



**HOUSTON AREA**  
PO BOX 1082  
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

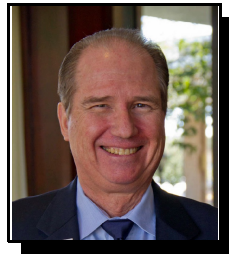
Vol. LIII No. 7

July 2016

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, July 30, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

As we approach July 4th it is noteworthy to observe that the US Army is older than the nation. Founded in June 1775, over a year before July 1776 when the nation was formed, the reality that strong and ready armed forces are critical to a nation cannot be denied. This year we are further reminded by the many anniversaries of just how important an armed defense is to a great nation—this year is the 100th commemoration of WW I, the 75th of WW II, the 65th for the Korean War, the 50th for the Vietnam war, the 25th for Desert Storm, and the 15th for OEF/OIF.



Eugene A. Vecera,  
LTC USA

We can't just check the box of life by saying, "I've done my part—no more for me to do." Because we live in an ever increasingly dangerous world; we must continue to walk the talk at every stage of our lives. The optimum lessons learned from all of the conflicts of the last hundred years is that we must maintain a sufficient and strong military force to resist enemy forces. It is a very sad lesson to observe recently in Iraq that Iraqi soldiers were unwilling to defend their country against ISIS and ran away from the battlefield. Could this ever happen to US? The current administration in Washington has sequestered 9% of the military budget (it sequestered only 2% of the Social Security budget), and our armed forces continue to expect more cuts. Additionally, we have so many needs on the home front to care for fellow Veterans, which include the support of the UT School of Nursing mentoring of Veteran students program, the execution of the Memorial Hermann Hospice "We Honor Veterans" program, and participation in the STEM program with our JROTC high schools.

Spread your wings and join together to fly with all these noble efforts to still serve!

Respectfully,  
**LTC Eugene Vecera,**  
**USA, President**



## Officers

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## MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues., July 26  
11:30**

**Rudi Lechner's  
2503 S. Gessner**

### 2016 Remaining

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 July 30  
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  
Chicken Marsala

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

Key Lime Pie

\$30

**Reservations** by Wed.  
7/27 to Jeannette Evans,  
281.495.2202 or 467.6775

REMINDER:  
Complimentary Valet  
Parking

### 2016 MOAA-HA Remaining

7/30 8/27 9/24 10/29

11/17 (with MOWA)

12/3 Christmas Party

## Military Officers Wives Association

### MOWA

**NO MEETING IN  
JULY OR AUGUST**

**SEE YOU IN  
SEPTEMBER!**

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER.**

### MOAA-HA

## \$ Treasurer's Report JULY 1, 2016

Beg. Bal.	\$6,275.69
Receipts	\$ 900.00.
Expenses	\$1,453.40
Balance	\$5,722.59

*Don L. Couch, Treasurer  
LTC USA Ret.*



**ATTN:  
If you  
would  
like to ride with Bill Taylor  
in the Friendswood July  
4th parade, call him at  
(281) 482-7315.**

### Chaplain's Message

**SHALOM!  
PEACE BE WITH  
YOU!**



Kerry B. Magee,  
CAPT USNR-  
Ret.

**"LET FREEDOM RING!"**

"Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim Liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." (LEV 25:10)

These words were written Circa 1446 B.C. and are inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia by our Founding Fathers.

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." These words are from the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.*

*"We, the People, of the United States, in order to form a more Perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." These words comprise the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States, finalized on September 17, 1787, and ratified by the States on June 21, 1788.*

Words, words, words! Too many, you may say. Lady Wisdom says to study, learn, and practice these words. Words are what we live by. They are a Bond from one generation to another, especially in Religion.. Almighty God gave us His Words in the **Holy Bible**,

which contains both the Old and the New Testaments.

In Freemasonry, we call this Sacred Book *The Volume of Sacred Law, The Great Light of Masonry*. It is the Rule and Guide of our faith.

Many of this Nation's Patriots also stated good words to live by:

**Benjamin Franklin:** "Only a virtuous People are capable of Freedom."

**John Adams:** "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people."

**George Washington:** "Of all dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable Supports."

**Thomas Jefferson:** "We, in America, do not have government by the Majority; we have government by the Majority who participates. . . . Tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of conscience to remain silent."

