



HOUSTON AREA
 PO BOX 1082
 HOUSTON TX 77251-1082
 www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LV No. 4

April 2018

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, April 28, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Well, fellow members, what shall we talk about?

First let me say a few words about the chapter's effort to support the JROTC and ROTC programs in Houston. As the board has reported many times, it is the judgment of MOAA National that the program of buying and shipping medals and the attendant certificates is not cost effective. This program was terminated by National last year. Consequently, the chapter has had to take up the slack. To this end, the board has asked its members to support the program locally. Several members have done just that. Of the more than 100 JROTC programs in the Houston area, donations have been received to pay for the purchase of 57 medals and certificates. This does not include the costs of mailing the items to the schools. The board of directors has made the decision to absorb the balance of the cost from the operating budget.



Daniel Gutierrez

Two of our board officers have spearheaded the effort to support ROTC. I commend our Vice President LTC **Dennis O'Driscoll** and Secretary LTC **Rollins Collins** for acquiring the medals and certificates and getting them mailed to all the schools—no small feat. In fact, they even delivered some of the medals/certificates personally. Gentlemen, I salute you.

This past month I had occasion to visit the Combined Arms Center downtown. This is an innovative concept of creating a focal point of assistance for our armed forces personnel, veterans and their families. The idea is the have a place where active personnel or service veterans can come and be pointed to the resources they need without having to approach any number of organizations, many of which do not offer the specific help needed. I was impressed by the facility and its extensive

(Continued on p. 3)

2018 Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2018

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

4/24/17 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2018 Board Meetings
5/22 6/26 7/24 8/21 9/29 10/23
11/13?
None in Dec

All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Apr. 28
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon

BraeBurn Country Club

8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

Chicken Piccata
OR
Blackened Catfish

Rice Pilaf
Green Beans
Rolls and Butter
Coffee, Tea

German Chocolate Cake

\$30

Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
4/25 to Don Couch,
832.205.2009

2018 MOAA-HA Monthly Meetings

4/28 May 19: Military Ball
6/30 7/28 8/25 9/25 10/27
11/15 (with MOWA)
12/?/18? Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, April 19
11:30 Fellowship
Luncheon at Noon

Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Order off the Menu
and Pay Individually

RSVP to Phyllis Ottis,
713.774.2282,
by Mon. 4/16, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, **April 2, 2018**

Receipts	\$ 1,008.00
Expenses	\$ 2,026.90
Balance	\$ 3,346.64

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

CHECK YOUR "Paid Through"
date in the Membership Directory.

*Please use form in this newsletter to
report current information*
(Only Paid Members Will Be
Included in 2018 Directory)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

David Ralph Hoyer Jr., MAJ USA
Spouse: Carla
2026 McDuffie St.
Houston TX 77019
713.533.0382
davidhoyer@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain's Message



Kerry Magee
CAPT USN (Ret.)

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!

Aye, and what a lovely month 'twas March! And I pray ye kissed the Blarney Stone on St. Patty's Day, the 17th, and was wearing the Green!

I give ye a Toast: *May there always be work for your hands to do.*

May your purse always hold a coin or two.

May the Sun always shine on your windowpane.

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be with you.

May God fill your heart with gladness and cheer!

My Benediction is a prayer from St. Patrick: "I arise today, through God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me."

AMEN!

May the Good Lord above keep you and bless you!

MAY JOY AND PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL YEAR!

Humbly submitted by
CAPT Kerry B. Magee
USNR-RET
Chaplain/Past President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd from p. 1)

resources but was astonished at the quality and commitment of the outstanding personnel at the center. Some are wounded veterans themselves and are smart, confident, and knowledgeable. If you have not done so and you find yourself downtown, drop in. It's at 2929 McKinney, east of MinuteMaid Park. You'll be glad you did.

