



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. L No. 7

July 2013

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, July, 27, 2013 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

We celebrate this month the founding of our nation, Independence Day, on 4 July. Our nation will celebrate its 237th Birthday as an independent and free nation. ***This month we will also celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a chapter of MOAA.***



Our freedom as a nation has been arduous, and not without sacrifice. Since the beginning our nation has sought to be a nation of righteousness and operating under integrity. It has been a nation of laws and people, dedicated to the principle that we are ***One Nation Under God, Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All!*** It has been a nation that seeks peace, but will fight for that peace when called to do so.

In his farewell address President Andrew Jackson in 1837 stated, *"But you must remember, my fellow citizens, that eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty, and that you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing. . . . It is from within, among yourselves—from cupidity, from corruption, from disappointed ambition and inordinate thirst for power—that factions will be formed and liberty endangered. . . it is against such designs, whatever disguise the actors may assume, that you have especially to guard yourselves. Providence has showered upon this favored land blessings without number, and has chosen you as the guardians of freedom, to preserve it for the benefit of the human race."*

President Ronald Reagan stated in 1984, *"Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."*

(cont'd on page 3)

See you at the Luncheon at BraeBurn Country Club!!!

**James W. "Pappy" Mehrmann, President
Captain, USNR, Ret.**

Officers

President

James W. Mehrmann, CAPT USN Ret
281.935.1559 captjimmehrman@yahoo.com

1st Vice President Program

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

2nd Vice President Arrangements

Jeannette Evans, Aux 281.495.2202

3rd Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Val G. Henneberg MAJ USA Ret.
713.729.8217 valhenneberg@aol.com

Treasurer

Martin J. Harris Maj USMC Ret.
713.436.0429 marty2@aol.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

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 (see 1st VP)

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 Meeting**

Tues. July 9, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings

8/21 9/25 10/23

All members are welcome.

**MOAA
Houston Area
Monthly Meeting
and Luncheon**

**Saturday July 27
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon**

BraeBurn Country Club

8101 Bissonnet St
(at S. Gessner)
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Chargrilled Ribeye Steak
With Herb Butter
OR

Tilapia Fillet
Stuffed with Bay Shrimp
Lobster Sauce

Scalloped Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli

Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea

French Silk Pie

\$30

Reservations to Jeannette
Evans, 281.495.2202, by
Wed. 7/24

Remaining
2013 MOAA-HA Meetings

8/31 9/28 10/26

Nov with MOWA

Christmas Dance 12/7

**Military Officers
Wives Association**

MOWA

NO MEETING

IN JULY

OR AUGUST

*HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER!*

MOAA-HA

**\$ Treasurer's Report
July 1, 2013**

Receipts	\$ 730.
Expenses	\$ 689.
Balance	\$4,119.29

Note: elimination of the "snail mail" newsletter saves almost \$4,000 annually. **Early payment of 2014 dues at the new rate of \$30 will be appreciated.** The financial bleeding of funds has stopped; now recovery can begin.

*Martin J. Harris, Treas.
Maj USMC Ret.*

NOTE: This is the last issue to be mailed. The members voted at the June meeting to print and mail this newsletter to try to get a large attendance in July for the 50th anniversary celebration.

From Our Chaplain



CAPT Kerry Magee

*SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH
YOU!*

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned, two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; and another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred Honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners—men of means, well educated—but they signed the Declaration knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the Seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags! **Thomas McKean** was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay(!), and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from

him, and poverty was his reward!

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of **Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.** (I am proud to say that three of the signers were from my home state of Georgia: Hall, Walton, and Gwinnett!) At the Battle of Yorktown, **Thomas Nelson, Jr.**, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt!

Francis Lewis has his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months! **John Hart** was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and the children vanished!

Some of us take these Liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't! So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July Holiday and silently thank these Patriots! It's not too much to ask for the Price they paid!

REMEMBER, FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE!

GOD BLESS Y'ALL!

*Kerry B. Magee
CAPT USNR-RET*

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Right now it is 102 degrees in my backyard. That's hot. What I hope is still hot is your desire to support the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund. I know this year we are not doing our fund raiser as we have done in the past. As you know, it is just not worth the effort for the return we got. By continuing to support the Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund, you will get great benefit from your donation being 100% tax deductible on your federal tax return. The form may be printed off of this Newsletter. Please send to the University of Houston address on the form. Please have a wonderful summer and we will talk again in July.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*



HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY

MOAA-HA!

President's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur summarized so correctly, so eloquently, the duty of every military member when he spoke, *"DUTY, HONOR COUNTRY...Its requirements are for the things that are right, and its restraints are from*

the things that are wrong. The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training—sacrifice No physical courage and no brute strength can take the place of the Divine help which alone can sustain him." And I might add, the nation!!

The fourth stanza of the *Star-Spangled Banner* we as Americans should sing in our hearts always,

**O! thus be it ever, when
freemen shall stand
Between their loved home
and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace,
may the Heav'n rescued
land
Praise the Power that hath
made and preserved us a
nation!
Then conquer we must,
when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In
God is our trust;"
And the star-spangled
banner in triumph shall
wave
O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave.**

Freedom has a price, a heavy burden and sacrifice, vigilance and will to go the last full measure of courage.

We celebrate 50 years of service this month. MOAA-Houston Area was organized in late 1961 by 69 members with COL George McDowell, USAF (Ret) as its first President. In January 1963 we became an affiliate of MOAA, then The Retired Officers Association (ROA) and in July 1963 we became an affiliate of the Texas Council of Chapters. In 1989 we became a nonprofit association, and in May of 2010 we incorporated as a Texas nonprofit corporation.

