



HOUSTON AREA
 PO BOX 1082
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 www.moaahoustonarea.com



Newsletter to Members

Vol. LV No. 2

February 2018

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, February 24, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

On the day I write this article I think it is a good thing to note the birth of the USO (United Services Organization) seventy-seven years ago. The USO was incorporated February 4, 1941, as the nation was beginning to realize the world danger. Although the United States was not yet actively involved, the nation's armed forces were being expanded rapidly. The USO was founded by Mary Ingraham in response to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call to provide morale-building services for armed forces personnel. I, for one, am eternally grateful.



Daniel Gutierrez

I enlisted in the army as a fresh-faced skinny kid straight out of the dairy farm. I was seventeen. Although I was eager to see the world, I remember how scared and lonely I felt. During basic training our unit got its normal mid-training pass into town. So I went to Louisville, Kentucky, with my buddies, but I couldn't do anything except go see a movie; I was too young to go to the clubs and bars. It was the USO club that gave me succor and entertainment. I never forgot that.

In Korea, Greece, Vietnam, and Europe the USO was there for me and for the young soldiers I came to command. Yes, I was one of the thousands of GIs in 'Nam who got to see Bob Hope and his happy group after making a rather hazardous trip by jeep 60 miles from Bong Son to Qui Nhon; but it was worth it. So I say "Happy Birthday, USO." I know the work continues throughout the world.

(Continued on p. 3)

Respectfully,

Daniel M., Gutierrez, MAJ USA (Ret.), President

2018 Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2018

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

2/20/18 11:30
Café at Randall's Westheimer at S. Gessner

2018 Board Meetings
2/20 3/27 4/24 5/22 6/26 7/24
8/21 9/29 10/23 11/13?
None in Dec

All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Feb. 24 11:30 fellowship 12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club

8101 Bissonnet St 77074
(713) 774-2586

House Salad
Steak Diana OR
Grilled Chick Breast

\$3 Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls & Butter

Coffee, Tea

German Chocolate Cake

Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed. 2/21 to Don Couch, 832.205.2009

2018 MOAA-HA Monthly Meetings
2/24 3/31 4/28
May is Military Ball
6/30 7/28 8/25 9/25 10/27
11/15 (with MOWA)
12/?/18? Christmas Party?

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, February 15 11:30 Fellowship Luncheon at Noon

Rudi Lechner's 2503 S. Gessner

Order off the Menu and Pay Individually
RSVP to Phyllis Ottis, 713.774.2282, by Mon. 2/12, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA Treasurer's Report, February 1, 2018

Receipts	\$ 670.00
Expenses	\$ 937.60
Balance	\$3,851.24

Don L. Couch, Treasurer LTC USA Ret.

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

CHECK YOUR "Paid Through" date in the Membership Directory.

Please use form in this newsletter to report current information

(Only Paid Members Will Be Included in 2018 Directory)

AD PRICES FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (TO BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL)

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

Chaplain's Message



Kerry Magee
CAPT USN (Ret.)

SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH YOU!

February is the month of LOVE! We celebrate Valentine's Day, where astute (and loving) men take time, effort, and funds to show their beloved spouse just how much she means to him. Those who don't, usually suffer the consequences! It's been written that Hallmark Cards make more revenue on that Day than all others combined! Of course, if husbands told their wives every day, "I love you!" maybe Valentine's Day would not be so special!!

In both Testaments of Holy Scripture, men are admonished to love, honor, cherish, and protect their wives. The result is what God had intended for man and wife: Happy Marriages! May God bless all our Wives!

Points to Ponder:

The past is behind. Learn from it.

The future is ahead. Prepare for it.

The present is here, Live in it.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!

Humbly submitted by

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd from p. 1)

We on the board of directors are ever watchful for guest speakers for the monthly programs. We try to get speakers with relevant topics who will not only entertain us, but also inform us. In particular, we are looking for speakers who can address such issues as challenges in recruiting, flood control initiatives, developments in veterans' affairs, surviving spouse issues, chapter fund raising, and ROTC status in the Houston area. The board will make extra efforts to inform chapter members of monthly luncheons and attendant programs. We hope to get an ever increasing level of attendance from you; the members we serve.

Let us be strong, be active, be involved.

Remember: "Never stop serving." God bless.