**James Madison:** "A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people."

**Thomas Jefferson:** "The God who gave us life gave us Liberty at the same time."

**Ronald Reagan:** "Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit."

**Daniel Webster:** "God grants Liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it."

**John Quincy Adams:** "Posterity: You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

**George Washington:** "It is impossible rightly to govern the world without God and the Bible."

**Andrew Jackson:** "The Bible is the Rock on which our Republic rests."

**G.K. Chesterton:** "Gratitude is the Mother of all Virtues."

During the Fourth of July Holiday weekend, I sincerely pray that you will all ponder and contemplate those powerful and magnificent words.

### ***MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!***

Humbly submitted by

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

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### **TAPS**

We are saddened to learn of the June 5 passing of **USAF Major George Boe**. Our condolences to his widow **Martina** and their family.

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### **SPEAKER JULY 30**

**Stephen Parr** is the host of "America on Parr," a political podcast available on iTunes, SoundCloud, Stitcher, and at

**www.americaonparr.com**. He's also the President of Silver Tongue Communications, a marketing and public relations firm serving clients from start up to multi-million dollar corporations. He has 16 years' experience in broadcast journalism, earning two Emmy Nominations and several AP Awards in Texas and



Stephen Parr

Louisiana. As the Chief Meteorologist for KSLA News 12 in Shreveport, LA, Stephen has extensive experience in crisis communications, providing essential information to a mass audience during hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter storms. He was named the best in the state of Louisiana for Breaking Weather Coverage by the Louisiana AP Broadcasters Association during the Super Tornado Outbreak of 2011. He pioneered a new way of covering severe weather with online video that has been copied by broadcasters across the country.

As a journalist, he has interviewed some of the biggest names in national, Texas, and Louisiana politics. The list includes First Lady Laura Bush, Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Dr. Alan Keyes, Col. Allen West, Governor Rick Perry, Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator John Cornyn, Senator David Vitter, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congressmen Louis Gohmert, Ralph Hall, and John Flemming, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and others. He has covered Presidential Press Conferences and was one of the first reporters in the country to break the Space Shuttle *Columbia* Disaster. He has done in-depth, investigative reports on judges, school boards, and corporations.

Early in his career, Stephen advised Disney for the movie *The Big Green*. He served in script supervision, location scouting, training the actors, and appeared in the film. He produced, wrote, edited, and hosted Soccer News Net, a 30-minute highlights show

featuring Major League Soccer and the Dallas Burn.

Stephen earned a BBA in Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin. He also holds a Certificate in Broadcast Meteorology and a Masters in Geosciences from Mississippi State.

Stephen is an accomplished musician. He plays piano, drums, marimba, vibraphone, guitar and bass. He's written and recorded more than 100 songs, including the theme songs for the television shows *Proud of East Texas*, *Fishing East Texas*, and *The Power of Prayer*. He's also scored the music for an independent film, *P.O.V.*

**Make sure you do not miss this fascinating speaker with so much to share with us at our July 30 meeting!**

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### **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.

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## **Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets**

We have just started on the back side of 2016. I know you know what that means. It means we only have six months left for you to make your most generous donation to the Houston Corps of Cadets.

This is an opportunity for you to pay it forward for the benefits you have received over the years. The new cadets of the Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston appreciate any and all contributions you choose to make. Please reach as deeply as possible and send in your donation. I know the economy is tough, but so are you.

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

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### **SPECIAL NEWS ITEMS**

Our Vice President for Recruiting, **Mitch Seaborn**, has moved to Florida, and his position is open for appointment. If you feel the calling to serve our Houston MOAA chapter as a recruiter for new members—especially thru social media, then please do contact the president, **Eugene Vecera at (713) 516-3459.**

\* \* \* \* \*

The chapter is working with **Memorial Hermann Hospital Hospice** to start a local program of "We Honor Vets" in Houston. This is a program whereby Veterans attend to the bedside of dying Veterans and present a certificate and pin in recognition for their life-long service. This is a strong program with MOAA chapters along the East Coast. If you are interested in being a part of this effort; call the president, **Eugene Vecera, at (713) 516-3459.**

\* \* \* \* \*

The University of Texas School of Nursing is implementing a 3-year grant study that allows for former Army medics and Navy corpsmen to attend and receive credit for their military service. The program is looking for military retirees of all services to act as mentors to the student nurse Veterans. If you would like to participate, contact **Eugene Vecera at (713) 516-3459.**

\* \* \* \* \*

On May 12, **Major Daniel M. Gutierrez (USA Ret.)** Attended the Spring Commissioning Ceremony of the UH Army ROTC Battalion, representing our Chapter and MOAA.

