



HOUSTON AREA
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Newsletter to Members

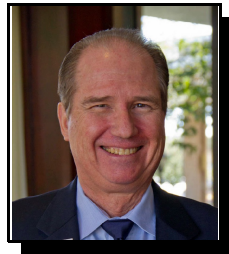
Vol. LIII No. 8

August 2016

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, August 27, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Leadership is a lifelong learning process. The true challenge is to never give up! We of the Houston MOAA are a proud military community of officers and family members who continue to serve our city and nation through our leadership of many worthy projects and activities.



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

By summer's end, the "Combined Arms" center of Houston, under the sponsorship of Mission Continues, will open. I and our Board Liaison **Gene Tulich** will visit and tour the facility at 2929 McKinney in the downtown area. Once open—it will need to be staffed. This affords us an excellent opportunity to both volunteer and to demonstrate leadership.

Next month is the 15th anniversary of 9/11—a sad and terrible day in our Nation's history. Our chapter Chaplain **Kerry Magee** will present a moving tribute and speech to commemorate this day at our August meeting. Additionally, **Gen. Joy Stevens** continues her effort to remember the military who served post 9/11, and their families, with a monument in Austin.

Always mindful of supporting our youth, the University of Houston Army ROTC Professor of Military Science will speak to us in September. Shortly following we will again support the annual STEM presentation on November 5th sponsored by the Gathering of Eagles at the University of Houston, and opened by astronaut **Bonnie Dunbar** with myself as a presenter, and which will include over a dozen area high schools' JROTC programs in attendance. Then the annual Veterans Day parade with fancy-car participants **Don Couch** and **Bill Taylor** will take place on November 11th. There is room for passengers if you are inclined. Finally, in December will be our annual Holiday Ball at Braeburn Country Club.

Participation grows leadership skills—so join in and together let's add value to all our many activities!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Tues., Aug. 23
11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2016 Meetings Remaining
9/20 10/24 11/15
No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Aug. 27
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Pork Loin with Apple Glaze
or
Tilapia Stuffed with
Bay Shrimp and Lobster
Cream Sauce

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Coffee or Tea

French Silk Chocolate Pie

\$30

Reservations by Wed.
8/23 to Jeannette Evans,
281.467.6775 or 495.2202

Remember: We have complimentary Valet Parking!

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings
9/24 10/29 11/17 (with MOWA)
12/3 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

We Are Not Meeting During the Summer Months

See you in September!

MOAA-HA Treasurer's Report July 31, 2016

Beg. Bal.	\$5,722.69
Receipts	\$ 620.00
Expenses	\$ 720.00
Balance	\$5,622.69

*Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.*

OCTOBER 8 RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY AT ELLINGTON FIELD

The annual Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington Field is scheduled for Saturday, October 8. We need volunteers to help man our table that day. Please call Gene Vecera if you can help.

Military Order of World Wars

The organization has disbanded and no longer has meetings.

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-Ret.

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!**

My friends, People of Faith, my message is brief this month: Pray continually for all and give thanks to God for everything (1 Th 5:17). And that includes the Magee Family, as Ann and I are still fighting coughing jags this week (please forgive me for missing June's luncheon).

Pray and seek God's face and turn away from any wicked ways; God will hear us and forgive all our sins and HEAL OUR LAND! (2 Ch. 7:14). And, lastly, pray for God's peace to settle over our World, our Nation, and over the Holy Land of Israel. In the Old Testament..God asks us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, which includes all Hebrews, God's chosen people. I fear their world is about to explode (Psalm 122:6). I close with the Aaronic benediction: "The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

*CAPT Kerry B. Magee
USNR-RET
Chaplain/Past President*

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

New Member **Jeb Strickland** was at our July meeting, and we got to hear a few words from this retired Marine. He said, "Being retired and working around the home is a

LOT harder than being employed!" He is also a member of the Katy VFW.

Please correct his information in our membership directory:

His phone is (281) 300-0200, and his email is jeb_1@earthlink.net.

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Friends, Texans, and Officers (paraphrasing a Shake-spearan quote) give me some money. Please send any amount to The Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. It is tax deductible. August is upon us, soon September will be here, and then the holiday season, where you will have less money to donate to a worthy cause. So send it now while you still have some. It will be greatly appreciated. The form is in this Newsletter.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

AUGUST 27 SPEAKER

Our speaker for the August 27 meeting will be our own **Kerry Magee**, whose topic will be a bout the tragedy of 9/11, on this the 15th anniversary of that dreadful event.



Kerry Magee

How much do you know about our Chaplain?

A Life Member of MOAA and past-President and current Chaplain of MOAA-HA, Kerry is a 26-year veteran of the United States Naval Reserve, retiring as Captain(06) in 1979. He was enlisted as an E-1 into the USNR-Ready by his Dad, CPO **B.V. Magee**, in 1953 when he was a freshman at Georgia Tech. After receiving his B.S. in Industrial Management December 1956, he completed OCS in Newport, RI, in April 1957, as a QM3 (RR), and was commissioned an Ensign USNR and reported aboard the *U.S.S. Robert K. Huntington* (DD781) in Norfolk, VA, as Damage Control Assistant, for 3 years of active duty. The *Huntington* was named after a rear gunner in a Torpedo Bomber off the *USS Hornet* during the Battle of Midway. The whole squadron of 15 planes was lost (29 men).