I would like to urge all of you to think about attending the **Armed Forces Day Military Ball** on May 19, sponsored by the Houston Military Affairs Committee (HMAC) this year partnering with the US Air Force. It's a dressy affair with pomp and ceremony, and its main purpose is to honor the military. Our chapter hopes to be able to buy a table. To do this, we need ten folks. We currently have four. Come on gang, only six of you. And of you haven't seen Eugene and his lovely wife Myrna rock 'n roll, you're missing out!

Lastly, if you haven't been to one of our monthly luncheon programs lately, you've missed out on some lively discussions. Our guest speakers have been engaging, informed, and dedicated. Our upcoming speakers promise more of the same, so come on out. Also, remember the board of directors is planning to take one or more meetings to some of the more obscure parts of our membership territory to encourage attendance.

Let us be strong, be active, be involved.

Remember: "Never stop serving."
God bless.

Respectfully,

Daniel M. Gutierrez
MAJ USA (Ret.), President

DID YOU KNOW?

March 29 was the anniversary of the removal of all U.S. troops from Vietnam and has been named as "Vietnam War Veterans Day." Did you hear one word about it on any major news outlet? Of even a minor one? We lost 58,000 Americans in that war, and did you even know that March 29 was set aside as a day to memorialize the day all our troops came home from Vietnam?

Let's do something to change that next year.

Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

The year is sliding by, but not so fast that we should forget our cadets at Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston, and the tax-deductible Endowment Fund we support. Please reach deep in your pocket and send a few bucks, anything at all, to the Endowment Fund. You won't regret it

Bill

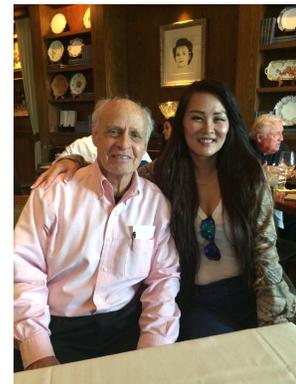
William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS OUR APRIL MEETING!!!

Read on about our very special speaker for that meeting.

OUR VERY SPECIAL SPEAKER FOR OUR MEETING ON APRIL 28

Dr. Joseph Agris is a plastic surgeon in Houston and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Houston Methodist Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital. He received his medical degree from Albany Medical College and has been in practice for more than 20 years and specializes in Plastic Surgery.



Dr. Joseph Agris with Kim Caravello, who was our February Speaker

Years ago "Doc Joe" and Marvin Zindler (deceased) formed the Agris-Zindler Children's Foundation to deliver medical care to all children across the world. It's said that if you want something done, and done right, ask a busy person. That would be "Doc Joe," whose deep passion for his work, and love for his fellow man make it almost impossible for him to say "no" when a child needs his expertise. When you fix a kid," Dr. Agris says, "you fix a family, too."

At 28, just as he finished his many years of medical training, he was drafted. That was in 1969, and soldiers returning from Vietnam needed doctors. Dr. Agris was

assigned to a U.S. Navy hospital in Long Beach, Calif. He says he relished the opportunity. "University-trained surgeons are good," he says, "but if you can find surgeons who trained during a war, they are great. They learn to improvise."

Dr. Agris is the author of *Tears On The Sand*, which is available from Amazon. Here's what Dr. Agris himself has to say about it:

"Over the years during which my medical missions had taken me deep into the remote areas of Pakistan, I have found myself falling in love with the people. Most of them live their lives in much the same way as had their ancestors for millennia. Their needs are simple, their possessions few, and their lives unimaginably hard, yet they remain charming and humble.

"But I quickly learned something very important about them. Whereas they tend to welcome trusted friends with the same warmth one would expect to be limited to close family, they are also quick to violence when faced with a threat. It has taken me years to convince them that I am no threat to them, but rather, a friend.

"I did not win their trust with words; they have heard too many words from the Americans and have seen that Americans' actions rarely mirrored the kindness that the words had promised.

"I am a surgeon and have made my statements by traveling to the poorest villages and treating people who have probably never

seen a physician before. Over the years, I have performed surgery on thousands of children who had been born with terrible birth defects, or who had been maimed by the violence that has long defined life in the region.

