



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

Newsletter to Members

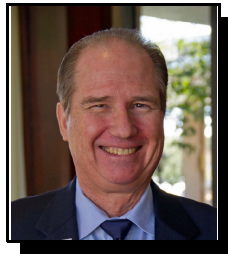
Vol. LII No. 1

January 2015

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

We are going to 'Storm the Hill' in February 2015! In conjunction with other MOAA Chapter from around Texas, we will be visiting the staff of our Legislators who deal with veteran and military affairs—you are welcome to join in. This is the first of many activities to which **You**, as a MOAA member of the Houston Area chapter, will be invited in 2015.



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

We have a full slate of speakers for the year, as well, from the City of Houston Director of Veteran Affairs to the provider of Pets for Wounded Vets. The newsletter—so outstandingly published by Carol Ann Wilson—will keep you posted. Our new Treasurer, **Dr. Don Couch**, is moving us forward, as an organization, by securing federal non-profit status for us in 2015. This is a very complex job—but he is the consummate expert to do it! Our new Secretary, **Matt Mancuso**, has already secured the chapter a Facebook page @ **MOAAHouston**. Check it out! He is destined to complete many initiatives to get us into the electronic age. Our new Vice-president for Recruiting, **Mitch Seaborn**, has secured for next year another lunch sponsored by USAA to Salute our members. *Give him your leads for new members*. Our returning Vice-president for meeting arrangements, **Jeannette Evans**, is truly an accomplished Lady who always makes our meetings and gatherings both festive and smooth. Our photographer, **Andy Parsons**, will again be snapping photos for the newsletter and now the Facebook page—he does an awesome job! Our Legislative Affairs coordinator, **Bill Taylor**, will be busy this year as we have an initiative to contact our elected political leaders. He is the perfect man for the job! Also, he will continue to be the Coordinator of the University of Houston ROTC Endowment—a most worthy endeavor! Our Liaison for Military Affairs, **Gene Tulich**, is the most Amazing Officer and Gentleman in all of Houston, as evidenced by the fantastic coordination that he executes between the civilian and military communities. We are honored to have him on our Board. *(Continued on last page.)*

-- LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

President

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

1st Vice President Program (Open)

2nd Vice President Arrangements
Jeannette Evans, AUX 281.495.2202

3rd Vice President Membership
Mitch Seaborn, MAJ USANG
281.409.2122 MitchSeaborn@gmail.com

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703.200.3030 jmmancuso76@gmail.com

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

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281.376.0061 gene42@flash.net

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Wilbur E. "Mac" McConico
LTC USA Ret 713.436.5912
wemcconico@gmail.com

Chaplain

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

Editor

Carol Ann Wilson
8902 Sunnywood Drive
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281.847.9754; 281.642.4050 cell
carolwilson@earthlink.net

MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues. Jan. 27, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings

1/27 2/24 3/24 4/21 5/26
6/23 7/21 8/25 9/22 10/17
11/16 No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA-HA Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday
January 31, 2015

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

MENU

House Salad

Trout Almondine with
Lemon Butter Sauce
OR
Chicken Marsala with
Marsala Wine Sauce

Scalloped Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls & Butter
Coffee or Tea

French Silk Pie

\$30

Reservations to
Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202, by
Wed. Jan. 28

2015 MOAA-HA Meetings

1/31 2/28 3/28 4/25
May is Military Ball
6/27 7/25 8/29 9/26 10/31
11/19 (with MOWA)
12/5 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Jan. 15
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.
10 a.m.

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report January 1, 2015



Dr. Don Couch

Receipts	\$1385.00
Disbursements	\$1890.60
Balance	\$6236.40

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

The peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history, yet common in our country. With a simple oath, we affirm old traditions and make new beginnings.

George W. Bush, Inaugural address
2001 43rd President of US

Speaker for January 31

Carl Salazar is
Director of the
City of Houston
Office of
Veterans



Affairs (COHOVA). Mr. Salazar is committed to ensuring that Houston remains a leader in providing assistance to transitioning service members and their families by helping veterans gain employment, supporting their mental health needs, and ending veteran homelessness.

