



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIII No. 12

December 2016

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, January 28, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

A new year is upon us with opportunity and transformation!

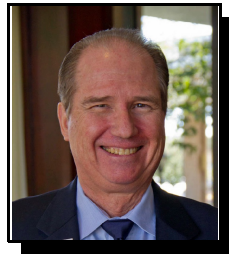
But let's reflect on the past year and all that we have done for our organization and our Houston community.

It begins with our strong support to the JROTC and ROTC units of the metropolitan Houston area which was coordinated by **Mac McConico**. Next are the monthly guest speakers from business, governmental and military arenas coordinated by **Don Wallin**. Next is the Houston-wide military ball led by **Gene Tulich** at which dignitaries from NATO, Texas governmental and senior active duty military commanders were present.

Then there were the many holidays in which members participated, to include Memorial Day at which **Eugene Vecera** coordinated the presentation with a Congressional Representative of Vietnam War Memorial certificates and pins; the Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington JRB where **Don Couch, Don Wallin, Andy Parsons, Rollins Collins, Dan Gutierrez** and **Eugene Vecera** staffed a booth. Next is the outstanding initiative of our newest General Officer member **Joy Stevens** and her husband **Jim Stryker** to establish a monument on the state capitol grounds that honors military families. Next was the July 4th parade at which **Eugene Vecera** rode in the car with Congresswoman Lee. Next was the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) symposium for more than over 600 Houston middle and high school JROTC and civilian students co-presented by **Eugene Vecera**. Next was the moving tribute at for our deceased members at Veterans Day by **Kerry Magee and Bill Taylor**, and also the Veterans Day parade in downtown Houston in which **Eugene Vecera** was on the University of Houston float representing Veteran alumni.

*(Cont'd on p. 3)*

Respectfully,  
**LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President**



Eugene A. Vecera,  
LTC USA

## Officers

### President

Eugene A. Vecera, LTC USA  
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Cell: 281.467.6775

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### Assistant Legislative Representative

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### Liaison Eugene Tulich CDR USCG

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wemconico@gmail.com

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usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com

### Editor

Carol Ann Wilson  
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281. 847.9754; 281.642.4050 cell  
carolwilson@earthlink.net

## MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2017

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**11:30**  
**Rudi Lechner's**  
**2503 S. Gessner**

**2017 Meetings**  
1/24 2/21 3/21 4/25 5/23  
6/20 7/25 8/22 9/26 10/24  
11/14? None in Dec

All members are welcome.

## MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

**Saturday Jan. 28**  
**11:30 fellowship**  
**12 Noon Luncheon**  
**BraeBurn Country Club**  
8101 Bissonnet St  
Houston TX 77074  
(713) 774-2586

### MENU

TO  
BE  
ANNOUNCED  
IN  
JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER

\$30

Complimentary  
Valet Parking

**Reservations by Wed.**  
1/24 to Jeannette Evans,  
281.467.6775 or 495.2202

### 2016 MOAA-HA Meetings

2/25 3/25 4/29  
May is Military Ball  
6/24 7/29 8/26 9/23 10/28  
11/16 (with MOWA)  
12/?? Christmas Party

## Military Officers Wives Association

### MOWA

**Thursday, Jan. 19**  
**11:30 Fellowship Luncheon at Noon**

**Rudi Lechner's**  
**2503 S. Gessner**

**Order off the Menu and Pay Individually**

**RSVP to Bobbye Parsons,**  
**713.541.3143,**  
**by Mon. 1/16, 10 a.m.**

**See you there!**

### MOAA-HA

## \$ Treasurer's Report, December 5, 2016

Receipts	\$ 957.52.
Expenses	\$1853.00
Balance	\$4375.75

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

## DUES ARE DUE

January 1 each year marks the day when our annual dues are payable. Please check your directory for your paid-through date. Be current to be included in 2017 Directory, to be published in April.

### Membership directory Ad Prices:

\$300 for either inside cover; \$100 for full page inside; \$50 for half page inside; \$25 quarter page inside.

## Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,  
CAPT USNR-  
Ret.

**SHALOM!**  
**PEACE BE**  
**WITH YOU!**

This is the Season of Light and Joy! The Light of a Menorah's nine candles celebrating Hanukkah meshes with the Joy of re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem!

The Light of the four purple candles of Advent, leading to the lighting of the white Christ Candle announcing the Light of the World; the Joy of celebrating the birth of God's only Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of all Mankind!

I truly believe this Season should also be one of LOVE: Love one another as God loves us. This requires compassion, affection, consideration, generosity, graciousness, and forgiveness. This is a challenge to all of us; may we ALL accept and embrace it! Let it be so!

Again this year, it has been a humbling and yet rewarding experience to serve as your Chaplain. Many thanks for your gracious support of my Luncheon prayers, and monthly Columns.

I leave with you an old Irish Blessing:  
*"May your neighbors respect you,  
Trouble neglect you,  
The Angels protect you,  
and Heaven accept you!"*

**HAPPY HANUKKAH!**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

God bless you all!

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

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## President's Message Cont'd from p. 1

Special mention goes to **Dan Gutierrez** for an outstanding recruiting effort and to **Carol Ann Wilson** for monthly publication of a superb newsletter. We are especially Blessed to have our founding father, **George McDowell**, still guiding and inspiring us all, and our always diligent meeting coordinator **Jeannette Evans**.

I have been struck by the continued generosity and dedication of our far flung yet tightly knit membership of Officers of all branches and war periods. By attending our monthly meetings and supporting our many activities, you all demonstrate your commitment to the cause of promoting love of Country and our Armed Forces.

