



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIV No. 8

August 2017

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, August 26, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

As our membership numbers dwindle and our attendance at monthly chapter meetings has dropped to the point where we cannot break even on the cost of the venue—We need your support!

PLEASE ATTEND!

We have great guest speakers and an excellent venue in BraeBurn Country Club, to wit:

August: Former USA Bryant Banes, who was the Pentagon expert attorney on consumer law.

September: Former USMC Nick Bassitt, who is the director of the Houston Good Will Industries for Vets.

October: Former USAF Phil Johnson, who is founder and CEO of “Hope for US Veterans.”

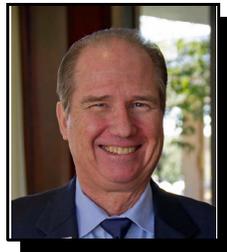
We have floated the idea of having the October meeting in the Pearland-Friendswood-Clear Lake area of the city.

WOULD YOU COME?

We need to hear from You, especially if you live in those areas, as to your interest in attending. Please reply to me or any of the board, whose contact info is on the front page of this newsletter.

As your president for the past three years, I will be handing over my role in December to another worthy officer. I have truly enjoyed the comradeship and social activities. I ask that you join us by coming to the meetings for the remainder of this year and in the year ahead with our new leadership!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Officers

President

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VACANT

2nd Vice President Arrangements
VACANT

3rd Vice President Membership
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ROTC Scholarship
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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2017

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

8/22/17 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2017 Meetings Remaining
9/26 10/24 11/14

All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday August 26
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

Mixed Greens Salad & Fruit

Baked Tilapia
OR

Chicken w/Artichoke Hearts
Lemon Butter Sauce

Mediterranean Cous Cous
Green Beans

Rolls, butter

Coffee, Tea

Pecan Ball

\$30

Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
8/23 to Don Couch,
832.205.2009

2016 MOAA-HA
Monthly Meetings Remaining
8/26 9/23 10/28
11/16 (with MOWA)
12/?? Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

OFF FOR THE SUMMER

See you in September!

MOAA-HA Treasurer's Report, August 1, 2017

Receipts	\$ 607.20
Expenses	\$ 615.00
Balance	\$4,186.93

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

NEWS and EVENTS for MOAA-HA MEMBERS



October 7 is Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington Field, and we need help in manning our table at the event. Contact President Vecera or any Board member if you can help.

Our October Meeting will be a joint one with MOWW, NOT at BraeBurn, and LTC Rollins Collins is coordinating it. Watch for details!

Our Nominating Committee needs members to fill the vacant positions on our Board. If you are willing to serve, let **Eugene Vecera** or **Andy Parsons** know. **WE NEED YOU!**

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!

Today in America we are living in a time when many are feeling one universal emotion: FEAR! Some people are fearful about the economy, while others are fearful of life changes. Many fear sickness, with long, painful suffering, while others are fearful of crime in their neighborhood. Fear is everywhere and gets into everything.

It is no mere coincidence that our worldly fears have increased in proportion to the decrease in Faith of so many people. Many Americans today are a people without Faith, much less the Christian Faith. More and more people are basing key decisions in their lives upon secular motives, on the profit motive, in "what's good for me," or "what can I get out of it," or "what can I get away with." Our coins say, "In GOD We Trust," but that motto for most people is a phony as a three-dollar bill! We are fearful people living in a fearful age, and we headed for "God knows what."

The Holy Bible tells us that "Perfect love casts our fear." God is love, and when you are full of God's love, you are full of God, and you will have no fear! God promises it, so we can count on it. What a practical message that is for this fearful age. *The Holy Bible* also tells us that we are fearful because we are not full of God, that we are not full of love. It also says that love is

the most powerful, the most helpful, the most healthful emotion alive today.

For Christians, Jesus Christ wants you to know that you have been and are loved so much by God, and Jesus died to prove it. God gives you perfect, unconditional, complete love, so that you will not fear anyone or anything, anymore, anytime!

(This article is from the "Prelate's Chapel," July 2017 issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine*, reprinted with permission.)

