO PONDER

Life expectancy will jump across industrialized nations in the next two decades - - but not in the U. S. By 2030, a new study found women in South Korea can expect to live to 91, while women in France, Japan, Spain, and Switzerland will have life expectancies of 88. Average life expectancy in the U. S. will climb by less than three years in the same period, with women reaching 83 and men 79. Experts

attribute the differences to diet, income inequality, and access to health care. *WashingtonPost.com*

# # #

A sizeable income tax refund is not a good thing. The average refund for 2015 was \$2,860, but this means you've massively overpaid the government. You have depleted your weekly cash flow, while giving the IRS an interest-free loan. If you overpaid, ask your employer for a new W-4 form so you can reduce the amount withheld from each paycheck. You will need to increase the number of personal allowances you claim to a higher number. *Vox.com*

# # #

The average American is expected to eat 91.7 pounds of chicken this year, 9% more than in 2010. U. S. consumers spend more than \$90 billion a year on chicken - - more than any other meat. *AP*

# # #

The number of U. S. manufacturing jobs for people with less than a high school education fell 44% between 2000 and 2013, but grew 17% for those with associate degrees. Manufacturing jobs for people with graduate degrees have grown by 32% since 2000. *TheAtlantic.com*

# # #

The number of Americans killed in lightning strikes has plummeted from about 400 people a year in the 1940's to 23 in 2013 - - the fewest on record. Experts attribute the drop in deaths to urbanization and technological farming improvements, such as covered tractors, weather forecasting, and education about lightning safety. *TheAtlantic.com*

# # #

## FLAG DAY



Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 allows servicemembers not in uniform, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U. S. flag. Uniformed individuals should give the military salute.

All other persons should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

## FIVE BAD CAR HABITS



1. Running on empty: Many fuel pumps overheat if they're not submerged in gas. Keep tank at least a 1/4 full +.
2. Impatient shifting: Never flick the transmission into drive while still rolling backward out of a parking space. Over time, that move can damage the engine and transmission.
3. Revving a cold engine: Let a cold engine idle 60 seconds to circulate oil and lift engine temperature. Revving also puts stress on cold, tight-fitting parts.
4. Never using a parking brake: Putting the car in park will keep it from rolling, but doing only that puts pressure on a small, costly pin in the transmission.

5. Resting a hand on the shift knob: Fans of stick shifts love to do this, but shouldn't. It puts strain on the transmission's bushings.

*Popular Mechanic*

## STRANGE FACTS ABOUT AMERICA

The following are some strange facts about America that most Americans do not know.

- In more than half of all states in the U.S., the highest paid public employee in the state is a **football coach**.
- It cost the U. S. Mint **1.8 cents** to make a penny and **9.4 cents** to make a nickel.
- Almost half of all Americans (**47%**) do not put a single penny out of their paychecks into savings.
- Alaska has a **longer coastline** than all of the other 49 states combined.
- The U. S. has **845** motor vehicles for every 1,000 people.
- In 1950, **less than 5%** of all babies born in America were born to unwed women. Today, that number is over **40%**.
- By the time an American child reaches 18, he/she will have seen approximately **40,000 murders** on TV.
- According to a recent survey, **81%** of Russians now have a **negative view** of the U. S.. That is much higher than at the end of the cold war.
- If you have no debt and also \$10 in your pocket - - you are **wealthier than 25%** of all Americans.

## GUN SALES SLOWING

Gun sales have slowed in the wake of President Trump's election, apparently

because of reduced fears that guns will be banned. Background checks on gun purchases fell 20% in January from a year ago, according to FBI data. *WSJ.com*

## BENEFITS FOR WEEKEND WARRIORS

Health experts recommend taking moderate but regular exercise - - five 30-minute sessions a week - - to prevent disease and boost longevity. But a new study suggests that "weekend warriors who cram a week's worth of physical activity into one or two days also gained significant health benefits.



Researchers at Loughborough University in England analyzed the exercise habits and health records of 63,591 middle-aged men and women. Among the people who adhered to government guidelines, those who exercised three or more times a week, were 35% less likely to die over 15 years than sedentary adults; they had a 41% lower risk of dying from heart disease and 21% less risk of dying from cancer.

But people who packed their physical activity into a couple of days enjoyed similar benefits. They had a 30% lower risk of death during the same period, with near identical reductions in heart disease and cancer risk.

"Millions of people enjoy doing sports once or twice a week, but they are concerned that they are not doing enough," Gary O'Donovan, one of the study's authors, tells *The Guardian (UK)*. "We found a clear benefit that it's making them fit and healthy."

Georgia Mountain  
Chapter

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