



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



Newsletter to Members

Vol. LV No. 1

January 2018

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, January 27, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fellow members I address you for the first time as president. I hope you have come through the old year reasonably unscathed with renewed vigor and determination. We withstood a rather tumultuous and eventful year. We were assaulted by storms, terrorized by deranged minds, threatened by belligerent nations, clawed at left and right for our votes, continued to endure what appears to be never-ending war, and watched in amazement as some of our citizens refused to rise for our anthem. But we, the "old guard," we rose; faithful to our oath and obedient to the nation we cherish.



Daniel Gutierrez

As your president I will make every effort to preserve the legacy of service to our members, our armed forces, and those who serve or have served. We will strive to continue our efforts with ROTC and JROTC; we will continue our roles in the various national veterans and patriotic activities; and we will continue to provide fellowship and camaraderie to our members through our monthly membership luncheons. Finally, we must continue our outreach efforts to other similar organizations in the constant search for vibrancy, cohesiveness, and coordination of effort.

To carry on with this legacy will be a challenge for our chapter in 2018. We will have to ask ourselves, are we still relevant? What do our members want? What do potential new members need? How do we marshal our resources in the most productive way?

(Continued on p. 3)

Respectfully,

Daniel M., Gutierrez, MAJ USA (Ret.), President 2018

2018 Officers

President

Daniel M. Gutierrez, MAJ USA
 281.543.1257
 danielgutierrez1751@gmail.com

Vice President

Dennis O'Driscoll, LTC, USA (Ret.)
 713.254.5871
 dodrisco@houstonisd.org

Secretary

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 704.213.2334 rollins.collins93@gmail.com

Treasurer

Don L. Couch, LTC USA Ret.
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Liaison Eugene Tulich CDR USCG

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Chaplain

Kerry Magee CAPT USN Ret
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 usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com

Editor Carol Ann Wilson

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2018

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

1/23/17 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2018 Board Meetings
1/23 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 Jan. 27
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU WILL BE DELICIOUS, AS ALWAYS
(Choices when you RSVP)

\$30

Complimentary
Valet Parking

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

2018 MOAA-HA Monthly Meetings

1/27 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, January 18
11:30 Fellowship Luncheon at Noon

Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Order off the Menu and Pay Individually

RSVP to Phyllis Ottis,
713.774.228 2,
by Mon. 1/15, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, **January 1, 2018**

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Receipts | \$ 265.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 0 |
| Balance | \$4,478.84 |

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!

HAPPY AND
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

I pray that all y'all had a Blessed HANUKKAH or a MERRY CHRISTMAS being with loved ones and beloved friends. And I pray that love and peace will spill over into 2018! Lord knows we will need it!

On Dec. 23rd, our local newspaper, *The Brazosport Facts*, printed Facebook feedback answers to their Question: "What gift would you want for Christmas that money can't buy and why?" Out of the 45 responses, 24% wanted better health for all family members; and 20% wanted peace on Earth. I suspect the 20% for peace might have come from Christians, having read the words of St. Luke announcing the birth of Jesus: "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, Peace, and Goodwill toward men!"

Many people on Earth hunger deeply for real Peace. And I believe people must have peace in their hearts, if they wish to show "Goodwill" toward their fellow mankind. Buddy Scott, Director of His Love Counseling Services in Lake Jackson, said it well in his Dec 23 weekly column: "I think Christmas is a time when we need to awaken to how important goodwill is performed as representatives of God. The venerable Mother Teresa said, 'It is Christmas

every time you let God love others through you.”

In 2018 may we all have that “Peace that passes all understanding” in our hearts, so that, indeed, we can pass on and extend “Goodwill” to all whom we meet this year

MAY GOD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU!

MAY JOY AND PEACE BE
WITH YOU ALL YEAR!

Humbly submitted by

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

2018 OFFICERS

President

Daniel M. Gutierrez
MAJ, USA (Ret.)

Vice President

Dennis O’Driscoll
LTC, USA (Ret.)

Secretary

Rollins J. Collins
LTC, USA (Ret.)

Treasurer

Don L. Couch
LTC, USA (Ret.)

2018 Board Appointments

Chaplain

Kerry B. Magee
CAPT, USN (Ret.)

Editor

Carol Ann Wilson

Liaison

Gene Tulich
CDR, USCG (Ret.)