MAY GOD BLESS YOU & KEEP YOU.

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

Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

This is August and I know it is hot, but please find a cool place in your heart to send a little something (money) to the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund at the University of Houston.

We don't want the year to slip up on us and finding that we have made no contribution to someone else that could be of great benefit. Don't let this happen to you. Please send a few dollars now and you won't regret it.

Thank you.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret*

Speaker for August 26



Bryant Baner has been the managing partner of Neel, Hooper & Baner, P.C. since September 2006. In 2012, Chambers USA recognized Mr. Baner as a leading lawyer in labor and employment law with a special emphasis in government contracts. He is the only Houston attorney who is a member of the Wage & Hour Defense Institute, and regularly litigates FLSA collective actions on behalf of employers. Mr. Baner is also the only lawyer listed nationally as a BTI Client All-Star service in government contract compliance.

Bryant Baner litigates all types of civil matters before federal and state courts and boards, and has briefed and argued numerous times before U.S. and State Courts of Appeal. He has unique and extensive expertise in all matters arising out of government contracts, including business development and teaming, performance and workforce issues, compliance, audits and investigations, and litigation.

Before joining Neel, Hooper & Baner as a shareholder in 2006, Bryant defended complex litigation of all types, including nationwide class actions, in private practice. From 1998-2002, Bryant was with the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was a trial attorney representing the United States government. While there, he successfully prosecuted or defended multimillion dollar government contract and employment claims. He has extensive experience, and is a frequent author and lecturer in the areas of government procurement law and federal employment law.

Prior to his stint with the Justice Department, Bryant served his country as a JAG officer in the U. S. Army for eight years on active duty,

and retired in 2010 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. As a military attorney, Lieutenant Colonel Baner has led and conducted complex and diverse contract litigation before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals and protests before the GAO, the SBA, and the Federal Courts.

He served as the Pentagon's expert on consumer law and estate planning during his tenure there, and drafted regulations and legislation regarding same. He also supervised a legal office responsible for meeting the legal needs of 60,000 soldiers, retirees, and their family members. He prepared numerous troops prior to their deployment overseas in Operation Desert Storm, participated in the relief effort for civilians in Hurricane Andrew, and led a team of attorneys providing free probate assistance to the families of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

During 2004, he served a one-year tour as the Chief of Procurement and Fiscal Law and the Legal Advisor to the Chief Engineer in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Combat Action Badge.

Bryant Baner has taught as an adjunct professor at both George Mason University and the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's School, and earned the Parachute Badge from the U.S. Army Airborne School. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Public Contract Law Section, and the National Contract Management

Association's Space City Chapter.

Plan now to attend our August 26 meeting at BraeBurn Country and hear this excellent speaker!



Bill Taylor represented MOAA,HA in the Friendswood 4th of July parade. Bill is in passenger seat grandson Jake Brown driving and his girlfriend Jessica Michel on back.

ROTC Medals Program

LTC Wilbur "Mac" McConico has chaired this program for many years, but is stepping down after this year. We presented 70 medals to high school and college recipients this year, and we have only 19 left in the inventory. MOAA National no longer supports us in this endeavor. **Please let our Board members know if you can help!**



"The Price of Liberty" replica. Dedication 12/1-2/17 in Austin at Capitol

Photos from July 29

Thank you, **Andy Parsons**, for these great photos!



Pres. Vecera presenting certificate to our excellent speaker, Joe Beatty



Bruna & Don Couch



CDR Jim F. Markwell, who will be 92 in November!



COL James Stryker and MG Joyce Stevens



Dan Gutierrez and Stancie Chamberlain



CAPT Mark Early, USN



Kerry and Ann Magee



Speaker Joe Beatty, who talked about "The Price of Liberty"

Report on our July 29 Speaker

Wow! What a presentation. It inspired us all—some of to the point that we will attend the dedication ceremony in August on December 2 instead of the MOAA-HA Christmas Gala the same date!

Go to texaswarmemorial.org for all the information about this amazing project!