"In time, these people began referring to me as Dr. Angel, and I have to admit that I take more pride in that title than from any of the other accolades I have ever received. As I treated and was befriended by these people, I couldn't help but wonder at the seeming paradox that Osama bin Laden represented. To many, he was viewed as the human incarnation of evil, a killer of thousands, and a fanatic who took great joy in the spilling of innocent blood, including that of his own people.

"And yet, to the people of these villages, he was a saint and a savior, sent to protect them from the very kind of evil he represented to the West. The more familiar I became with the villagers and physicians with whom I worked, the more intent I became on meeting with bin Laden, face to face, to learn for myself what drove this monster/saint, and to discover the source of the power he wielded, not only in this remote region, but throughout the world.

"My efforts to find and meet with bin Laden took patience. Over and over again, I was reminded of the truth of the admonition: *When you go looking for Osama Bin Laden, you don't find him. He finds you.* I was ultimately to learn the answer to the paradox, and to sit with and get to know the man who personified both evil and salvation to so many people, with our final meeting ending mere moments before the Sheik's death.

"This book is my story, but also the story of a nation's suffering, of unimaginable violence, and of the man who was for years the personification of the conflict between the West and the Middle East."

How's that for making you anxious to hear him speak to us? Even better, get his book and read it ahead of time!

See you at BraeBurn Country Club on April 28!

Photos From March 31 Meeting

Thank you, COL Andy Parsons, for these great photos from our March meeting!



Janice & Bill Taylor



John Brodak



New Member Dr. David Hoyer



Tina & Dennis O'Driscoll

(More on next page . . .)

MORE PHOTOS FROM MARCH 31 MEETING



Don & Bruna Couch



President Dan Gutierrez presents certificate to our fantastic speaker, Dan Seal



Treasurer Don presents winnings to Janice Taylor

YOU CAN VIEW THE MOVIE WE SAW AT THE MARCH 13 MEETING

“UNPREPARED: A Nation at Risk,”

which was produced by Space City Films and funded by the Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance,

at

https://youtu.be/v_Ez1Xvkjgo

REPORT ON March SPEAKER, DAN SEAL



Dan Seal, March Speaker

What a treat it was hearing from **Dan Seal**, Executive Director-Special Initiatives for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP)! He even showed us a short movie entitled “**Unprepared: A Nation At Risk.**”

We in the Greater Houston-Galveston area are hit every 13-14 years by a major storm, highlighted by the big ones of the past: Galveston in 1900, Carla in 1961, Rita in 2005, Ike in 2008, and the worst of all, Harvey in 2017.

Hurricane Ike was a \$30Billion storm. Harvey is expected to be upward of \$100Billion.

What if a Category 3 or 4 storm (like Ike) comes and then STALLS over Houston (like Harvey)? What happens? You can only imagine.

We must work NOW to protect ourselves, and that is by building the “Coastal Spine,” a storm surge protection that would extend the Galveston Seawall from Bolivar to San Luis Pass. Dan Seal showed us how it can be done and the work BAHEP is doing to make it happen.

The engineering has been done; The Netherlands is well protected and the same can be done here to protect Houston from both fresh water (like Harvey) and storm surge (like Ike).

Here are some interesting facts:

The Port of Houston exports more than it imports by 9%.

Our area has 500 chemical plants, and by 2020 we will produce more refined petrochemical products than anywhere else in the world.

Right now our petrochemical industry produces:

- 27% of our gasoline
- 67% of our aviation fuel
- 80% of our military fuel
- 35% of our natural gas

All of it is either refined here or shipped from the Port of Houston. Four to five feet of water in the region would shut down the industry for 18 to 36 months! What do you think that would do to the nation? What happens when airlines can't get fuel, when the military can't get fuel, when pharmaceutical supplies are far less than the demand, when automotive supplies are lacking? Where does the majority of the rubber come from for tires? Where do Kansas corn farmers get their fertilizer? You get the picture.

Houston needs the \$11-\$15B in federal funds to build the Coastal Spine, and we can help.

To make a difference in your future, your children's future, and the region, write to your representatives in Congress, giving your support to the Coastal Spine. BAHEP has made it easy for us by providing a template letter.

Take less than five minutes and go to <https://buildthecoastalspine.rallycongress.net>, and just follow the instructions. Ask your friends and family to help, too.

Thanks, Dan Seal!!!!

The Houston Military Affairs Committee

Presents the

Armed Forces Day Military Ball

*The Ball Committee requests the pleasure
Of your company at the
2018 Armed Forces Day Military Ball
"Honoring Our Armed Forces:
Past and Present"*

*Saturday, May 19, 2018
Houston Marriott Westchase
Houston, Texas 77042*

6:00 p.m. Social Hour/Silent Auction, 7:00 p.m. Ceremony and Dinner

Individual tickets- \$75

Tables:

Executive - \$2000 (display table and up to 20 seats)

Commercial- \$1500 (display table and up to 10 seats)

Organizational- \$750 (up to 10 seats)

Military- \$750 (display table and up to 10 seats)

Non-Profit Organization- \$750 (display table and up to 10 seats)

Featured Speakers

United States Congressional Speaker (TBA)

Air Force Speaker (TBA)

Consul-General Alexis Andres of France

Hotel Accommodations

**Houston Marriott Westchase
2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas 77042
Room Rates \$99.00 Plus Tax
(713) 978-7400**

Tickets Available at: www.hmac.us

**MAY 19, 2018 ARMED FORCES DAY MILITARY BALL
TICKET ORDER FORM**

Executive - \$2000 (display table and up to 20 seats)
Commercial- \$1500 (display table and up to 10 seats)
Organizational- \$750 (up to 10 seats)
Military- \$750 (display table and up to 10 seats)
Non-Profit Organization- \$750 (display table and up to 10 seats)
Individuals- \$75.00

Questions regarding sponsorship, reserving entire tables, or how to join the "I Support the Troops" Honor Roll should be directed to Commander Gene Tulich at 832-276-3193, email: gene42@flash.net

Please send this form Houston Military Affairs Committee
Payment can be made by check or by PayPal
PO Box 300526, Houston, Texas 77230-0526 - Or by PayPal at www.hmac.us

Organization _____

Table Preference _____

Contact Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

List table members below

Rank/Title	Name
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOTE: MOAA-Houston Area is trying to fill a table of ten.
If you can go, contact President Dan Gutierrez, 281.543.1257 danielgutierrez1751@gmail.com

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA
Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
(Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

Please Print Donor name: _____
Mailing Address _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ e-mail _____
My pledge of \$ _____ should be designed to support MOAA,HA Houston Corps of Cadets
My gift will be made with installments of \$ _____ to be paid _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ annually _____.
Beginning date: _____ (The Office of Stewardship will send reminders.)

____ Enclosed is a check (made payable to University of Houston) for the first pledge payable.

Please charge my credit card for the amount of my gift, as scheduled above:
____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ American Express ____ Discover
Account Number _____ Expiration date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____
Signature: _____

____ I would like to be contacted about fulfilling my pledge with a gift of appreciated securities.
My pledge payment will be matched by: _____
(Please specify company for our records)

Donor signature: _____ date _____
Donor Signature: _____ date _____

Thank you for your support of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA, HOUSTON CORPS OF CADETS ROTC ENDOWMENT FUND, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

University of Houston; Advancement Services; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867
Attn: Nancy V. Clark E-mail: uh.edu/giving

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area

Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

NAME: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Grade Service
Branch _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____
Spouse's first name: _____ Tel. For Directory _____
Home address: _____

Civilian Occupation: _____
Business Firm _____ Business phone _____
E-mail: _____

Dues: Regular Membership \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30 (\$20 for each addn'l year *pd w/renewal*)
Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15 (\$10 for each addn'l year *pd w/renewal*)

WOULD YOU SERVE ON A COMMITTEE? _____
Comments _____

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA
PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082
For more information, call Rollins Collins 704.213.2334