Reminder: The new list of officers is a result of the Bylaw Amendments unanimously adopted by the members at the October 2017 Monthly Meeting.

INCOMING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

(Cont’d from p. 1)

These are not trivial questions. January 1, 2018, found that our membership has declined by about 30% since 2017. Therefore, a proportionate stream of our financial resources is diminished. Our membership continues to advance in years and a reservoir for new members has as yet not been identified.

Yet, we can still be strong, be active, be involved. Although our board of directors is now much smaller than in the past, we are committed. The board is balanced with a new vice president in LTC **Dennis O’Driscoll** and board veterans **Don Couch** and **Rollins Collins**. I look forward to working with this team and with you, the members.

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 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

As you are reading this, it is 2018 and we made it. I hope that you were able to squeeze a little money to the tax-deductible Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund.

Under the new tax law recently signed by President Trump, the Endowment Fund, as I understand it, will continue to be deductible. However, it may not apply to you, as the standard deduction has doubled, which as I understand means less itemized deductions will count. So look deep into your pockets, please, and do the best you can. A huge “Thank You” to all of you who donated in 2017.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill

***William Taylor**
Cpt. USA Ret*

SPEAKER FOR MEETING ON JANUARY 27

Our beloved, talented, Toastmasters member, Chapter past-president and current



chaplain with the rich and beautiful voice and vocabulary, **Kerry Magee**, Capt., USNR Ret., will be our speaker for January 27 at BraeBurn Country Club.

Kerry's topic will be "Rite of Passage: The Importance of Character & Integrity."

You will not want to miss this very important event—and you may want to take notes for your children, grandchildren, and loved ones.

RESOURCES TO HELP VETERANS WITH COLLEGE

Tyler Phillips reports that he is launching a new campaign to help veterans and active duty service members earn college degrees.

He works for **CollegeVeterans.org**, whose mission is to find and share high-quality, expert-driven resources on the GI Bill, the Yellow Ribbon program, the dos and don'ts of credit transfers, and how to find the right school.

They will appreciate any support our members can give. They are doing their best to help those who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard use the education benefits they've earned.

We can help simply by spreading the word and sharing their information.

Thank you!

Tyler Phillips
Advocacy Manager
CollegeVeterans.org

Collegeveterans.org,
P.O. Box 77094, San
Francisco, CA 94107

CANDIDATE FOR INCOMPREHENSIBILITY PRIZE

Some of you may know that I am a member of two worldwide groups that emphasize the use of plain language in all documents. Some organizations give annual prizes for incomprehensibility in documents that are written and published. This has nothing to do with military matters, but since all of us are called upon from time to time to write things, I thought you might be interested in this little gem I found:

From *A Theory of Regret* by Brian Price:

"Before we can understand the ontological stakes of the possible as a question of what life might be, we should consider the possible as something that comes to us more immediately as a problem of comprehension – of seeing in general, and seeing generally – especially insofar as comprehension is understood as what follows from apperceptive activity, or an aspectual relation sustained as if unwavering through time. And it is important to emphasize here that comprehension is never converted to knowledge, not even in the dawning of a new aspect."

Can anybody figure out what he is trying to say?

Carol Ann Wilson, Editor

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year!" in a large, blue, bubbly font. The letters are decorated with colorful streamers and confetti.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

Concerned Veterans for America is a fantastic organization and furnishes good information for all of our members. If you are not a subscriber to their free newsletter, you might want to sign up. Here's the link: <https://cv4a.org/email/>.

Here are some highlights from their January 4 issue, and they provide links to the full articles:

Military Times | VA promises faster action on unpaid bills from outside health providers. As their stack of unpaid bills continues to grow, Veterans Affairs officials are promising a host of reforms in coming months to more quickly pay community providers for care they deliver to veterans. The new moves, announced Wednesday, include creating new "rapid response teams" to settle the largest outstanding bills within 90 days and awarding at least four new contracts this year to provide faster payments in the future.

Military Times | VA firings spiked after Trump signed the new accountability law last year.

The Federalist | How Common Core Taught Me Bureaucrats Will Always Win Unless We Slash Big Government.

Inside Defense | DOD launches university-industry teaming initiative.

Associated Press | U.S. factories closed out 2017 with a boom.

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