Mr. Salazar replaces our friend and MOAA-HA Member E.A. "Buddy" Grantham who served as COHOVA Director since the office's inception and worked hard to help Houston become the best city in the nation for veterans and their families. Mr. Grantham is now Assistant Director of the City of Houston Fleet Management Department.

Mr. Salazar is a Navy veteran who enlisted in 1984, was accepted into the Naval Academy in 1985, and received his commission as an Ensign in 1989. He served on two combat ships, including aboard the *USS Ford* during its deployment in the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm. He comes from a strong military family, with uncles who served in World War II and Korea, a brother who served in the Navy, and other family members who are veterans of the Army, Air Force, and National Guard.

In 1995, Mr. Salazar left the Navy to attend the Booth School of Business at the

University of Chicago. Upon receiving his MBA, he worked in the steel industry for 13 years. He moved to Houston in 2008, and started a nonprofit, Expedition Balance, that serves veterans. He regularly volunteers at the VA Medical Center, teaching yoga and meditation to veterans. Along with his nonprofit and volunteer service, he also worked for Accenture, a management consulting firm. Mr. Salazar's email is carl.salazar@houstontx.gov and his phone 832.393.0992.

What a great speaker to start our 2015! Make plans now to be at BraeBurn on Saturday, January 31, by noon, to hear his interesting talk!

New Members

A hearty welcome to the following new chapter members, and we encourage our members to give them a personal welcome and invite them to our meetings:

CAPT Thomas D. "Tucker" Coughlen USN
4611 Country Club View
Baytown TX 77521-3025
281-424-3391 cell:
281.778.5343
Coughlen Financial
coughlen@hal-pc.org

LT H. William "Bill" Gottfried USN
Spouse: Danielle
1447 Tulane St.
Houston TX 77008
713.299.0653
Pres./CEO Gottfried Intl Inc.
billgottfried@gmail.com
www.gottfriedinternational.com

CDR Michael E. Jamison USN
Spouse: Caps
16818 Talisker
Richmond TX 77407
713.907.7670
Troy Construction (Pipeline)
michaiejamison@gmail.com

COL Robert K. "Ken" Jayne USA
Spouse: Inge
4827 Droddy St.
Houston TX 77091
713.254.1797
Pres. Applied Innovative Mgt.
713.254.1797
ken.jayne@prodigy.net

COL Edith B. Summerlin USA-Ret.
3315 Springhill Rd.
Missouri City TX 77459
281.208.8941
Retired Nurse
ebsumm@yahoo.com

Chaplain's Message

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE WITH
YOU!**



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

Happy New Year to all! May 2015 be more spiritual, healthy, and prosperous to you and yours!

I am at my house's desk writing this, wondering what in the world I can offer to you that might have an impact in 2015. Then I thought of and retrieved Buddy Scott's weekly column in our daily *Brazosport Facts* newspaper this past week entitled "Pass it on!" Buddy is a friend and the Director of His Love Counseling Services. I want to share his message with you all—My Heart to Yours. And the thought to think about, pray about, and act accordingly is: "My family members and I will talk 'friendly' towards each other in working out differences." WHOAA! That could totally change America's 21st century society!

How many times during busy, hectic, and stressful days, do we snap back verbally to a family member or colleague when otherwise we would not say such a thing? (Guilty!)

Buddy asks that family members find a time when everyone is not mad and talk friendly with each other about how to solve family problems, especially those that repetitiously cycle. He said, "Someone in your family needs to be big enough (mature enough) to 'talk friendly' and say, 'Let's figure out why this keeps happening. Let's outsmarts those cycles and stop hurting each other. Truly, I love each of you. We shouldn't be treating each other worse than our friends or enemies. Relax a bit! Stop loading every comment with a cocklebur. Put a filter in front of your mouth and carefully consider what you are about to say, sifting out the cockleburs.'" I totally concur with my friend Buddy and prayerfully ask our members to do likewise.