Although not on the program, Major Gutierrez had a chance to speak with the new officers informally. He addressed them as a group to offer his congratulations on behalf of the Chapter and remind them of MOAA's mission of support for our nation's armed forces. Major Gutierrez also reminded the new lieutenants that they have a free one-year membership in MOAA and urged them to maintain their membership throughout their service.

The highlight of the ceremony was the keynote speaker, **Major General James V. Young Jr.**, Commander, 75th Training Command. General Young spoke eloquently about duty, honor, country, and gave the new officers specific advice on leadership. He discussed the importance of "bearing the burdens of your soldiers, learn from your noncommissioned officers, set the example, be technically proficient, perform every task to the best of your ability, and stay in combat-ready shape."

Ten officers received their commissions: seven men and three women. Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Neil T. Chaffee offered his thanks to the chapter for its support and interest. LTC Chaffee was scheduled for promotion to Colonel on June 1, 2016.



**Maj. Gutierrez and Stancie**

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### **Our June 25 Speaker, Mike Sullivan**

Our June chapter meeting was truly enobled with the presence of **Mike Sullivan**, the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and newly appointed Commissioner to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission in Austin.

He provided a unique perspective of service—since he was never himself in the military—of how he has initiated in his office very positive initiatives to serve Veterans, from special assistance in motor vehicle registration to voter registration. His newly established “Military Help Desk” is available at (713) 274-8115 or at [www.hctax.net/Military/HelpDesk](http://www.hctax.net/Military/HelpDesk). His was such an outstanding speaker and was so well received by the large group of 30 members in attendance, that we have asked him and he has agreed to return in the future.

***Don't miss him next time!***



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### **Photos From Our June 25 Meeting**

Thanks once more to our ever-faithful Andy Parsons for more great photos! (What would we do without him?)



**Melissa and LTC Jeffrey A. McCartney**, BN Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Houston



Good to see **USA LTC Wilbur “Mac” McConico**, who has been working so hard on our ROTC Awards Program



**COL Charles Siragusa**, back after the loss of his beloved **Henrietta**



**Lois and LTC George Walker**, member of MOAA-HA and MOWW



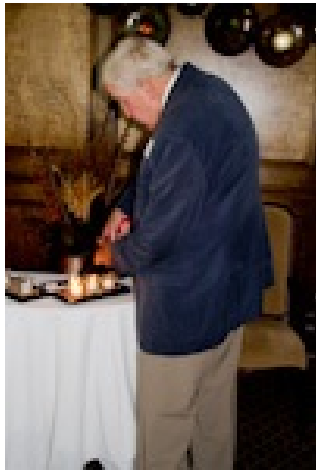
**John Martinec**, Ellington Field Task Force



**Janice Taylor**, Drawing Winner



VP LtCol Don Wallin with Speaker Mike Sullivan



CPT Bill Taylor lighting candles in Chapter annual Memorial Service conducted by Chaplain Magee



LTC George Walker lighting candles in MOWW Memorial Service

What an excellent and memorable meeting. We hope to see more of our members on July 30!

## Boy Creates a Flag for a Class Assignment

*But No One Expected THIS!*

Jacob, a young man from Indiana, designed an American flag for a school art project.



The flag is made of 4,466 army soldiers, painted red, white, and blue. It took more than 52 hours. Here's a closer look:



What a great way to honor the troops and our flag! Jacob deserves an A+ for his unique and patriotic art project.

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## HOLLYWOOD HEROES

With the 72nd Anniversary of the 6 June 1944 "Operation Overlord" Normandy, France Landing, fresh on our minds we thought you might enjoy this.