MOAA-HA member **MG Joyce Stevens** and her husband, **COL James M. Stryker**, have spearheaded this project to what is now a reality! Many of you will remember past meetings when we have heard about the beginning of this project, to honor the families of those who have served our country in the military post 9/11.

They got the legislation passed in 2015, but funding had to come from private sources. So they began the hard work of raising the seemingly impossible sum of \$500,000. But thanks to **Tony Gullo** and his family, followed by other auto dealers, HEB, and others, the dream came true. The Saddle River Range sponsored a shooting competition and raised \$67,000 in one day!

They are now concentrating on raising funds for the dedication ceremonies, to be held December 1-2, in Austin. The monument will be placed at the corner of San Jacinto and 12th Street, a prominent site on east side of the Capitol grounds.

The statue portrays a service member and family that must part for an overseas deployment for the Global War of Terror. There is a foreshadowing of a poignant outcome, as the child holds a triangular funeral flag. It represents honor to the many service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and the families who have sacrificed through the loss of their loved ones.

The monument figures will be about 1-1/4 life size and the monument will stand about 17 feet tall, and all details may be found at the

Web site. The sculptor is **Sandra Van Zandt**.

They need our help in getting the stories told! Information and posting instructions may be found at the Web site, texaswarmemorial.org.

Mr. Beatty told a story about a soldier whose daughter was born right he deployed, and when he got back home, she said, "I've waited all my life to meet you!" There are so many stories, and they need to be told—NOW—by the families themselves and not by politicians and others.

How We Can Help

- (1) Make all 225,000 GWOT families in Texas aware of the statue.
- (2) Get the stories told—by the families.
- (3) Have community events for Texans to participate.
- (4) Help a GWOT family to get to Austin on December 1-2 for the dedication events.

Check out the Web site for stories and then get veterans and their families to fill out the easy form and tell their stories!



Limited Edition Bronze of "The Price of Liberty" monument, available to donors of \$25,000. (See Web site for list.)

NOW THIS IS A TEACHER!

In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

"Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?" they asked.

She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk."

They said, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening, and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day, no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done

to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.”

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they walked over and stood alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place, those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, “You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.”

By the way, *this is a true story*. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.

Let us always remember the men and women of our military and the rights they have won for us.

From: Early AM News.
“Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week.” KTHV-TV [Little Rock, AR]. 4 May 2005.
And *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.
“Arkansas Achievers.” 13 February 2006.

Verified as true by Snopes.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

CAPT William J. Hipple USN ret.
Spouse: Peggy
99 Island Passage
Galveston TX 77534
willydahip@aol.com



President Eugene Vecera our July WINNER, with Treasurer Don Couch. As always President Vecera donated his winnings back to the ROTC fund.

COMBINED ARMS CENTER

Things are happening at Houston's **Combined Arms Center**, and much is going on there, all the time! On the first and third Wednesdays of each month is a day for veterans to participate in studies.

The Greater Houston area is home to more than 300,000 military veterans, one of the largest concentrations in the nation. In the past 10 years, Houston has seen amazing growth in all of its sectors, from workforce, to neighborhoods, to culture, to schools. Time and time again, Houston has

appeared in the top of many lists about best places to live, work, and grow in the United States.

The goal of Combined Arms is to not only help get veterans connected, but to make Houston the top destination for veterans and service members. They endorse key non-profits and services, and they can also connect you to the businesses, agencies, and information you need to make Houston the number one choice for veterans to live.

Service Platoons provide local non-profit organizations with a pool of highly skilled, professional and organized volunteers who can take on the toughest challenges. Organizations that have hosted Mission Continues Fellows report their veteran volunteers are more likely to be a leader, hardworking, disciplined, well educated, and trained for the job. Service Platoons can increase non-profit organizations' capacity, and even enable them to launch new initiatives.

The Combined Arms Center is located downtown at 2929 McKinney, Houston, Texas 77003.

COMBINED ARMS: THE MISSION CONTINUES

**Become a Part of
The Volunteer Network**



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:
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Name as it appears on card: _____
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My pledge payment will be matched by: _____
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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 add'n'l year pd w/renewal)
Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15 (\$10 for each add'n'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