Respectfully,
Daniel M., Gutierrez
MAJ USA (Ret.),
President

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 2018 DUES?

Only those in good standing will be listed in and receive the 2018 Membership Directory.

Please use the updated form in this newsletter, which is for both new members and renewals, so that we may have your current information.

Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If you have a few dollars to spare, please don't forget the Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston Military Officers of America Endowment Fund.

Thank you,

Bill

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret

January Meeting Recap

What a great meeting we had on January 27! Before **Capt. Kerry Magee's** wonderful program presentation, we were updated on chapter news and Board actions. The Board met at the Café' at the Randall's store just around the corner from Rudi Lechner's and will meet there again on February 20. All members are invited.

President Dan (who did a great job chairing his first chapter meeting) reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Texas Council of Chapters.



Dan Gutierrez

They strongly support continuation of the Hazelwood benefits, doing away with sequestration, and the state's lowering of property taxes for disabled veterans—at least 8%. Texas has 58,000 disabled veterans among its citizens! Help is needed in support of all these areas.

\$500 donation from El Paso Chapter for Hurricane Harvey victims among our members: After diligently searching, we found no chapter members who qualified, but we heard of several veterans being helped by the Fort Bend County

DAV, so the Board unanimously approved sending the \$500 on to them.

Our October 2017 meeting at Clear Lake was the best attended meeting in many years! This indicates that holding meetings from time to time in areas where our members live may continue to be a good outreach program. The Board is further investigating regarding such a meeting for 2018.

New member **Col. John W. Brodak** told us about himself and his Air Force Pilot Training. He flew F-105s, and he got his MBA in 1975



John Brodak

and reported for work at the Pentagon in 1980. He later retired to work for Anheuser Busch in St. Louis, and now our chapter is fortunate that he lives in Houston (since 2002). Welcome!

We learned that Past-President Vecera's son, **Jeramie Vecera**, a drone pilot who visited one of our meetings, is now a drone instructor in Las Vegas, and he may be re-deployed to Jordan. Jeramie reports that we are doing well against the enemy now, because the prior administration wouldn't let them have any ammunition, but that has now changed.

As to the **JROTC Program**: MOAA national no longer supports the program, but the medals are very important to the recipients. So our chapter members are asked to step up and help. ***Can you volunteer to purchase any medals and present them at a high school near you?*** If so, contact

Rollins Collins. A few of our members have done that very thing and will be not only purchasing but presenting the medals at several high schools. We need all the help we can get to continue this vital program.

Capt. Kerry Magee's Program Presentation

Capt. Kerry Magee was introduced as a "Country Gentleman from West of the Brazos, South of



Houston, and a Native of Georgia." He received two degrees from Georgia Tech and served in the Navy as a "Mustang" (an enlisted man who comes up through the ranks). He retired a Captain—and President Gutierrez reminded all of us that making 06 in *any* branch of service is a fine achievement!

Today was Capt. Magee's birthday, so we all crooned "Happy Birthday" to him!

Kerry Magee's speech today was given to his grandson on his 13th birthday for his "rite of passage" (a/k/a Christian bar mitzvah), complete with life advice. We all made notes for our own grandchildren.

Kerry's Chief Petty Officer dad, advised him to "learn to take orders before giving orders" and that "in the Navy, only two people can get anything done: chiefs and seamen—and don't forget it!" And he deemed that sage

advice more than worthy of passing on.

The theme of his message was "The Importance of Character and Integrity," and it especially applies in passing from childhood to the initial stages of manhood. *Think manly thoughts. Think of others.* He told his grandson, "You are already a strong witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, but you must consider 'What Is Character?'"

Character is comprised of the qualities that make you different from others. Moral Matters—good v. bad, thoughts/actions/beliefs; and Ethical Matters—knowing what is the right thing to do and DO IT! These things make up your character and define your reputation. What do others think of you? Do you obey God? Do you obey your mom and dad? When you do something bad, do you repent? Do you ask for forgiveness? ***Only you can decide to have a good reputation.*** .

Integrity equals wholeness entirely integrated in your intellect and your nature. Words spoken by men of integrity will reflect his character. *"Know right and wrong and choose Right!"*

If your friends tell you something is "okay," but your conscience tells you "No," acting within your conscience means you have integrity. Proverbs tells us that "A just man walks in his integrity and his children follow." And Proverbs 11:3 advises: "Integrity of the upright shall guide them."

