



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

Newsletter to Members

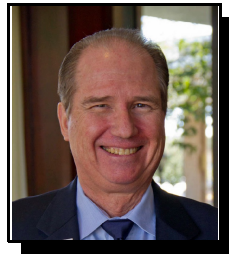
Vol. LIV No. 1

January 2017

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, January 28, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

As we begin a new year in 2017; let us see ourselves throughout the months ahead as **"On Patrol."** There is much to do as we prepare for the biannual meeting of the Texas Legislature and our meetings with local Representatives. A number of issues require our attention from Veteran issues with VA hospitals, to the Hazelwood educational benefits for recently discharged Veterans.



Eugene A. Vecera,  
LTC USA

The concept for American military officers to perform continuing service, after active duty, was begun after the Revolutionary War by Veterans who formed the Society of the Cincinnati. The name came from the Roman general, Cincinnatus, who was a farmer but returned to duty when his country called him. So also are we called to still serve in the arena of promoting legislation that supports our community of retired, former and active duty military.

If you feel the call to participate on this "Patrol," then join us in our board meeting on January 24 at Rudi Lechner's restaurant at 11:30 am. We also need a new officer to fill the large shoes of Bill Taylor who formerly held the position. The purpose for doing such work was brought home to me over the holidays when I attended with my lovely wife, Myrna, the 31st Annual Joint Services Academies Military Ball and met Cadets from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. These young Americans are just beginning their military careers in support of our Freedoms. We, from our perspective of experience and wisdom, must support them by doing what they cannot do since they are on active duty. Therefore, I urge you to take out some time from your schedules this year and join in the big push to do what needs to be done for them and for all Veterans. **Join us "On Patrol."**

Respectfully,

**LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President**

## Officers

### President

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

**1st Vice President** Program  
Donavon Wallin LtCol USAF Ret  
281.491.0647 forepkw@aol.com

**2nd Vice President** Arrangements  
Jeannette Evans, AUX 281.495.2202  
Cell: 281.467.6775

**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

ROTC Scholarship  
VACANT

### 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@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 Meetings for 2017**

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**11:30**  
**Rudi Lechner's**  
**2503 S. Gessner**

**2017 Meetings**  
 1/24 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 Jan. 28**  
**11:30 fellowship**  
**12 Noon Luncheon**  
**BraeBurn Country Club**  
 8101 Bissonnet St  
 Houston TX 77074  
 (713) 774-2586

**MENU**

Meat Option/Fish Option

Vegetables  
 Starch

Rolls, Butter  
 Coffee, Tea

Dessert

\$30

Complimentary  
 Valet Parking

**Reservations by Wed.**  
 1/24 to Don Couch,  
 832.205.2009

Meal Details to be furnished when reservations are made.

**2016 MOAA-HA Meetings**

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

**Military Officers Wives Association**

**MOWA**

**Thursday, Jan. 19**  
**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. 1/16, 10 a.m.**  
**See you there!**

**MOAA-HA**

**\$ Treasurer's Report, January 1, 2017**

Receipts	\$ 255.00
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$4,630.75

*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.

**Chaplain's Message**



Kerry B. Magee,  
 CAPT USNR-Ret.

**SHALOM!**  
**PEACE BE WITH YOU!**

Happy New Year! May God Bless you this year with good health (better), and good spirits! May your LIFE be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—in other words, the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). My dear Wife, Solange Ann, has posted this list on my bathroom mirror to remind me every day to show forth these blessings to others. (I think I'm batting below .500!)

So, have my wonderful MOAA Friends laid out your Course for the year on your Chart of Life? It is wise, I believe, to not only review the past year for lessons learned but also put them into practice for the next year, a New Course to a Better Life!

We Nautical types (Mariners) insure we are on our desired course by applying the Science of Ocean Navigation. When I was on Active Duty, (1957-60—Do I feel OLD!), we used ancient tools like the sextant and parallel rulers to determine our position against the laid-out course. Today, it's quite simple: turn on the GPS, wait 1-2 seconds, and BINGO! We see the LAT & LONG displayed in the screen! I call it Navigation for Dummies!

