



HOUSTON AREA
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Newsletter to Members

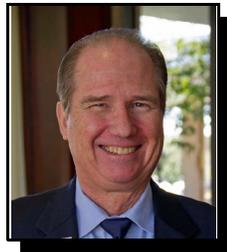
Vol. LII No. 7

July 2015

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

We must ensure that Patriotism lives on to the next generation of American citizens! In a few weeks we will celebrate the 4th of July and for most individuals this will be a time to vacation; but for us who have gone the extra mile in serving the cause of Freedom and defending the US Constitution—it is more! The long shadow of our experiences in wars from WWII and Korea to Vietnam and OEF/OIF reminds us to not look in the rearview mirror and forget; but rather to wake up and address the new strategic world that we live in today. One lesson that we have learned is that war is not won by only being on the defensive. Therefore, we in the Houston MOAA chapter are embracing more with “Post 9/11 Veterans Groups” such as Wounded Warrior Project, Mission Continues, and Team Red, White & Blue. I have been attending their meetings and invite You to join with me. These young Vets are just like us, and they are highly motivated to “do good.” We need to share with them our experience and join with them in meaningful actions to secure a more stable future for America. To facilitate this connection, do go to our MOAA-HA Facebook page, and then to theirs and get up-to-date on activities....then join in what You feel inspired to do together. Also come to our monthly chapter meetings where we will be hosting the leaders of Post 9/11 Vet groups as our speakers. Lastly, plan to attend our USAA + MOAA lunch on Tuesday, November 10, at The Palm restaurant where we will all join forces together with them. See You on this new “high ground.”



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

SAVE THE DATE: November 10, 11:30, The Palm Restaurant

USAA is again sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Luncheon for the first 50 of our members to reserve a space!

Officers

President

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1st Vice President Program (Open)

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues.

July 21, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings

8/25 9/22 10/27

11/16 No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday, 7/25
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Pan-seared Salmon
or
Steak Diane

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls, Butter

Coffee and Tea

German Chocolate Cake

\$30

Complimentary Valet Parking

Reservations to
Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202, by
Wed. 7/22

2015 MOAA-HA Meetings

8/29 9/26 10/31
11/19 (with MOWA)
12/12 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, July 16
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. 7/13 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report June 29, 2015

Receipts	\$1,410.00
Expenses	\$ 802.66
Balance	\$5,629.62

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA 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.

Chaplain's Message

SHALOM!
PEACE BE WITH YOU!



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-Ret.

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 you all!

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

Speaker for July 25

Elias Sanchez-Perez, Ph.D.

Our July speaker helps students become more



Patriotic, develop a sense of Love of Country, remain alert, and respect the Freedom they enjoy. Simply put, he is obsessed with America's future. He wants to assure himself that when he is gone, he did everything he could to help prepare our youths to defend themselves against the many evils in the world.

In the same arena of preparing for the future, Elias wants to reduce economic disparity by helping students learn basic financial literacy, such as saving money and paying obligations on time, and motivating them to take Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) courses now to better prepare themselves for skilled jobs in the future. He is consumed by this work and would like his epitaph to read, "Beneath this simple stone lies Elias alone. With all his might, Elias put up the good fight."

Elias had a near-death experience in Pamplona, Spain, during the "Running of the Bulls" of 2009, and his life changed dramatically from being a university professor to a crusader worried about America's future. Why? "I just see life differently," he says. "Intellectually and academically, I am obsessed with helping ensure our country's freedom."

In life, Elias is content with personal accomplishments such as rearing five university educated children who have attained successful professional careers. The first two daughters are engineers (A&M); third is an attorney, fourth is a school teacher; and the youngest earned his MBA at Dartmouth and is now a general manager of an international firm in

Appleton, Wisconsin. His five children have blessed him with nine grandchildren.

"In walking around and talking to people, I feel a strong desire to perform community work such as volunteering at Meals on Wheels, Animeals, Blood Drives, and organizing student symposiums on U.S. military history and STEM," says Elias. "My great, great, great grandfather was born in 1840 in South Carolina, migrated to Texas and fought as a Calvary captain in the Confederate States Army. My great, great, great grandmother was born in 1855 in Relampago, Texas. Since then, my family has seen a continuous line of soldiers totaling more than 240 years of military service, which includes a current ensign in the USN," he adds. His lineage makes him an 11th generation native of this region we now call Texas and a graduate of local schools, except for one MS he received from the University of Colorado. He has a BSEE, two MS degrees, one Ph.D., and is a registered Professional Engineer, P.E. "With this background," he says, "I am ready to help people."

Come on out to our July 25 meeting and make sure you get to hear this very interesting speaker!



Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

The Fourth of July, America's greatest holiday, will have come and gone by the time you read this. But the spirit that started this country still exists—particularly in the military. Young men and women serving today need all the support they can get.

Let me remind you that this support can start very early. As an example, your contribution to the Endowment Fund of the Houston Corps of Cadets is a lasting support to the cause of freedom. The form is in the newsletter to send your contribution, tax deductible, on to the Endowment Fund.

Thank you for your support.

Bill

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*



Jeannette Evans, who makes arrangements for all meetings, and Carol Ann Wilson, our editor

Photos From Our June 27 Meeting

What would we do without Col. Andy Parsons? Here are some more of his fabulous photos.