Integrity is the #1 quality of leadership and also exemplifies Consistency and Constancy, and Keeping One's word. In Texas we say that a man's word is his bond. What You Say and What you Do reflects your ***Character.***

His message was concluded with "You be that kind of role model for your peers. With love, Granddaddy."

More Photos from Our January Meeting

Thanks again to **Col Andy Parsons** for the terrific photos!



Jeannette Evans
looking better than ever!



Special Presentation to Eugene Vecera for his 3 years' service as Chapter President and to his wife Myrna for her support.



Pat & Rollins Collins



Dan Gutierrez and
Stancie Chamberlain

In accepting the Certificate of Appreciation, **Past-President Vecera** said, "Like Socrates, the more I learn, the less I know. So I'm convinced we can always get better." Words to remember, for sure.



Don Couch presents winnings to Carol Wilson, (who donated it back)

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

MOAA National has opened the 2018-2019 College Scholarship window for dependent children. The application may be accessed online at www.moaa.org and then clicking on “Benefits” and “Education.”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LtCol Steven R. Hill, USAFR

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Phyllis Ancona Ottis, AUX
Widow of LTC Robert R. Ottis
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713.774-3383

BEST QUOTE OF ANY ERA!

“The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance.”

-- Cicero, 55 BC

So, insert USA in place of Rome, and, apparently, we have learned nothing over the past 2,070 years.

CHILDREN OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Born in the 1930s and early 40s, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the Silent Generation.

We are the smallest number of children born since the early 1900s. We are the “last ones.” We are the last generation, climbing out of the Depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war, which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

We are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saw cars up on blocks, because tires weren’t available.

We can remember milk being delivered to our house early in the morning and placed in the “milk box” on the porch. We are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War. We saw the “boys,” home from the War, build their little houses.

We are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead,

we imagined what we heard on the radio. As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood “playing outside.” We did play outside, and we did play on our own.

There was no little league. There was no city playground for kids. The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like. On Saturday afternoons, the movies gave us newsreels of the War sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.

Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall. Computers were called calculators; they only added and were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.

The “Internet” and “GOOGLE” were words that did not exist. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults, and the news was broadcast on our table radio in the evening by Gabriel Heatter.

We are the last group who had to find out for ourselves. As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.

VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent-up demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility.

The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in

politics. The radio network expanded from three stations to thousands of stations.

Our parents were suddenly free from the confines of the Depression and the War, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played by ourselves until the street lights came on. They were busy discovering the post-War world.

We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed. We enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future. Depression poverty was deep rooted. Polio was still a crippler. The Korean War was a dark presage in the early 50s, and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks for Air Raid training.

Russia built the "Iron Curtain" and China became Red China. Eisenhower sent the first "advisers" to Vietnam. Castro set up camp in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power.

We are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.

We came of age in the 40s and 50s. The war was over and the Cold War, terrorism, "global warming," and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease. Only our generation can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We have lived through both.

We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better, not worse. We are the Silent Generation—"The Last Ones." More than 99 % of us are either retired or deceased, and we feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times"!

Words From LTC Eugene Vecera, Past President, 2015-2017



After being presented with a Special Certificate of Appreciation for his amazing three years of serving as MOAA-HA's Chapter President and representing us so well at a multitude of events, **LTC Eugene Vecera** had a few words for us. "1971 to 2011 I spent in the military, and it's been a great ride. BUT, it's ain't over till it's over." Colonel Vecera said there are many things we can do as we press on harder, and there is "so much to be done in so many ways." He added that "Andy [Parsons] got me involved, and then Kerry [Magee] groomed me for the presidency. We leave a record and fade away and hope something is left of value to society." He concluded with "We still have work to do and many great opportunities. God bless Dan and all the other past presidents who have kept the torch burning."

Eugene's wife **Myrna** also had a few very important words to say: "I'm so proud to be his wife and a part of this organization!"

Eugene and Myrna, we are all very proud of you and thank you for your excellent service.



Be sure to come to our February 24 meeting at BraeBurn Country Club!

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA
Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
 (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

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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 _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____
 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
 PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082
 For more information, call Rollins Collins 704.213.2334