This brings to my mind Norman Vincent Peale's 1996 book, *Power of Positive Thinking*. Maybe I should re-read it; I *will* re-read it.

I end my layman's message with two quotes from Dr. Peale:

1. "Our happiness depends of the habit of mind we cultivate."
2. "The way to happiness: keep your heart free from hate, your mind free from worry. Live simply, expect little and give much. Fill your life with love. Scatter sunshine. Forget self, think of others. Do as you would be done by (the Golden Rule). Try this for a

week and you will be surprised!"

God bless you all!

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

ATTENTION!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

\$30 per year, \$20 for each additional year paid at renewal; AUX \$15 per year, \$10 for each additional year paid at renewal; form on last page of this newsletter.

DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2015. MEMBERS PAID BY 1/31 WILL BE LISTED AND RECEIVE A COPY.

Newsletter ad prices: the per-issue prices are \$200 for a full page if paid monthly, discounted to \$180 if paid annually; \$90 for a half-page, \$50 for a quarter-page ad, and \$20 for a business card size.

Membership Directory ad prices are \$300 for inside back cover (inside front cover is taken); \$100 for full page inside; \$50 for half page inside; \$25 quarter page inside.

All ad prices are discounted 10% for payment for a year in advance.

ATTENTION!

Please Renew by January 31 to be included in 2015 Membership Directory

Photos From Our Christmas Party & Meeting

Thanks again to our photographic expert, the ever-faithful COL Andy Parsons for more great photos!

The 2015 officers who were present were installed by the capable COL Andrew Parsons.



2015 Officers Mancuso, Evans, Vecera, Seaborn, and Couch

We were honored by the visit of **Texas Representative Al Green**, who demonstrated that he cares about veterans.



Pres. Magee and VP Vecera present certificate to Rep. Al Green

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **CAPT Kerry Magee** as outgoing President, to **Maj. Martin Harris** for his many years' service as our treasurer, to 2d VP **Jeannette Evans** for her continuing years in making arrangements for our meetings, **Carol Ann Wilson** for her continuing work as our editor and database manager, founder **Col. George McDowell** for all that he has done and continues to do for us, and **COL Andy Parsons** for his superb service as our photographer.

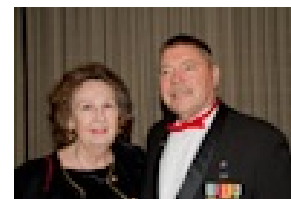


Incoming President Eugene Vecera and wife Myrna.

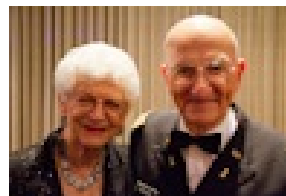


Chapter Founder Col. George McDowell, 101 years young, in his festive Christmas tie!

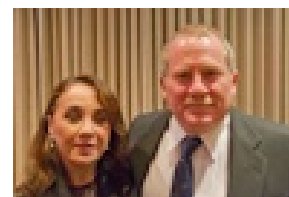
CAPT Kerry and Ann Magee, with their "Toys for Tots" contributions.



Maj Martin & Alice Harris



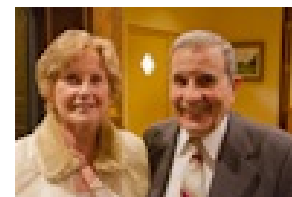
COL Andrew & Bobbye Parsons



LTC Don & Bruna Couch



LTC Bob & Phyllis Ottis



LTC Manuel & Christina Camero

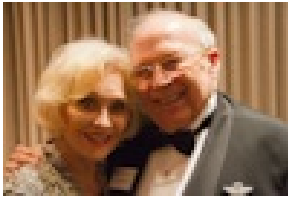
Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets



LtJG Scott & Louisa
Benton



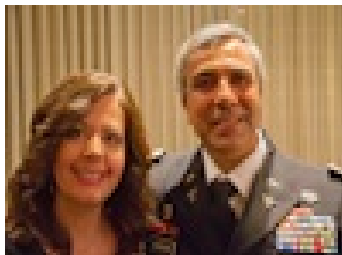
Jeannette Evans at
registration table



LtCol Ed & Sisy Fitz



Special Guests Stephen
and Karen Harris



Special Guests Mustapha &
Natalie Debboun



Pres. Magee presents well
deserved certificate to
Andy Parsons

Thanks to everyone who supported the Corps of Cadets and the Endowment Fund at The University of Houston this year. I, as well as the Cadets, appreciate your contributions.

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

Feb. 25 -26 “Storm the Hill” (see December 2014 newsletter). *Texas Council of Chapters’ Advocating on the Hill, Austin, Texas, for meetings with legislators concerning matters of importance to veterans.*

Feb. 4, 17th Annual Texas Veterans Summit at Crown Plaza Hotel, North Austin, 6121 N. IH-35, Austin. Also **deadline** for notifying TCC who from our chapter will attend TCC’s Advocating on the Hill Feb. 25-26.

Feb. 7 Visit from Admiral Ryan in Dallas

From CAPT C. R. Piersee of the MOAA Chapter in Bend, Oregon, shared through Chapter Crossfeed:

At our Dec. Board meeting, concern was voiced concern for the morale of personnel in our three-county area. After some discussion, this letter was drafted and approved for distribution:

“In recent weeks the reaction by segments of the media, self-serving political leaders, and members of rebellious groups have attempted to blame peacekeepers as the agents responsible for the chaos, looting, and riots taking place throughout our nation. It stretches credibility to believe that four isolated incidents across a nation of three million people could represent the behavior

of our law enforcement organizations. The organizers of these demonstrations must have an agenda, but it certainly cannot be for the general welfare of our country.

We are veterans of the Armed Forces, and while our venue was generally outside the Continental United States, our mission was very much like yours: save lives, support local governments, enforce the laws, and preserve the peace.

With experience in similar environments, it is easy for us to say we find no reason to criticize or find fault with the way you carry out your duties. You keep Central Oregon a safe wonderful place to live.

We want to stand with you and lend any help and support that our organization is capable of. We believe a united front is a strong front. We will solicit further support from other Armed Forces related organizations.

One further step I proposed to our Chapter: that they take up the practice that started some time ago to thank service members for their service. At our last meeting I challenged each member present to greet Peace Keepers (state and local Police, Sheriffs, Fire Fighters, Aid and Emergency Responders) with the same greeting:

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!”

I hope the practice catches on and spreads through the area.

C. R. Piersee
Captain, USN (Ret.)”

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

A Little Fun with Computers

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally fed up, God said, “THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job. So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments.
They downloaded. They did spreadsheets! They wrote reports.
They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did genealogy reports.
They did every job known to man.

Jesus worked with Heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than a speeding bullet. Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, “It’s gone! It’s all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!” Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work. Satan observed this and became irate. “Wait!” he screamed. “That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?”

God just shrugged and said, JESUS SAVES.

President's Message *(cont'd from page 1)*:

Our ROTC/JROTC Liaison, **Mac McConico**, is superbly accomplished in tracking on and coordinating all the awards that we bestow upon Cadets in our Houston area. In this coming year he will be offering all the membership the opportunity to present awards at college and high school awards ceremonies. Our Chaplain is our Beloved **Kerry Magee**—need I say more! Each of our chapter officers will be writing one of these front pages to our newsletter in the months ahead, and thereby will keep you posted on their activities.

It is my Honor to be of service to you as your President. Please come to me at any meeting or by phone or email and give me your feedback. I look forward to hearing from you and improving our service to our fellow Veterans and the communities in which we reside.

Respectfully,

LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President



2015 President
LTC Eugene Vecera

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 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 Capt Matt Mancuso 703.200.3030



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Houston TX 77251-1082