



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIV No.2

February 2017

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, February 25, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Let's bring them along, as we were brought along!

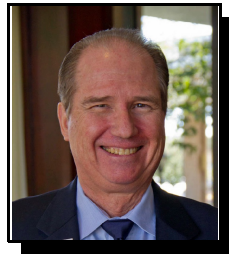
How many times, when we reflect honestly on our careers, did we mess up and live to fight another day? The wisdom we garnered from those experiences are our gift to the next generation of American warfighters. Yes, they have excellent training and superb doctrines, such as the Joint Concept for Access and Maneuver in the Global Commons, which incorporates hybrid warfare and gray zone operations; but in the end, the grit and stoutness of heart of each American servicemember will win the war.

To achieve these goals, our chapter currently supports more than 80 ROTC and JROTC units by supplying awards and decorations. However, due to a cut-off of funding from MOAA National, we will be \$1500 short in our budget for next year. This is happening at the same time that our membership is shrinking and so our dues collection is decreasing. Therefore, our chapter board member Rollins Collins is developing an operations plan for addressing this issue. More to follow.

At the same time, our historic major advertiser for our annual Directory-USAA, has pulled out and will no longer support us. As a consequence, we need outside advertisers and members to purchase advertising. Even a business card size ad can help. Look in this edition of the newsletter for pricing and do help us in defraying the cost of publication.

Lastly, we see a fellow Veteran service organization that has fallen to these same challenges which we face. The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) has disbanded and thanks to an agreement with MOAA National will blend into our membership at no extra cost. We look forward to their attendance at our monthly luncheons. We will press on and we will press harder to stay relevant and active in this year of 2017 and into the future--count on it!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Officers

President
Eugene A. Vecera, LTC USA
713.516.3459 evecera@hotmail.com

1st Vice President Vacant
Program

2nd Vice President Vacant
Arrangements

3rd Vice President Membership
Daniel M. Gutierrez, MAJ USA
281.543.1257 daniel1751@att.net

Secretary
Rollins J. Collins, LTC USA Ret.
704.213.2334 rollins.collins93@gmail.com

Treasurer
Don L. Couch, LTC USA Ret.
832.205.2009 couchdon@hotmail.com

Legislative Representative Vacant
ROTC Scholarship

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@gmail.com

Chaplain
Kerry Magee CAPT USN Ret
979.964.3236h 979.236.2415 cell
usnr06ret@brzoraiainet.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 Meetings for 2017

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2017 Board Meetings
 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 Feb. 28
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
 8101 Bissonnet St
 Houston TX 77074
 (713) 774-2586

MENU

Parmesan Crostini & Butter
 House Salad

Braised Beef Short Ribs
 -or-

Basil Marinated Chicken
 Breast, saffron tomato sauce

Seasoned Green Beans
 Scalopped Potatoes
 Warm Rolls & Butter
 Apple Pie

Coffee and Tea
\$30

Complimentary
 Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
 2/22 to Don Couch,
 832.205.2009

2017 MOAA-HA Meetinggs
 3/25 4/29 May is Military Ball
 6/24 7/29 8/26 9/23 10/28
 11/16 (with MOWA)
 12/2 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Feb. 16
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. 2/13, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA Treasurer's Report, January 31, 2017

Receipts	\$ 1,340.00
Expenses	\$ 714.80
Balance	\$ 5,255.95

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 and our Special Patron Ads.(See p.4.)

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
 CAPT USNR-Ret.

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!

Ahhhhhh, the Love Month, or themonth of Romance, is upon us!

In February of each year, we show our Valentine how much we love, cherish, and protect our Life's Mate. Do you still tell her/him every Valentine's Day, "I love you!," at least on that special day? Are you indeed, still fortunate to have a Valentine? Bless you if you do so! If not, why not just go find one!

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine, all of whom were martyred. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine sent the first "Valentine" greeting after he fell in love with a young women who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it's alleged that he wrote her a letter signed,"From your Valentine." An expression still used today!

Pope Gelasils declared Feb. 14 as "St. Valentine's Day" at the end of the Fifth Century. It was not until much later that the Day became associated with Love.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentines didn't appear until after 1400. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th Century. By mid-18th Century, it was common

for friends and lovers to exchange handwritten notes of affection; and by 1900 printed cards came upon the scene.

Americans began exchanging hand-made Valentines by the early 1700s; and in 1800, they became mass produced. Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, each year an estimated ONE BILLION Valentine Cards are purchased!

Recently, I read where a Catholic Priest Homily stated that the three most important things you can say to someone you love are: "I love you," "I'm sorry," and "I forgive you."

What a blessing to your loved one, if she heard those words from you on this coming Valentine's Day!

"Pure love is the willingness to give without the thought of receiving anything in return".

Being loved by someone gives you strength; loving someone gives you courage.

May God continue to Bless you & yours in 2017!

God bless you all!

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



SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY 25 MEETING

Frank Urbanic is the author of the book, *We Were Prepared*; a compendium of never-before-told stories of how Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were mobilized as first responders during the Texas City Disaster of 1947. Frank personally interviewed the Scouts who were helped to produce this dramatic and authentic story that includes his personal experiences during the Texas City Disaster. He is an Eagle Scout and a former assistant Scoutmaster.



