



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. XLIX No. 2

February 2011

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, February 26, 2011 BRIAR CLUB

President's Message

We are into a new month. You may remember the laundry list published in the January newsletter, listing the tasks that we believe the chapter should accomplish by year end. We have someone working on all except the communication award. We could have someone working on the award application by the end of this week. Someone tell me: what happened to January?



Doctor Richard Marietta held our luncheon attendees in his hand, for those who could hear him. Our speaker system had to be connected after the meeting started, and there was still no sound from the speaker. We need one of our electronically gifted members to volunteer to put our speaker system "online" before we start out meeting. (Any volunteering should call me at 281-497-2652.) The audience did get very quiet so that more could hear the highly interesting speech and answers to our questions. Thanks!

We were able to furnish only one attendee to the "Advocate in Austin" affair. Those of us strong enough to travel missed a great opportunity for a long weekend of enjoying the Hill Country/San Antonio/German cooking. Most likely, the Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) will schedule another advocate at Austin during late January 2013. Start planning not to meet legislators and tour the Hill Country (maybe Elizabeth will consent to our traveling next time.)

Thanks for attending the luncheon. Next time, bring another and let's fill up the big conference room at the Briar Club.

James C. "Jim" Causey, President
COL (ret.) USA

Officers

President

James Causey, COL (Ret.) USA
281.497.2652 jcausey821@sbcglobal.net

1st Vice President Program

Ervin L. Eggleston, CAPT USN
281.494.6265

Secretary

Val G. Henneberg MAJ USA Ret.
713.729.8217 valhenneberg@aol.com

Treasurer

Martin J. Harris Maj USMC Ret.
713.436.0429 martymc2@aol.com

2nd Vice President Arrangements

Jeannette Evans, Aux 281.495.2202

3rd Vice President Membership

Stephen Vaughan, Capt uSMC
281.468.7229 stephen.a.vaughan.@ampf.com

Legislative Representative

ROTC Scholarship
William Taylor Cpt. USA Ret.
281.482.7315 waterbury3@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Legislative Representative

George McDowell Col USAF Ret.
713.723.5166

Liaison

Eugene Tulich CDR USCG
281.376.0061 gene42@flash.net

ROTC

Wilbur E. "Mac" McConico
LTC USA Ret 713.436.5912
wemconico@comcast.net

Chaplain

Kerry Magee CAPT USN
979.964.3236 h or 979.236.2415 cell
usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com

Editor

Carol Ann Wilson
8902 Sunnywood Drive
Houston TX 77088-3729
281.847.9754; 281.642.4050 cell
carolwilson@earthlink.net

**MOAA Houston Area
Board Meeting**

**Tues. Feb. 22, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner**

**Future meetings
at Rudi Lechner's**

3/22 4/26 5/24 6/21
7/26 8/23 9/20 11/29?

**MOAA-HA
Monthly Meeting
and Luncheon**

**Saturday
Feb. 26, 2011 11:30 a.m.**

**Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane
Houston, TX 77027
(713) 622-3667**

Lettuce Wedge Salad

Pecan Crusted Tilapia
or

Beef Tips Diane with
caramelized onions

Au Gratin Potatoes
Vegetable

Rolls and Butter
Coffee - Tea

Assorted Desserts
\$30

**Reservations to
Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202, by
10 a.m. on Wed.2/23/11**

**BRIAR CLUB ADDS A
\$5 PENALTY FOR EACH
RESERVATION NOT
RECEIVED BY THE
WEDNESDAY MORNING
BEFORE THE MEETING!**

**Future MOAA-HA
Monthly Meetings**

2/26 3/26 4/30 6/25
7/30 8/27 9/24 10/29
May 21, Armed Forces Day,
is the Military Ball.
November is with MOWA
Dec. 3 is Christmas Party

*Military Officers Wives
Association*

MOWA

February Luncheon

**Thursday, February , 2011
11:30 a.m.**

**Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Lane
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191**

Menu

Cranberry Slush

ENTREE

Grilled Salmon
w/Sweet Onions, Mushrooms,
Carrots & Swiss Chard, topped
w/Asian Black Pepper Sauce & a
Green Onion Rice Cake

OR

Chicken Spinach Crepes
Topped w/Mushroom Sauce &
Served w/a Broiled Tomato
& Asparagus

DESSERT

Your Choice from Dessert Menu

BEVERAGES

Iced Tea and Coffee

\$25

SPEAKER

Margot Standiford

RSVP TO:

Bobbye Parsons, 713-541-3143
by February 14, 2011

MOWA DUES:

It is time to pay dues to Shirley
Hooks: 1023 Omar St.
Houston TX 77009-6534



**MOAA-HA
\$ Treasurer's
Report
February 1, 2011**

Income \$ 1,058.
Expenses \$ 1,985.
Balance \$ 5,252.

A \$500 deposit has reserved Vargo's Swan Room for our formal Christmas dinner/dance on Saturday 3 December 2011, 6-10p.m. This is the highlight of our year and a really fun time. Ask one of the 40 members and guests who attended last year. Also remember Toys for Tots under the tree.

*Martin J. Harris, Treas.
Maj USMC Ret.*

Speaker for Feb. 26

Our guest speaker in February is **CAPT Frank Russo, USN (Ret)**. He will be speaking to us about the Greater Houston Council Navy League.

CAPT Russo served for 26 years, with 9 years on active duty and the remaining 17 years in the Navy Reserve. While on active duty, CAPT Russo served as Communications Officer on *USS Joseph Hewes* (FF 1078) and Operations Officer on *USS Aubrey Fitch* (FFG 34), as well as a tour as aide-de-camp to the Deputy Commander in Chief, Iberian Atlantic Area (an American rear admiral), a principal subordinate command in Portugal within NATO.

During his service in the Navy Reserve, CAPT Russo was affiliated with numerous commands, including Special

Boat Unit 22 (detachment OIC), Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 212 (last position was as the executive officer) and Harbor Defense Command 208 (N3 – Operations); MIUW 212 and HDC 208 were part of Naval Coastal Warfare, now part of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. CAPT Russo is also a graduate of the US Army War College, with a Master of Strategic Studies.

Currently, he is serving as president of the Greater Houston Council of the Navy League of the United States, a civilian organization that supports the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

Professionally, CAPT Russo is a senior manager with Deloitte & Touche's Audit and Enterprise Risk Services Advisory practice, focusing on assisting energy companies and financial institutions in risk management.

Please join us at the meeting and hear another great speaker.

*CAPT (USNR-ret.
Ervin Eggleston*

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

We are busy selecting our next raffle event. Cruises out of Galveston have become more expensive since Galveston is getting at least two new ships. New ships apparently equal more money, so we are shopping around to find the best value,

which will hopefully entice you to try your luck at this year's raffle. All of the details will be worked out and available in the March Newsletter. The ticket prices will still be the same \$10 per entry. We will do the most exciting trip that we can find.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

From Our Chaplain



CAPT Kerry Magee

SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH YOU!

The month of February has always been associated with St. Valentine's Day, commonly shortened to Valentine's Day. It is an annual commemoration held on Feb. 14, celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. The day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 A.D. Its religious observance is still permitted. It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, candy, and sending greeting cards-known as "Valentines."

So, my friends, please insure you don't forget your beloved Valentine this month! And don't forget to thank GOD you have one!

GOD BLESS Y'ALL!

*Kerry B. Magee
CAPT USNR-RET*

TAPS

Gerald Dwight Gregory, Col USAF, of The Woodlands, Texas, died on December 24, 2010, and was laid to rest at Forest Park The

Woodlands Cemetery. His wife, Naomi, lives at 22 N. Castlegreen Circle, The Woodlands TX 77381-6335.

Story About Medal of Honor Winner Ed Freeman

It's about Courage.

You're a 19-year-old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. It's November 14, 1965, LZ (landing zone) X-ray, in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam.

Your unit is outnumbered 8 to 1 and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 yards away, that your CO has ordered the MedEvac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out.

Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then—over the machine gun noise—you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter.

You look up to see a Huey coming in. But it doesn't seem real, because no MedEvac markings are on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not MedEvac, so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway.

Even after the MedEvacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway.

And he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety. And, he kept coming back! 21 more times! Until all the wounded were out.

No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm. He took 70 of his buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey.

Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Ed Freeman, died on August 20, 2008. He passed away from complications of Parkinson's disease at the age of 80 and was laid to rest at the Veterans Cemetery in Idaho, where he settled. He was a veteran not only of Viet Nam, but of World War II and Korea. During the Vietnam War Freeman served as a helicopter pilot with the rank of Captain in US Army's Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, First Cavalry Division, Air Mobil.

Freeman was decorated with the distinguished Flying Cross for his act of bravery but for decades those who survived this battle felt that a higher honor should be awarded to the helicopter pilot. On July 16, 2001, Congress awarded the Medal of Honor to Major Ed Freeman with the persuasion of Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Crandall, other survivors who were rescued by Freeman, and Senator John McCain. That day, Freeman and his wife, Barbara, were

invited to the White House where President George W. Bush presented the Congressional Medal of honor before witnesses consisting of Vice President Cheney, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Joint Chiefs as well as members of the Joint Chiefs, Senator John McCain, Senator Craig, Congressman Otter, and Congressman Simpson from the delegation of Idaho.

