



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



Newsletter to Members

Vol. LVI No. 7

July 2019

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, July 27, 2019 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

Hey, everybody, happy 4th of July to you!

Well, half of 2019 is over. Last month I wrote a lot about things the chapter had attempted. There were some wins and some losses. I also remarked upon how the chapter had "shown the flag" at various events and activities demonstrating that MOAA HA is still around and still serving its community. In this article I want to focus on what we hope to do during the last half of 2019.



Daniel Gutierrez

First, let me announce that stepping in for me at our July members' luncheon will be our capable Vice President Lt Col **Joe Willoughby**, USAF (Ret.). Joe is planning a good show featuring USMC 1st Sergeant **Reynaldo de Leon** from the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion in Galveston. In August, COL **Robin P. Ritchie**, USA (Ret.), will tell us about "Impact a Hero" and his Vietnam experience. In September, representatives of the organization leading the way to build and establish the **American Veterans Museum** will take the podium as our guest speakers. They are Colonel **Jimmy Mitchell**, USMC (Ret.) and Master Gunnery Sergeant **Steve Cutrer**, UCMC (Ret.). October's program will feature our own Veterans' Organizations Liaison, Commander **Eugene Tulich**, USCG (Ret.). Gene will present his annual report on significant initiatives occurring with our sister organizations and any developments within the military community that impact the Houston area.

November, of course, is our chapter's traditional luncheon with the **Military Officers Wives Association (MOWA)** and the chapter's annual election. The slate of officers for 2020 will be announced in October along with any proposed changes or amendments to the bylaws.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

## 2019 Officers

### President

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

### Vice President

Joseph C. Willoughby, LtCOL, USAF (Ret.) 713.569.6700  
 joe.willoughby@gmail.com

### Secretary (VACANT)

### Treasurer

Don L. Couch, LTC, USA (Ret.)  
 832.205.2009 couchdon@hotmail.com

**Organizations Liaison** Eugene Tulich  
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**Chaplain** Kerry Magee CAPT, USN (Ret.) 979.964.3236h 979.236.2415c  
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### JROTC

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**Editor** Carol Ann Wilson

### Reservations

8902 Sunnywood Drive  
 Houston TX 77088-3729  
 281..642.4050 cell  
 carolwilson@earthlink.net



## MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings

Monday before the last Saturday  
of each month  
12 Noon

July 22, 2019

La Madeleine Restaurant  
10001 Westheimer 77042  
713.266.7686

All members are welcome.

## MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting

July 27, 2019

11:30 Fellowship

12 Noon Luncheon

BraeBurn Country Club  
8101 Bissonnet  
713.774.2586

### MENU

Garden Salad

Fried Chicken Breast  
w/Southern gravy  
-OR-  
Chopped Sirloin  
w/Mushroom Gravy

Mashed Potatoes  
Grilled Vegetables  
Warmed Rolls & Butter  
Tea, Coffee

Peach Cobbler a la mode

\$30

Complimentary  
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.  
7/24 to Carol Wilson,  
281.642.4050

### 2019 Monthly Meetings

Remaining 2019 meetings  
are: 7/27, 8/31, 9/28, 10/26,  
11/14 (w/MOWA).

## Military Officers Wives Association

# MOWA

NO MEETINGS  
UNTIL SEPTEMBER

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

## MOAA-HA

### \$ Treasurer's Report, July 1, 2019

Receipts	\$ 735.00
Expenses	\$ 988.40
Balance	\$3,789.16*

\*Award Fund Reserve \$2,434.63

Don L. Couch, Treasurer  
LTC USA Ret.

### WILL YOU CONSIDER SERVING IN AN OFFICE?

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN  
FULFILLING THE CHAPTER'S  
GOALS AND PURPOSE.

### Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

Hi Friends. It is good to be back. Carol has done a wonderful job in continuing this entry in the newsletter. It's now half a year into 2019, and it is time for you to consider a donation of any size to The Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. This fund assists the students in the ROTC. The endowment funds come only from your mail-in donations. The form is in each Newsletter.

Bill  
William Taylor  
Cpt., USA Ret

## Chaplain's Message



Kerry Magee  
CAPT USN (Ret.)

SHALOM!  
PEACE BE  
WITH YOU!