But, still today, much of Ocean traffic is along coast-lines, never more than 20-25 miles off shore. Pilot

Navigation is used to ascertain your ship's position. Line-of-sight bearings are taken on Lighthouses, or tall towers, seen in daylight, and the revolving lights atop at night. They are Beacons of Light to show us safely the way to our destination. Many a ship is torn asunder by rocks and reefs, when their Captain failed to heed the Beacons of Light!

Lighthouses were, (still are) cherished by Mariners. The non-verbal message was clear: "Here's the safe way. Welcome home! Your family is waiting. You've made it! This is one voyage upon which which you will not be lost at sea and die!"

The Christian Faith has symbolically applied the cherished Lighthouse to Jesus Christ. He is our Lighthouse to find our way through the obstacles of Life into Heaven's safe Harbor.

Many thanks to my Christian Friend, Buddy Scott, Director of His Love Counseling Services, for his kind permission to use the above two paragraphs from his December Newsletter.

May Almighty God continue to Bless all y'all in 2017!

Humbly submitted,

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



## Welcome New Members!

### LTC Dennis J. O'Driscoll USA

Spouse: Tina  
4426 Laurel Green Ct  
Missouri City TX 77459-2849  
713.254.5871  
dodrisco@houstonisd.org

### LtCol Joseph C. Willoughby USAF

Apt 6107  
3505 W Sam Houston Pkwy Houston  
TX 77042  
713.569.6700  
joe.willoughby@gmail.com



## Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

2016 is now over, and I hope you made a generous tax-deductible donation to the Endowment Fund for the Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. If you did, thank you very much; however, if you did not all is not lost. 2017 gives you a new opportunity to provide some needed funds to worthy cadets who are selected by the PMS&T. Once again, do what you can in any amount and have a most Happy New Year.

Thanks,

*William Taylor  
Cpt. USA Ret.*

## Speaker for January 28

Lieutenant Colonel Mary Catherine "Catie" Hague

### Lieutenant Colonel Catie

Hague is  
Commander  
of Air Force  
Reserve  
Officer



Training Corps (AFOTC)  
Detachment 003, University  
of Houston. She is responsible  
for recruiting, educating,  
training, and inspiring men  
and women to become the  
highest quality leaders in the  
U.S. Air Force.

Hague graduated from the  
United States Air Force  
Academy in 1998 with a B.S.  
.in Law. She earned her M.A.  
in Strategic Communication  
from the Missouri School of  
Journalism in 2008, followed  
in 2011 by an M.S. in  
Strategic Intelligence from the  
National Defense Intelligence  
College.

She began her 16-year career  
as a Public Affairs Officer for  
the 325th Fighter Wing at  
Tyndall AFB, FL, as Chief of  
Internal Information. She  
continued on to the Air Force  
Operational Test and  
Evaluation Center at Kirtland  
AFB, NM, as a test manager  
for chemical/biological  
warfare programs, working  
within the Joint community to  
test capabilities for rapid  
deployment to the warfighter.  
In 2002, she moved to the Air  
Force Flight Test Center at  
Edwards AFB, CA, to serve  
as the news service chief  
before transitioning to the  
Chief of Public Affairs for the  
Center's supporting air base  
wing.

Lieutenant Colonel Hague next became the Deputy Chief of Operations for Headquarters Air Force Space Command's public affairs office. During her tenure, she managed media relations, internal information, plans, and broadcast operations.

In 2009, she transitioned to the Pentagon as the executive officer to the Director of Air Force Public Affairs, followed by an assignment on the Joint Staff. During her time on the Joint Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Hague served as the personal Public Affairs advisor and speechwriter for the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the Operations and Intelligence liaison within the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Public Affairs. She provided public affairs guidance and advice to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Joint Directors, and the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, and prepared them to engage with the media on key operational issues.