In March of 2009, the United States Congress bestowed one more honor on Major Freeman. They designated the US Post Office in his place of birth, McLain, Mississippi, the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office."



Major Ed Freeman

Photos from January Meeting

Thanks to COL Andy Parsons for these great photo memories.



Annabelle & Michael Hay



New Member Matt Dwyer, USMC



Harold Fesler and Eileen Parker



Maj. Harris presents to Joyce Hale, drawing winner



Speaker Dr. Richard Marietta and COL Causey

Do You Know About Patriot PAWS?

Service dogs for Veterans is what Patriot PAWS is all about. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, they are funded completely by public donations. The care of one dog in training can cost as much as \$20,000. Only through donations and volunteers can Patriot PAWS provide these dogs free of charge to disabled veterans in need.

Patriot PAWS' goal is not only to find a good fit for the veteran but to find the right

match and place for the dog as well. Some dogs do not graduate as service dogs but can still help as therapy or companion dogs.

Recently the PETCO Foundation assisted Patriot PAWS in purchasing a van, which was custom designed to assist in transporting disabled veterans and their new service dogs.

Patriot PAWS was founded in 2006 by Lori Stevens, a certified dog trainer with 20 years' experience.

Learn more about this fine organization at their Web site, www.patriotpaws.org.

Send donations to
Patriot PAWS Service Dogs
254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall TX 75032.

Membership

MOAA conducts a membership campaign that is a direct benefit to the chapters. On January 28, our chapter received a report of the most recent campaign, called "Give Me 10! (GMT)."

Here are excerpts from that letter from MOAA Chapter Relations:

The processing of 2010 Give Me 10! (GMT) applications is complete and we can announce the 2010 4th Quarter winners by region. Thanks to the great efforts by our chapters and councils, 2010 was another successful recruiting year. Thank you for your leadership and support of this program. The GMT 2010 Campaign totals were 5,394 new members

recruited. Congratulations to you all!

The 4th Quarter 2010 GMT Council winners are: Northeast Region – Virginia Council – 35, Southeast Region – Florida Council -16, Midwest Region – Arkansas Council - 43, and regrettably there wasn't a winner in the Western Region or any independent chapter winners. The Midwest Regional winner will each receive a \$500 campaign incentive check, while the Southeast and Northeast regional winners will receive \$1000 incentive checks. The \$1000 incentive checks include the third quarter "roll-over" incentives. Congratulations to all the winners.

Rules for 2011 GMT Campaign Quarterly Competition - a quarterly council winner must have recruited a minimum of 10 paid members and as in previous years cannot win consecutively but may win two out of the four quarters. The non-aligned chapters will compete by region for the top "independent" recruiting award. Same rules apply - an independent chapter cannot win consecutively but can win two out of the four quarters for which the awards are presented.

In the 2011 GMT Quarterly Competition - an independent chapter must recruit a minimum of **4 new paid members** in order to win a quarterly competition. Paid members include those who pay \$30 for a two-year membership and Life Members/Life Member Conversions. We plan on announcing the 1st Quarter winners for 2011 in the first week of April.

During the 2011 GMT campaign we will maintain our emphasis on "paid" membership while continuing to support recruiting efforts and provide incentives for complimentary memberships. Paid members tend stay in MOAA and in chapters with much higher retention than complimentary members. Complimentary members are great for MOAA national recruiting efforts

but generally are not able to participate in chapters as we would like.

This is the time of the year to submit your ROTC Gold Bar requests and plan on recruiting these graduating newly commissioned officers under the 2011 GMT campaign. For the chapter to receive GMT credit the chapter needs to collect and submit the application forms. The Gold Bar program has three critical steps; coordinating with the ROTC departments and requesting the projected numbers, presenting the Gold Bars to the newly commissioned officers, and then collecting the completed GMT complimentary (yellow) forms and sending them to MOAA for processing. Chapters should to collect and mail the application forms vice depending on the new officer or anyone else to get this done. Finally, we have increased support of the 2011 Gold Bar program from 3000 to 3500 insignia sets. Have you submitted your request for Gold Bar support?

For further clarification on the 2011 GMT campaign, the Gold Bar program, and to learn about other successful recruiting ideas please refer to your 2011 GMT handbook and the Chapters portion of the MOAA Web site at http://www.moaa.org/chapters/comm_chapters_members/chapters_givemetten/default.htm.

From:

Barry Wright
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
Deputy Director, Council and Chapter Affairs
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

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

Come to our Luncheon Meeting on February 26
Speaker: CAPT Frank Russo, USN (Ret)
Good Food, Fellowship, and Fun

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