THAT RAGGED OLD  
FLAG!

A poem by Johnny Cash

I walked through a County  
Courthouse Square;  
On a park bench an old man  
was sitting there.  
I said, "Your old Court House  
is kinda run down."  
And said, "Your old flag pole  
is leaning a little bit.  
And that's a ragged old flag  
you've got hanging on it."

He said, "Have a seat," and I  
sat down.  
"Is it the first time that you've  
been in our little town?"  
"Well," he said, "I don't like  
to brag,  
But we're kinda proud of that  
ragged old flag.

"You see, we got a little hole  
in the flag there.  
"When Washington took it  
across the Delaware.  
"And it got powder burns, the  
night Francis Scott Key  
"Sat watching it, writing,  
'Oh, Say Can You See?'

"And it got a bad rip at New  
Orleans,  
"When Packingham and  
Jackson took it to the scene.  
"And it almost fell at the  
Alamo beside the Texas Flag,  
"But she waved on through.  
"She got cut with a sword at  
Chancellorsville,  
"And she got cut again at  
Shiloh Hill.

"There was Robert E. Lee,  
Beauregard, and Bragg;  
"The South wind blew hard  
on that Old, Ragged Flag.

“On Flanders Field in World War One,  
“She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun.

“She turned BLOOD RED in World War Two,  
“And she hung limp and low a time or two.  
“She was in Korea and Vietnam;  
“She went from our ships upon the briny foam.

“Now they’ve about quit waving her back here at home.  
“In our good land she’s been abused.  
“She’s been burned, dishonored, denied, and refused;  
“And the Government for which she stands  
“Is scandalized throughout the land.

“She’s getting threadbare and she’s wearing thin,  
“But she’s in good shape for the shape she’s in.  
“Because she’s been through the fire before,  
“I believe she can take a whole lot more.

“So we raise her up every morning, and  
“We take her down every night.  
“We don’t let her touch the ground, and we fold her right.

“On second thought, I DO LIKE TO BRAG,  
BECAUSE I’M MIGHTY PROUD OF THAT RAGGED OLD FLAG!”

**God bless you all!**

Humbly submitted by

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

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## **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

*(Cont’d from p. 1)*

Fall will feature some national holidays and veterans’ events in which the chapter is planning to represent MOAA HA by attending or participating. First is the day designated as “**Patriots Day**,” in which the nation pauses and pays tribute to the lost heroes of September 11, 2001. Next is the annual **Veterans Appreciation Day** at Ellington Joint Reserve Base in October. And finally, we will be participating in the local activities traditionally held at the Houston Military Cemetery and other venues as part of **Veterans Day** on November 11.

In last month’s “President’s Message” I mentioned I would be attending the 2nd quarterly meeting of the **Texas Council of Chapters (TCC)** of MOAA. One of the meeting’s main purposes was to assess the effects of the TCC’s strong advocacy effort in Austin last March. I have to report to you now that none of the major legislation concerning veterans in Texas was achieved. We fought hard for property tax relief, veterans’ courts and veterans’ service centers. None of these hoped-for actions to aid veterans were addressed by the legislature. The fight will continue.

I want to leave you with one personal note of satisfaction. Early in the year it became apparent that the chapter’s program in support of ROTC and JROTC programs in the greater Houston area was in jeopardy. The cost of purchasing medals and certificates for outstanding cadets and midshipmen would not be sustainable. I called on our members and past members for help. Help came, and to date we have collected about \$2,400. That will support the program for the next several years. We hope to establish a tradition amongst our fellow MOAA members of giving towards this fund in future

years and therefore make it self-sustaining. My heartfelt thanks to all those who donated.

This chapter has the history, means and core to be one of the best in Texas. Let us all work to that effort. You don’t need to dedicate your lives, just some time. Once in a while come to a lunch. Relax with friends or new acquaintances. Enjoy a nice meal and listen to a fine guest speaker. Many of you I have never met. I would like to. Please come out.

Fellow members, until we meet again, remember,  
**“Never stop serving.”**  
God bless.

Respectfully,  
***Daniel M. Gutierrez  
MAJ, USA (Ret.),  
President***

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### **HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR PAID THROUGH DATE?**

The current Membership Directory will show if your dues are current, and if not, we will appreciate your payment. Thank you.