The following list of so many men who joined the Military during WW2 would not be complete without the listing of two special Ladies.

**Marine S/Sgt. Bea Arthur** ("The Golden Girls") was a secretary working in Washington, D.C., in 1941 when WW2 started. She joined the Corps as a Private two days after

Pearl Harbor and worked for the Navy Department for five years leaving as a S/Sgt.

**Martha Raye:** Often with Bob Hope's USO shows entertaining the troops, Martha was an Army Lt. Nurse and is buried at Ft. Bragg, NC, in the Veterans cemetery there.

Remember These Men?

They were all heroes in their own right and made America great in its own right! Back then Hollywood went to war!

**Alan Hale Jr.:** US Coast Guard.

**Aldo Ray:** US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa .

**Art Carney:** US Army. Wounded on Normandy - Limped for the rest of his life.

**Brian Keith:** US Marines. Radioman/Gunner in Dauntless dive-bombers.

**Buddy Hackett:** US Army anti-aircraft gunner.

**Burgess Meredith:** US Army Air Corps.

**Clark Gable:** US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe.

**Cesar Romero:** US Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport *USS Cavalier*.

**Charles Bronson :**US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action.

**Charles Durning:** US Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Shot multiple times, so awarded the Silver & Bronze & 3 Purple Hearts.

**Charlton Heston:** US Army Air Corps. Radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-25. Aleutians (Alaska).

**Chuck Connors:** US Army. Tank-warfare instructor.

**Claude Akins:** US Army. Signal Corps, Burma and the Philippines.

**Clifton James:** US Army-South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

**Dale Robertson:** US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under General Patton's command. Wounded twice. Battlefield Commission.

**Danny Aiello:** US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years.

**DeForest Kelley:** US Army Air Corps.

**Dennis Weaver:** US Navy. Pilot.

**Denver Pyle:** US Navy. Wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Medically discharged.

**Don Adams:** US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal - then served as a Drill Instructor.

**Don Knotts:** US Army-Pacific Theater.

**Don Rickles:** US Navy aboard *USS Cyrene*.

**Earl Holliman:** US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when the Navy found out.

**Ed McMahon:** Major US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.)

**Eddie Albert:** US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa .

**Efram Zimbalist Jr.:** US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest .

**Ernest Borgnine:** US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c- destroyer *USS Lambertson*. 10 years active duty. Discharged 1941; re-enlisted after Pearl Harbor .

**Fess Parker:** US Navy and US Marines. Booted from pilot training for being too tall; joined Marines as a radio operator.

**Forrest Tucker:** US Army. Enlisted as a private; rose to Lieutenant.

**Frank Sutton:** US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings- including Leyte- Luzon- Bataan and Corregidor

**Fred Gwynne:** US Navy. Radioman.

**Gene Autry:** US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China- Burma-India Theater.

**George Gobel:** comedian, Army Air Corps, taught fighter pilots. Johnny Carson made a big deal about it once on the Tonight Show, to which George said, "the Japs didn't get past us."

**George Kennedy:** US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor; stayed in sixteen years.

**Harry Carey Jr.:** - US Navy.

**Harry Dean Stanton:** US Navy. Served aboard an LST in the Battle of Okinawa .

**Harvey Korman:** US Navy.

**Henry Fonda:** US Navy. Destroyer *USS Satterlee*.

**Hugh O'Brian** - US Marines.

**Jack Klugman:** US Army.

**Jack Palance:** US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber.

**Jack Warden:** US Navy- 1938-1942- then US Army- 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division.

**Jackie Coogan:** US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines.

**James Arness:** US Army. As an infantryman, he was severely wounded at Anzio, Italy .

**James Gregory:** US Navy and US Marines.

**James Stewart:** US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General.

**Jason Robards:** US Navy. was aboard heavy cruiser *USS Northampton* when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the *USS Nashville* during the invasion of the Philippines, surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties.

**John Carroll:** US Army Air Corps. Pilot in North Africa. Broke his back in a crash.

**John Wayne** - Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries- (from playing football @ Southern Cal); he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army, Navy, and Film Corps.) so he gets "honorable mention" here.

**CONTINUED IN  
AUGUST ISSUE**

**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