Veteran(USN) Daniel Espinosa, who is Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's Aide in Charge of Veterans Matters, joined us for our meeting. Here he is shown with our founder, Col. George McDowell



Our speaker, Brig. General Dr. Henry J. Ostermann: "A Leader Who Leads from the Front"



Capt. Taylor assisted Capt. Magee with tribute



Pres. Vecera presents certificate to Gen. Ostermann



Past-Pres. Magee presents certificate to Capt. Bill Taylor for his service to MOAA-HA



Treas. Couch presents winnings to our guest Daniel Espinosa



Kerry Magee rings the bell for our second annual Tribute to those who have passed in the prior year

**Ten Members Who
Passed Away in
2014
Honored in June
27 Ceremony**

**Led by Capt. Kerry
Magee and Capt.
William Taylor**

*"No Man (Woman)
Left Behind."*

*They will live on in our
memories*

Lovie Beard, wife of Col.
Earl F. Beard, MD, USAF

C. J."Neil" McBride,
LtCol, USAF

William J Nunnery, Sr.,
MAJ, USA

Mary Hope Petty, AUX

Robert A. Smith,
LTC, USA

Lucille Somers, AUX

Donald H. Standiford,
LTC USA

Joel D. Sipes,
Rear Admiral, USCG

James H. Steele, DVM,
Rear Admiral, USPHS

Neill A. Yarborough III,
LTC USA



**Who Was the First
President of the United
States of America?**

Wouldn't most of us answer "George Washington"? But George Washington definitely was *not* the first President of the United States. There were eight before him, and those first eight Presidents have been all but forgotten in history.

Think about it. The United States declared its independence in 1776, yet George Washington did not take office until April 30, 1789. So who was running the country during these initial years of our young country? In fact, the first President of the United States was named **John Hanson!**

John Hanson, was the first President of The United States. There was also a U.S. Stamp made in his honor. The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781, with the adoption of The Articles of Confederation. This document was actually proposed on June 11, 1776, but not agreed upon by Congress until November 15, 1777.

Maryland refused to sign this document until Virginia and New York ceded their western lands (Maryland was afraid that these states would gain too much power in the new government from such large amounts of land.)

Once the signing took place in 1781, a President was needed to run the country. John Hanson was chosen unanimously by Congress (which included George Washington). In fact, all the other potential candidates refused to run against him, as he was a major player in the American Revolution and an extremely influential member of Congress.

As the first President, Hanson had quite the shoes to fill. No one had ever been President, and the role was poorly defined. His actions in office would set precedent for all future Presidents.

He took office just as the Revolutionary War ended. Almost immediately, the troops demanded to be paid. As would be expected after any long war, there were no funds to meet the salaries. As a result, the soldiers threatened to overthrow the new government and put Washington on the throne as a monarch.

All the members of Congress ran for their lives, leaving Hanson as the only guy left running the government. He somehow managed to calm the troops down and hold the country together. If he had failed, the government would have fallen almost immediately, and everyone would have been bowing to King Washington.

Hanson, as President, ordered all foreign troops off American soil, as well as the removal of all foreign flags. This was quite the feat, considering the fact that so many European countries had a stake in the United States since the days following Columbus.

Hanson established the Great Seal of the United States, which all Presidents have since been required to use on all official documents. President Hanson also established the first Treasury Department, the first Secretary of War, and the first Foreign Affairs Department.

Lastly, he declared that the fourth Thursday of every November was to be Thanksgiving Day, which is still true today.

(Cont'd p.7.)

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**HAVE GOOD
DIRECTIONS.**

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA
Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
(Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

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Beginning date: _____ The Office of Stewardship will send reminders.)

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Signature: _____

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(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

First President (cont'd from page 5)

The Articles of Confederation allowed a President to serve only a one-year term during any three year period, so Hanson actually accomplished quite a bit in such little time. Seven other Presidents were elected after him:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. John Hanson | 5. John Hancock (1785-86), |
| 2. Elias Boudinot (1782-83), | 6. Nathan Gorman (1786-87), |
| 3. Thomas Mifflin (1783-84), | 7. Arthur St. Clair (1787-88), and |
| 4. Richard Henry Lee (1784-85), | 8. Cyrus Griffin (1788-89), |

... and all served prior to George Washington ever taking office.

So what happened? Why don't we hear about the first eight presidents? It's quite simple. The Articles of Confederation didn't work well. The individual states had too much power, and nothing could be agreed upon. A new doctrine needed to be written—something we know as the **Constitution**.

And that leads us to the end of our story. George Washington definitely was not the first President of the United States. He was the first President of the United States under the Constitution we follow today.

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 Capt Matt Mancuso 703.200.3030



NOTICE

Col. Andy Parsons has been appointed and agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2016 officers.

If you would like to serve in any capacity, please give Col. Parsons a call, **713.541.3143**, or send him an email, apbp@swbell.net. We need you, and some of you have indicated on your renewal form that you would be willing to serve, so some on aboard!



Auxiliary Member
Martha Morris, who
came to our June
27 meeting with Glora
De Valcourt



Daniel Espinosa, Navy
Corpsman, Iraq, Aide
to cong. Sheila Jackson
Lee (D. TX) for
Veterans Affairs

MOAA-
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