During his active duty, CAPT. Magee was qualified as Officer of the Deck (OOD) and Command Duty Officer (CDO) and was commended twice for the *Huntington's* receiving the red Engineering "E" (for Excellence) in back-to back years. When he was released from active duty as Engineering Officer, the *Huntington* was the only Destroyer in the Atlantic Fleet that had a red "E" with two hash marks on her second stack! He was qualified as Engineering Officer and as an Operations Officer.

During his Ready-Reserve Career, he continued his annual training in "tin cans" and other surface ships, culminating in attending Prospective Commander Officer (PCO) School in Newport, RI, and was assigned as Reserve Commanding Officer (RCO) of the *U.S.S. Robert A. Owens* (DD827), Naval Reserve Force Destroyer at Pelican Island, Galveston, TX, a position he held for three years! (Kerry believes that assignment and being designated Surface Warfare Officer got him his fourth stripe!)

CAPT. Magee received a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering Degree from

Georgia Tech in 1962 and a M.S. in Management from Florida State University in 1969. He retired from Dow Chemical, Texas Operations, in 1994 after 29+ years as a Purchasing Agent for all Electrical Commodities, having obtained the Professional designation of Certified Purchasing Manager.

He says he has been blessed with three married daughters, six grandsons, and two great-grandchildren. He and his bride of 17 years, **Solange Ann**, live in Brazoria, TX.

JULY SPEAKER REPORT

What a fantastic speaker we got to hear at our July meeting at BraeBurn Country Club!

Stephen Parr's bio information was in our July newsletter, and his inspiring and well presented topic for us was "American Exceptionalism." His topic stemmed from a podcast at his excellent Website, www.americonparr.com.

"American Exceptionalism" is the belief that we are different from every other nation. We are better, and because we are better, we have a responsibility and an obligation to spread our exceptionalism around the world.

He mentioned the famous quote from **Henry Ford**: "Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right." This is true, and Americans all know that we can be anything we want to be in this free country. America has been exceptional because

Americans *believed* that we are exceptional.

Parr mentioned the Puritan **John Winthrop**, who came to America in 1630 aboard the *Arabella* and gave a sermon during that voyage about a “City Upon a Hill.”

Let us be an example for the world to follow. John Jay, President of the continental Congress and the first Chief Justice of the supreme Court, said, “This country and this people are made for each other by Providence.” We should be united. He told us a great story from the book *Jefferson and the Giant Moose* by Lee Allen Dugatkin, and I’ll just have to refer you to the book and Parr’s podcasts, but it was super. Let’s just say that Jefferson believed in American Exceptionalism, and because of that, Europeans started to believe it, too, and started coming here!

Another term for “American Exceptionalism” is “Manifest Destiny, which became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Stephen Austin set up the Republic of Texas, in Fort Bend County, and we began to spread republican values.

A passage from Abraham Lincoln’s Second Address, believe by many to be his best: “We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope for Earth.”

Russia got ahead of us with Sputnik, but we HAD to win the space race, and we did. JFK, right from the podium in Rice Stadium issued the oft-repeated statement: “We choose to go to the Moon and do the other things not because it is easy but because it is hard.” Why has no other

nation gone to the Moon, when they have the capability? It’s because they don’t *believe* they are exceptional.

But now it looks as though we’re entering the End of Exceptionalism. Enough of each of the Baby Boomers, Generation X, and the Millennials haven’t had to *struggle*! It’s tragic to them to be without Wi-Fi for half an hour! If you haven’t had to overcome something, how can you know?

We may be confusing “Greatness” with “Perfection.” We are not perfect and never will be. But we won TWO World Wars and didn’t even claim any land! We have Freedom to those who didn’t have it. If America starts to think we can’t be exceptional, it will be! Go to www.americaonparr.com and sign up for his wonderful podcasts and read his inspiring articles.

Thanks again to **Stephen Parr**, for your time and your inspiring and thoughtful message.

Photos From Our July Meeting

Thanks to the ever-faithful Andy Parsons for more great photos!



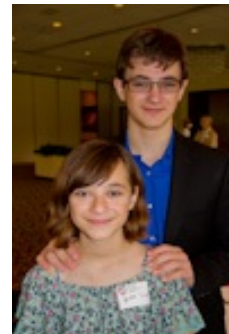
COL Thomas J. Parr, M.D., Army, father of speaker Stephen Parr



Don Wallin presenting certificate to Speaker Stephen Parr



Windy Parr, wife of Stephen



Julia and Bailey Parr, children of speaker



Jeb Strickland, USMC, new member



Dan Gutierrez, Army



Gwen Roland, Army, Life Member of MOAA just moved to Houston from D.C., who won the drawing, with Don Couch



Capt. Erv Eggleston, USN, (r.) with son Doug



Gwen Roland, Army, potential New Member

Continued from July Issue: HOLLYWOOD HEROES

This is the continuation of the list begun in our July newsletter (alphabetical by first name).

Jonathan Winters : USMC. Battleship *USS Wisconsin* and Carrier *USS Bon Homme Richard*. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa.

Karl Malden: US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO.

Kirk Douglas: US Navy. Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged.

Larry Storch: US Navy. Sub tender *USS Proteus*

Lee Marvin: USMC. Wounded in action on Okinawa. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery Sec. 7A , next to **Greg "Pappy" Boyington**, USMC, and **Joe Louis**, US Army

Lee Van Cleef :US Navy. Served aboard a sub chaser, then a mine sweeper.

Mel Brooks: US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw

action in the Battle of the Bulge.

Mickey Rooney: Served in Public Relations and Entertainment for 21 months.

Mickey Spillane: US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot.

Neville Brand: US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Norman Fell: US Army Air Corps, Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater.

Pat Hingle: US Navy. Destroyer *USS Marshall*

Paul Newman: US Navy Rear seat gunner/radioman-torpedo bombers of *USS Bunker Hill*.

Peter Graves: US Army Air Corps.

Randolph Scott: Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army during World War I.

Robert Altman: US Army Air Corps, B-24 Co-Pilot.

Robert Mitchum: US Army.

Robert Montgomery: US Navy.

Robert Preston: US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer

Robert Ryan: US Marines.

Robert Stack: US Navy. Gunnery Officer.

Robert Taylor: US Navy. Instructor Pilot.

Rock Hudson: US Navy. Aircraft mechanic, the Philippines .

Rod Serling: US Army, 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific.He jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila .

Rod Steiger: US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid.

Ronald Reagan: US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his unit when war came, so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public Relations Department, where he served for the duration of the War.

Russell Johnson: US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the Philippines .

Soupy Sales: US Navy. Served on *USS Randall* in the South Pacific (the ship that transported **Elvis Presley**, who was a tank driver in the U S Army from 1957-60 to Bremerhaven, Germany).

Sterling Hayden: USMC and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia. Silver Star. Later Drill Instructor at Parris Island

Steve Forrest: US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge.

Steve Reeves: US Army, the Philippines .

Ted Knight: US Army, Combat Engineers.

Telly Savalas: US Army.

Tom Bosley: US Navy.

Tony Curtis: US Navy, Sub tender *USS Proteus*; in Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan .

Tyrone Power: USMC, Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater.

Victor Mature: US Coast Guard.

Walter Matthau: US Army Air Corps, B-24 Radioman/-Gunner and cryptographer.

Wayne Morris: US Navy fighter pilot, *USS Essex*; downed seven Japanese fighters.

William Holden: US Army Air Corps.

William Conrad: US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO **Audie Murphy**, U.S. Army.

America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

We do not know if any of today's Hollywood elite, sports celebs, and politicians put their careers on hold to enlist for service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The only one who even comes close was **Pat Tillman**, who turned down a contract offer of \$3.6 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died from tragic "friendly fire" in 2004. But rather than being lauded for his choice and his decision to put his country before his career, he was mocked and derided by many of his peers.

Is today's America the America of seventy years ago? Our generation grew up watching, being entertained by and laughing with so many of these fine people, never really knowing what they contributed to the war effort. And we continue to enjoy their performances

captured on film even today. Like millions of Americans during WWII, there was a job that needed doing, and they didn't question. They just went and did what they could to help win it. Those who came home returned to their normal life and carried on, and very few ever said what they did . . . or saw.

They took it as their "responsibility," their duty to our country, to protect and preserve our freedoms and our way of life—not just for themselves, but for all future generations to come. They DID THE JOB!

We all remain humbly in their debt.

REPORT FROM TEXAS COORDINATING COUNCIL

Gene Tulich represented our chapter at the recent meeting. It seems likely that we may get Africom here, 2018-19. The Texas Legislature passed a Resolution, which was signed by Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Patrick in support of moving it from Stuttgart, Germany, to Ellington. We also have a connection through Congressman Mack Thornberry, currently the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and the first Texan of either party to hold this position. The Armed Services Committee is responsible to oversee the Pentagon, all military services, and all Department of Defense agencies, including their budgets and policies.



2016 SE Texas Gulf Coast Region Veterans Mental Health Summit

Friday, August 12, 2016

7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

University of Houston

Agnes Arnold Auditorium 1
Houston, TX

Registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-veterans-mental-health-summit-tickets-26258250133> **(Registration is required to attend this event)**

University of Houston campus map: <http://www.uh.edu/maps/>

We are in the process of applying for CEUs
For more information, contact Jae.Lee11@va.gov



ANNOUNCEMENT: MOAA is cutting back expenses, laying off staff members, and will no longer be furnishing medals for our ROTC awards. The cost is about \$1200 a year. Any ideas for patronage or fundraisers?

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 _____

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
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For more information, call Rollins Collins 704.213.2334