Frank graduated Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering. He is a retired U.S. Air Force officer; served as a base commander, and is a pioneer in the development of laser weapons systems. Frank flew 248 combat missions as a fighter pilot in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, nine Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He joined the Houston chapter of MOAA in 1993.

Frank lives in Friendswood, Texas.

We hope you will be at our February meeting to hear this dynamic speaker!

*All you need is love.
But a little chocolate
now and then doesn't
hurt.*

—Charles M. Schulz



Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Here we are 2017—never thought you would last this long did you? But you have.

SO please share your accumulated wealth, if any, with the Houston Corps of Cadets. Remember, it is fully tax deductible and supports those Cadets in need.

Happy New Year.

Thanks,

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

EVERY FRIDAY AT THE PENTAGON

This is excerpted from an article written by **Joseph L. Galloway** for McClatchy Newspapers, titled "Mornings at the Pentagon."

It is a story about **Army Lt. Col. Robert Bateman**, who recently completed a yearlong tour of duty and is now back at the Pentagon. It is Lt. Col. Bateman's account of a little-known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause, and many tears every Friday morning.

"It is 110 yards from the E ring to the A ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is

packed with officers, a few sergeants, and some civilians, all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here.

“This hallway, more than any other, is the ‘Army’ hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other, G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way, and renew.

“Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area. The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares.

“10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway.

“A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class.

“Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago when I described one of these

events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden . . . Yet.

“Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier’s chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel.

“Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.

“11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. My hands hurt. Please! Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30. Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts.

“They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

“There are families with them as well: the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband’s wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this—the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying; the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the

emotion given on their son’s behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

“These are our men, broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years.”

Makes me proud. —Ed.



ADS FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you would like to place an ad in our 2017 Membership Directory, please send your check payable to MOAA_HA to PO Box 1082, Houston TX 77251-1082 and email your copy for the ad to our editor at carolwilson@earthlink.net.

2017 Directory Ad Prices

Inside Cover	\$300
Inside Full Page	\$100
Inside Half Page	\$ 50
Inside Quarter Page	\$ 25
Patron Ad	\$ 25

We appreciate your support!

MOAA-HA
PO Box 1082
Houston TX 77251-1082

Photos from January Meeting

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



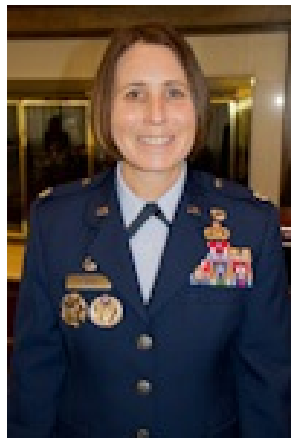
New Member Dennis O'Driscoll and Tina



New Member Joseph Willoughby



"Birthday Boy" Jan. 29
Chaplain Kerry Magee



Speaker Lt Col Catie Hague



VP Don Wallin with Lt Col Hague



Secy Rollins Collins and Pat



Past President Erv Eggleston
with son Doug Eggleston



President Vecera's wife Myrna, Winner, with Treasurer Don Couch



Kerry Magee and Ann

A good time was had by all, and, as always an excellent meal at BraeBurn CC!

Mark your calendar now to be sure to attend our February 25th meeting.

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!

We have some vacancies on our Board due to illness and other demands. Won't you think about serving?

Let President Vecera or any of our officers know if you will be willing and able to serve as an officer of MOAA-HA.

Many thanks to **Donavon Wallin** for his great service as VP in charge of our Program. He has other demands on his time that need his attention.

Please continue to keep **Jeannette Evans** in your prayers as she is in assisted living.

Special thanks to **Bill Taylor**, who has served in every office!

*A kiss makes the heart
young again and wipes
out the years.*

—Rupert Brooke



God's Plan for Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom, He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing yet more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



Nine Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years (unless you give them your email address).

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

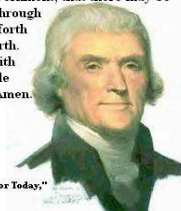
#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

—*Author Unknown*

Prayer for the Nation

Almighty God, You have given us this good land for our heritage. We humbly ask You that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable endeavor, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitude brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endow with the Spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Your law we may show forth Your praise among the nations on earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble do not allow our trust in You to fail. Amen.

— by Thomas Jefferson, taken from "Prayers for Today," published by Leaflet Missal Co.



TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS UPDATE

The Chapter owes a great debt of gratitude to Daniel Gutierrez, who attended the meeting of the Texas Council of Chapters and paid his own expenses. He has lots to report

MOAA is now down to 21 chapters in the TCC, so problems abound in many places with membership and retention. The major thrust for legislation this year is again a proposed Hazlewood Advocacy Action Plan. Recently the Supreme Court ruled that Texas can set its own rules with respect to veterans.

The Hazlewood Act needs to be amended, and it has come up in prior legislatures, but TCC is making a bigger thrust this term of the legislature and needs our help. For example, if anyone knows or has any connection to Sylvia Garcia, she has no one assigned to her for advocating.

TCC needs identify sponsors for bills in the Texas Senate and House for enacting the changes and helping write the legislation.

The TCC recognizes that the "unfunded mandates" of the Hazlewood Act have become unsustainable and support a compromise of service of one year (up from 6 months) to qualify and 4 years (as opposed to 6 years) for the "legacy" program (if benefits are not used, they pass to grandchildren).

If you can help, Dan can get a copy of the TCC position paper to you.

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