Lieutenant Colonel Hague's last assignment prior to taking command of Detachment 003, was Director of Operations for AFROTC Detachment 805, Texas A&M University. Lieutenant Colonel Hague has deployed in support of Operations NORTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM. During her most recent deployment, she served as the executive officer and public affairs advisor to the Director of Strategic Effects/Comm for Multi-National Force-Iraq.

Her awards and commendations are quite impressive:

Bronze Star  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Army Commendation Medal  
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star  
Iraq Campaign Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

We hope to have a great turnout for our first meeting of 2017 to enjoy hearing her speak about her outstanding experiences.

---

## The Black Dot

*Sometimes the simplest of stories make us ponder the most.*

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exam with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions—just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expressions on everyone's face, told them the following:

"I want you to write about what you see there." The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took up the exams and started reading each one them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, without exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: "I'm not going to grade you on this. I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot—and the same thing happens in our lives.

"We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spot. Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate—nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day. However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot—the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, a complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend.

"The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our minds."

The lesson: "Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!"

—Author Unknown

---



## RENEWAL REMINDER

Please check your "paid through" date in the 2016 Membership Directory and keep your dues current.

Use the form at the end of each newsletter to make sure we have your current and correct information.

---

### American Eagle

Here is the link to a must-see version of the *National Anthem* and an eagle flying around! Hard to watch it without a tear or two—especially after the Colin Kaepernick fiasco. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrl0w97ogHs&feature=youtu.be>

Enjoy!

---

### Church Ladies With Typewriters

They're Back! Those Wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in Church Bulletins or were announced at Church Services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference Includes Meals.

Scouts Are Saving Aluminum Cans, Bottles and Other Items to Be Recycled. Proceeds Will Be Used to Cripple Children.

**The Sermon this Morning:**  
"Jesus Walks on the Water."  
**The Sermon Tonight:**  
"Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, Don't Forget the Rummage Sale. It's a Chance to Get Rid of Those Things Not Worth Keeping Around the House. Bring Your Husbands.

Don't Let Worry Kill You Off -  
Let the Church Help.

Miss Charlene Mason Sang *I Will Not Pass this Way Again*, Giving Obvious Pleasure to the Congregation.

For Those of You Who Have Children and Don't Know It, We Have a Nursery Downstairs.

Next Thursday There Will Be Try-outs for the Choir. They Need All the Help They Can Get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter Were Married on October 24 in the Church. So Ends a Friendship That Began in Their School Days.

A Bean Supper Will Be Held on Tuesday Evening in the Church Hall. Music Will Follow.

At the Evening Service Tonight, the Sermon Topic Will Be "What Is Hell?" Come Early and Listen to Our Choir Practice.

Eight New Choir Robes Are Currently Needed Due to the Addition of Several New Members and to the Deterioration of Some Older Ones.

Please Place Your Donation in the Envelope along with the Deceased Person You Want Remembered.

The Church Will Host an Evening of Fine Dining, Super Entertainment and Gracious Hostility.

Pot-luck Supper Sunday at 5:00 Pm - Prayer and Medication to Follow.

The Ladies of the Church Have Cast off Clothing of Every Kind. They May Be Seen in the Basement on Friday Afternoon.

This Evening at 7 p.m. There Will Be a Hymn Singing in the Park Across from the Church. Bring a Blanket and Come Prepared to Sin.

The Pastor Would Appreciate It If the Ladies of the Congregation Would Lend Him Their Electric Girdles for the Pancake Breakfast Next Sunday.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group Will Meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please Use the Back Door.

The Eighth-graders Will Be Presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Church Basement Friday at 7 p.m.. The Congregation Is Invited to Attend this Tragedy.

Weight Watchers Will Meet at 7 Pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please Use Large Double Door at the Side Entrance.

*And this one just about sums them all up:*

The Associate Minister Unveiled the Church's New Campaign Slogan Last Sunday:  
"I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours."



**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 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