In conclusion, I and our MOAA Board of Officers are grateful for your continuing efforts to fly the MOAA flag proudly in Houston!

Respectfully,  
**LTC Eugene Vecera, USA,  
President**

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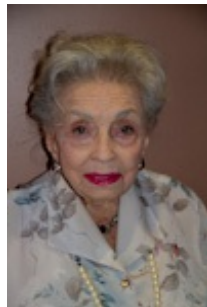


## Photos From Our November Meeting With MOWA Auxiliary

We traditionally meet in conjunction with our Auxiliary, Military Officer Wives Association, every November. This year's meeting was held at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant on Nov. 17, and a good time was had by all.

We got an update on MOWA President and our 2nd Vice President **Jeannette Evans**, who recently has been hospitalized and then in a rehab facility near her daughter's home in Richmond, Fort Bend County. We then learned at our Christmas Party that she was at that time re-hospitalized with pneumonia. Please continue with prayers for her speedy recovery.

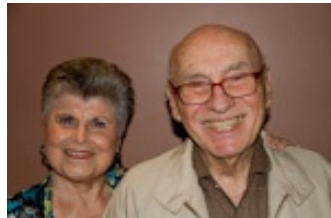
Many thanks to the ever-faithful Andy Parsons for these great photos from the MOWA meeting!



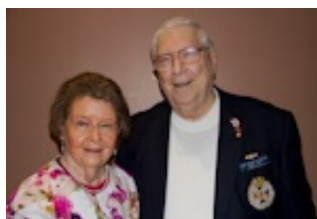
Billie Clarke



Marilyn Elizzey



Phyllis & Robert Otti



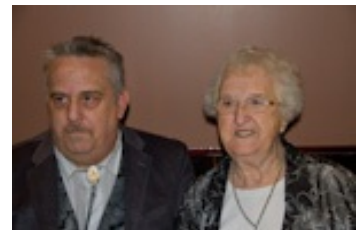
Ann & Kerry Magee



Vernon Gillette &  
Glora DeValcourt



Ed & Sisy Fitz



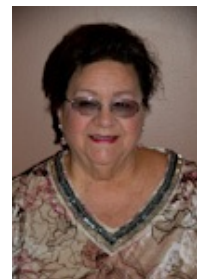
Archbishop David Crabtree and  
his mother, Sarah Crabtree



Donavon & Pat Wallin



Mary Agnes Trainor



Carol Ann Wilson

## Welcome New Member!

COL Neil T. Chaffee  
Aviation, US Army  
Spouse: Brooke  
8915 Ashridge Park  
Spring TX 77379-6812  
913.424.0530  
ntchaffee@aol.com

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## RENEWAL REMINDER

Please check your "paid through" date in the 2016 Membership Directory and keep your dues current.

Use the form at the end of each newsletter to make sure we have your current and correct information.

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Happy New Year  
2017!

## Pearl Harbor: What God Did That Day

We do not know whom to credit for this little bit of history, but we hope you will find it interesting reading, especially since we are currently observing the 75th anniversary of what President Roosevelt called "A Date Which Will Live in Infamy."

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every 30 minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait 30 minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I found an item that contained this story.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941.

**Admiral Chester Nimitz** was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection, and defeat—you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Admiral Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman asked the Admiral, "Well, after seeing all this destruction what do you think?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "Either the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of

America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

The Admiral explained. "Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on a Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and then been sunk, we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

"Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

"Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

"That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America."

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is

still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas—he was a born optimist!

But any way you look at it—Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, “IN GOD WE TRUST.”

—P.S. We think that it was BOTH the mistakes of the Japanese AND that God was taking care of America. —Ed.

**Quote for the New Year**

“May Light always surround you;  
 Hope kindle and rebound you.  
 May your Hurts turn to Healing;  
 Your Heart embrace Feeling.  
 May Wounds become Wisdom;  
 Every Kindness a Prism.  
 May Laughter infect you;  
 Your Passion resurrect you.  
 May Goodness inspire your Deepest Desires.  
 Through all that you Reach For,  
 May your arms Never Tire.”

—D. Simone

**Christmas Gala Photos**



Thanks again to COL Andy Parsons!



Pat & Don Wallin



Earlybirds filled the first table



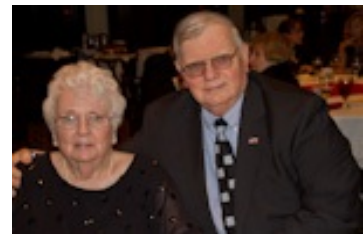
Jim & Connie Perwein



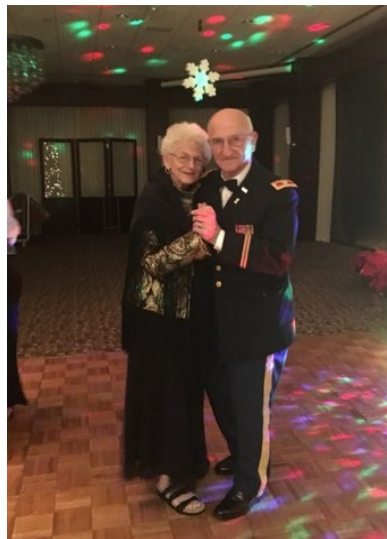
Sisy and Ed Fitz



Dan Gutierrez and his Lady, Stancy



Joan & Eugene Tulich



Bobbye and Andy Parsons  
 (Photo courtesy of the Veceras)



Myrna and Eugene cut a mean rug on the dance floor!  
 (Photo courtesy of the Veceras)

**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 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