In celebrating our anniversary we will be joined by **two** distinguished guests, MOAA President **VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (ret)** and Texas Council President **LTC Jim D. Snow, USA (Ret)** to speak with us and share thoughts and news of MOAA. I ask all members to make a special effort to join us for this luncheon and special event at BraeBurn Country Club and welcome our most honored guests.

STATE OF THE UNION, HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER

We continue this tradition today as we support MOAA on issues of national defense and support to the military, veterans and their families. Now, more than ever, we must continue this fight. And this requires sacrifice on our part, and undertaking a new look, a reorganizational capability to survive and move forward in order to continue operating as a chapter. We will be discussing this month with the state council and national headquarters strategies, methods and ideas to continue operating and move forward. If we cannot initiate a program and plan to develop a productive organization, the Chapter could dissolve. I invite membership to become involved in these discussions and submit your thoughts and ideas to myself or any of the Leadership.

Treasurer Maj Martin Harris, USMC (Ret) gave the financial report. The Chapter's financial assets are **\$4,078.19**. As the Chapter

stands at this moment, we could face insolvency by **October or November 2013**. We are at a critical juncture in the life of this body. Some actions, as were discussed at our April meeting, and enacted with approval of the membership present, are interim at best, providing a *band-aid* treatment. Surgery is required that is both effective and radical to repair the situation so the Chapter can live with a viable intent and vision, not just merely exist.

The existing cadre active membership remains status quo; inactive membership gradually increases; and new dedicated membership is minuscule, not expanding at a decisive number and younger age to generate synergism to create transformation, innovation and direction.

No organization can survive without replenishment of people, ideas, and finances—and here we stand. I ask that all members think hard on this point: How important is MOAA-HA to you? Are you willing to do what it takes, to find out what it takes, to perpetuate the life of this Chapter? We need to think to the future, not today. Tried and true values are the bedrock foundation; innovation is the answer to necessity.

--James W. "Pappy" Mehrmann
CAPT USN Ret.
President

Speakers for July 27 Meeting

Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret)
MOAA President and CEO

VADM Ryan is a 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a graduate of George Washington University with a Master of Science



Degree in Personnel Administration as well as the Senior Officials in National Security Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Ryan has commanded aviation units at the squadron, wing, and fleet levels and has directed the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. He served as the 52nd Chief of Naval Personnel before retiring and assuming his position in September 2002. Admiral Ryan was named 2010 Association Executive of the Year by *Association TRENDS*, a national trade publication. He is the first military officer to win this award in its 32-year history. Under Ryan's leadership, MOAA has been named a **"Top Lobbyist"** by *The Hill* newspaper for the past six years, and the only military service organization so listed for the last three years. The Admiral and his wife Judy have two adult children and one grandchild and reside in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

LTC Jim Snow



Jim Snow is a native of Tennessee and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, and a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology at Melbourne, Florida. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel with twenty seven years of active service in the U. S. Army. During his military career his assignments

included a wide range of operational, staff and command positions. His extensive experience is associated with military logistics. His career postings were at multiple stateside stations as well as those in Vietnam, Korea and Germany. After leaving the Army, he joined the Systems Research and Application Corporation at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to work in the area of deployment mobility until final retirement in 1996. He has received numerous military and civilian awards and commendations.

Today he supports the community through his volunteerism, in particular with our veterans. Currently he is the president of the Rose Capital Chapter in Tyler and the Texas Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America. He and his wife Kathleen have three children and nine grandchildren.

Note:

July Meeting of MOAA-HA Is at BraeBurn Country Club

Note:

At the April Meeting, by a unanimous vote of the members, *dues were increased* to \$30 for regular members and \$15 for auxiliary, with no proration; voluntary for the rest of 2013 and mandatory beginning January 2014. Still very low compared to other associations.

Photos From Our June 29 Meeting

Thanks to our ever-faithful crack photographer Andy Parsons for more great photos!

Speaker **Charles Ynman**, Vice-Commandant, Texas Marine Corps League, inspired all of us with Marine Corps pride. "I am from a very loving family, but I didn't know what love was till I became a Marine," he proudly stated. And "The *Marine Corps Hymn* is the only service song that mentions a value—"Keep our honor clean." He was among the first American troops in Vietnam and served two 13-month tours there, learning how serious "fix bayonets" is. Many thanks for another great talk!



VP Magee presents certificate of our excellent speaker Ynman



Charles & Marsha Ynman



Immediate Past-Pres Ervin and Jean Eggleston



VP Kerry Magee and wife Ann, who's a native of France



MOAA-HA Past-Pres John & Papoose Douglass



Dottie and Wayne Ritter

Come and Celebrate The 50th Anniversary of MOAA_HA

at our

July 27 Luncheon Meeting

Brae-Burn Country Club

Bring Guests!

Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member



USAA Auto Insurance. Earned once. Cherished from generation to generation.

At USAA, our commitment to serve the financial needs of our military members, veterans who have honorably served and their families is without equal. In fact, families regard USAA Auto Insurance so highly, 95% of USAA members plan to remain with USAA for life.¹

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

usaa.com/insurance | 800-531-3550



Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

We know what it means to serve®

¹Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

USAA means United States Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products.

© 2013 USAA. 145760-0713

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

Tenets of the Navy SEAL Code

- 1) Loyalty to Country, Team and Teammate,
- 2) Serve with Honor and Integrity On and Off the Battlefield,
- 3) Ready to Lead, Ready to Follow, Never Quit,
- 4) Take responsibility for your actions and the actions of your teammates,
- 5) Excel as Warriors through Discipline and Innovation,
- 6) Train for War, Fight to Win, Defeat our Nation's Enemies, and
- 7) Earn your Trident every day.

Please Support Our Advertisers

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

Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15

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 Maj. Val G. Henneberg 713.729.8217



Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area
PO Box 1082
Houston TX 77251-1082

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Houston TX
Permit # 2102

TO: