



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIII No. 1

January 2016

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, January 30, 2015 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Anything we missed doing in 2015–We'll accomplish in 2016!

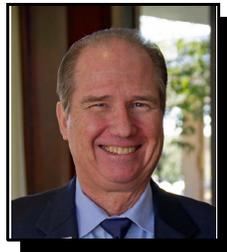
Our dedicated Houston area MOAA Board will listen and learn from you the membership and will get it 100% right in the coming year. We welcome two new officers, **Don Wallin** as vice-president for coordinating speakers at our monthly meetings; and **Rollins Collins** as our secretary. Bravo to both Gentlemen for stepping up to the plate and serving in these important areas. Otherwise, our remaining 2015 Board members will continue to stay in place for another cycle.

Your Board's main concern in 2016 will be to take care of our membership, and then to serve our Houston Veteran community and be involved in appropriate activities as much as we can be. We were sent to war by our country, where we gained greater insights of our world and ourselves; and now we're ready to work with even greater heart for the cause of freedom. I am excited to be able to again serve as your president, and will do all that I can to both further activities begun in 2015 and to start new ones.

We have an amazing opportunity to support the construction of a monument to families and warfighters of the global war on terrorism at the state capital, which was begun recently by member **Gen. Joy Stevens** and **Jim Stryker**. We'll be sharing more with you in the months ahead.

We started our military careers on many different battlefields, but the mission continues to protect and defend our nation through active participation in our MOAA chapter. Let's press on!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Tues., Jan. 26
11:30

Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2016 Meetings

2/23 3/22 4/26 5/24 6/21
7/26 8/22 9/20 10/24 11/15

No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

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

8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Trout Almondine
OR
Chicken Marsala

Scalloped Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Rolls, butter
Coffee, Tea

Key Lime Pie

\$30

Reservations by Wed.
1/27 to Jeannette Evans,
281.467.6775 or 495.2202

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings

2/27 3/26 4/30
May is Military Ball
6/25 7/30 8/27 9/24 10/29
11/17 (with MOWA)
12/?? Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Jan. 21
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. 1/18, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report

Dec. 22, 2015

Receipts	\$1,085.00
Expenses	\$2,141.80
Balance	\$6,399.42

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

AD PRICES

Newsletter ad prices: Per-issue prices are \$200 for a full page; \$90 for a half-page, \$50 for a quarter-page ad, and \$20 for a business card size.

Membership directory: \$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!

“HAPPY HEW YEAR! LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!”
(OK, so I'm a Star Trek nerd!)

May your 2016 be filled with LOVE, JOY, and PEACE! Christians who know their Bibles, know these words come from St. Paul's Epistle to the Church in Galatia, Chap. 5:22-26, known as the Fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

[message cont'd on page 6]

CAPT Kerry B. Magee USNR-Ret.
Chaplain/Past President

TOYS FOR TOTS U.S. Marine Corps

Thanks to you, 27 grateful and deserving children received presents as a result of our generous attendees at the MOAA-HA dinner/dance. on 12 December at BraeBurn Country Club.

In appreciation,

USMC Toys for Tots Program
Martin Harris
Maj. USMC Ret.

Military Order of World Wars

Meets the 4th Thursday for Luncheons at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant, 2503 S. Gessner. Our members are invited to attend.

**SPEAKER FOR
JAN. 30 MEETING**



Thomas J. Parr, M.D.

Thomas J. Parr, M.D.
**Soldier • Surgeon •
Scholar**

Tom Parr spent 20 years serving in the United States Military. After graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and completion of Ranger School and earning his Ranger Tab, he served as a Troop Commander for an Armored Cavalry Troop in Germany during the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia and as a Mechanized Infantry Company Commander in Vietnam. He then decided he wanted to pursue a career that would allow him to help others.

In 1975, Dr. Parr graduated from Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, and moved to San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center for his internship and residency. By the 1980s, Dr. Parr was the Assistant Chief of Orthopedics at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. There, not only did he treat soldiers and their families, but he was responsible for teaching the next generation of Army Orthopedic Surgeons in the Residency Program.

Dr. Parr retired from the Army Medical Corps as a Colonel in 1987, and moved home to Texas. He's been here in Sugar Land ever since, using the training and experience from his military days to help friends and neighbors get back to full strength.

He is Board Certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery both as a General Orthopedist and as a sub-specialist in Orthopedic Sports Medicine. Dr. Parr takes great professional pride in remaining on the "cutting edge" of orthopedic surgery. He was among the very first Army orthopedic surgeons to start doing arthroscopic surgery, and he continues to provide that same kind of professional leadership with today's orthopedic surgery advancements, being among the first in the Nation to do MAKOpasty (robotic, computer-assisted resurfacing of the knee).

Currently, Dr. Parr serves as the Chief of Staff for Houston Orthopedic & Spine Hospital in Bellaire and is a Volunteer Medical Consultant for the Shriners' Hospital for Children in Houston. He also enjoys being a Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Houston's UT Health Science Center.

His honors and awards include: Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award as The Outstanding Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army Medical Corps; Bronze Star for Valor in Combat; two Bronze Stars for Merit in Combat; Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was inducted to the Impact Players Hall of Fame for his lifetime commitment to the American Military. Other inductees in his year group include Former President George H. W. Bush, Coaches Dom Capers and Bum Phillips, and Roger Staubach. He was also named an Honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy.

This fascinating speaker will inspire all of us, so come on out to our January 30 Meeting to hear Dr. Parr!

**Endowment Fund
and
Houston Corps of
Cadets**

Thank you to all who contributed to the Houston Corps of Cadets tax-deductible fund at the University of Houston to benefit the cadets. Looking forward to a happy new year and strong and prosperous 2016

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

DUES ARE DUE!

Are your dues current?

Check your entry in our 2015 Directory for your "paid through" date.

If you were paid through 2015, your dues are due now! Please send them in to save us the time and expense of mailing statements.

See the form on page ___ to send in with your check and your information for our 2016 Membership Directory. If not paid up, you won't be listed, and you won't receive a directory.

Please help us out. (And maybe you can get a new member, too?)

DUES ARE DUE!

*"Duties are ours;
Results are God's."*

—John Quincy Adams

**Photos From Our
December Meeting
and Christmas Gala**

Thanks again to our crackerjack photographer **Andy Parsons** for more great photos!



LtCol Don & Patricia Wallin, AF



Maj Martin & Alice Harris, USMC



LTC George & Lois Walker, USA



LTC Rollins & Pat Collins, USA



LtCol Wayne & Dorothy Ritter AF



Officers installed at meeting (l to r):
Secy Collins, Treas Couch, Pres
Vecera, IVP Wallin, 2VP Evans



MG Joyce Stevens, TXARNG, speaker,
with husband James Stryker



COL Arthur Peterson, USA



Pres Vecera with Speaker Rep. Dennis Paul,
Texas Dist. 129



TX Rep. Dennis Paul and wife Eliza. Paul



Chaplain David
Ratcliffe, AF



Gen Joyce Stevens & James Stryker



Stephen & Karen Harris



Paul & Samantha Harris

**Concerned Veterans
for America
Defend Freedom
Tour 2016**

Des Moines IA 1/16
Columbus OH 1/22
Dayton OH 1/23
Greenville SC 2/4 & more!
See defendfreedomtour.com

**AND Save the Date:
HOUSTON May 14!**

Remembering the Fallen, the Prisoners of War, and the Missing in Action

Those of us who were able to attend the Veterans Day Appreciation Lunch sponsored by USAA Wealth Management in Houston had a real treat! Our chaplain, **CAPT. Kerry Magee** (USN-Ret.), assisted by our secretary, **Capt. Matt Mancuso** (USAF-Ret.), presented a ceremony in honor of those still MIA as well as in memory of the fallen. We thought that not only those who were present but also those who could attend would like to read that meaningful ceremony:

“As you entered the dining area, you may have noticed the table at the front of the room. The empty place represents Americans still missing from each of the services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

“Some in this room were very young when the missing were sent into combat; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our Nation’s call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

“To explain the meaning of the items on this special table:

- the table is round, to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.
- The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty.

- The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and the loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, still awaiting answers from our federal government.
- The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.
- A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
- A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.
- the candle is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.
- The American flag reminds us that many of them may never return, and have paid the supreme sacrifice to insure our freedom.
- The Holy Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as One Nation Under God.
- The glass is inverted, to symbolize their inability to share this day’s toast.
- the chairs are empty; they are missing—lest we forget.

“Let us now stand and raise our water glasses in a silent toast to honor our American and Allied POW/MIAs and to success in our efforts to account for them,

“And now let us take a moment to reflect on all those who made the supreme sacrifice, allowing us to be here today, and to remember those who have departed from us this year.

“Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice. May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families. AMEN”

Veterans Still Lacking Proper Care

USA Today reports at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/22/veterans-suffering-poor-va-care-despite-washington-fixes/77556860/> an in-depth story that tells us:

Sometimes an affliction that's right there, plain to see, is overlooked, despite the best intentions. So it was for Charles Hand and George Washington Purifoy, two men who served their country but whose country failed them. Both sought care at Veterans' Affairs medical facilities in Oklahoma. And in their cases and others, medical professionals missed or misdiagnosed their conditions resulting in life-altering consequences. Hand and Purifoy are two of an untold number of veterans still suffering from shortfalls in care at the VA. Their stories suggest that the government's attempted fixes have not yet translated into better health care for veterans at facilities across the country.

Patriot Paws Service Dogs

This fine organization keeps us on their mailing list, so we pass on their information:

<http://patriotpaws.org>

254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall TX 75032
972.272.3282

The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities and PTS.

Puns for Educated Minds

She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center: "Keep Off the Grass."

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have you kayak and heat it too.

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocaine during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

A backward poet writes inverse.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." the other says, "Are you sure?" the first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an Algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"



Chaplain's Message

[cont'd from page 2]

In 2016, I pray we all could focus on the fifth word: "kindness." In a 2015 column, I believe I asked y'all to think about, and then do, "Random Acts of Kindness." They would make your heart smile! C.W. Bovene said, "Kindness is a language which the dumb can speak, the deaf can understand." Mother Teresa was quoted, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." And George Elliot said, "Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds."

Back in the '90s, as a Promise Keeper, I read *Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren. (I highly recommend it.) In the Intro, the author sates that GOD uses us as the sowers of HIS love to unbelievers. Would you be willing to scatter seeds of Love in 2016 by showing "kindness" to ALL with whom you come in contact? Myself, I will earnestly try, and re-read this book to keep the idea fresh in my po' mind.

I close with Gov. William Penn's famous quote: "If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer and neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." Also remember, you need not share with anyone these Acts of Kindness: GOD will know—and remember!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU Y'ALL IN 2016!

Humbly Submitted,

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

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



Diabetes ReliefSM

ATTN: Diabetes Patients

Get your life backSM

**Our Patients Report: Energy Restored Medications Reduced
Wounds Healed Neuropathy Diminished Mood Improved
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Sleep Improved Retinopathy Diminished LIFE IMPROVED!**

Call for information: 281.600.5000
www.diabetesrelief.com

11511 Katy Fwy, Suite 100
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