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## **SPEAKER FOR JULY 27 MEETING**



### **First Sergeant Reynaldo A. De Leon III**

What an excellent speaker we have for our July 27 meeting! You won't want to miss this one.

After graduating from Ohio's Tinora High School in 2000, De Leon attended Recruit Training at MCRD, Parris Island, South Carolina.

Upon completion of recruit training he received orders to Marine Combat Training at the School of Infantry (East), Camp Geiger, NC, and graduated in October 2000. He then received orders to Aviation Supply School at Naval Air Station, Meridian MS. In December 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Private First Class and graduated Aviation Supply School in February 2001.

In February 2001, he received orders to Marine Aircraft Group 31, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, Aviation Supply Department, where he was assigned the billet of Consumables Management Division (CMD) Clerk and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in May 2001. In June 2002 he was promoted to the rank

of Corporal and assigned the billet of Night Crew NCOIC. From July of 2003 to January 2004, he deployed with VMFA-122 to Iwakuni, Japan. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in August of 2004 and assigned the billet of CMD Warehouse Chief.

In May 2005, he received orders to Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Aviation Supply Department, and was assigned the billet of Squadron Support Division NCOIC. In September 2005, he graduated from the Martial Arts Instructor's Course aboard MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. In February 2006, he attended the Martial Arts Instructor Trainer Course in Quantico, VA, where he held the billet of Squad Leader, and was awarded for being the Iron Man. In June 2006, he graduated from Sergeant's Course at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, where he was awarded for being the Iron Man for his class.

January 2007 saw him assigned to Headquarters Company to serve as the Training Chief for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, where he received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for superior service. In October 2007, he reported to Drill Instructor School at MCRD San Diego, CA, where he graduated third honor graduate for his class. Upon graduation from Drill Instructor School, he was assigned to 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Lima Company, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Experienced Drill Instructor, and Senior Drill Instructor.

While serving as a drill instructor he was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for being voted the Gunnery Sergeant Nichols Award, which is the best new drill instructor in the battalion, being the senior drill instructor for two teams that received the Band of Brothers Award, and for being awarded the Moral Leadership Award by his peers. First Sergeant De Leon also received a Meritorious

Mast for being the unit leader. Upon leaving MCRD San Diego, he was awarded his second Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

In December 2010, First Sergeant De Leon reported to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29, MCAS New River, where he was assigned the billet as Warehouse Chief for the CMD. In April 2011, he was assigned as the SNCOIC for the first Corporal's Course conducted by Marine Aircraft Group 29. After the success of the course, he received his third Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

From August 2011 to February 2012, De Leon was deployed with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Upon returning from Afghanistan, he attended the Career Course aboard Camp Johnson, NC, where he was assigned the billet of class First Sergeant and graduated as a distinguished graduate. In July 2012, he was assigned to the Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Academy (SNCOA) at Camp Johnson, NC.

During his tour at the SNCOA, he attended the Advanced Course upon selection to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant, where he graduated at the top of his class with the class high GPA of 99.67%, and received an award for being on the Director's Honor Roll. While serving as a student in the Advanced Course, he was promoted Gunnery Sergeant on October 1, 2012. As a Faculty Advisor, he served as a Physical Training Instructor and as the Command Physical Training Representative. He

also went on to serve as the Sergeant's Course Chief Faculty Advisor as well as the Career Course Chief Faculty Advisor. Upon completion of his tour at the SNCOA, he was awarded his fourth Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

In July 2015, De Leon was reassigned to the Aviation Supply Department, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, where he served as the CMD Warehouse Chief until June 2016. During that time, he was instrumental in the planning, coordination, and execution of one retirement ceremony, a MALS-36 Relief and Appointment ceremony and a MALS-36 Change of Command ceremony. He was promoted to his current rank of First Sergeant on April 25, 2016.

Upon executing orders to 9th Engineer Support Battalion, First Sergeant De Leon was again awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In June 2016, First Sergeant De Leon was assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion. During that time, First Sergeant De Leon served as the Company First Sergeant for Engineer Company B and Bulk Fuel Company. While serving as the Company First Sergeant, he supported multiple missions throughout the Pacific.

In June 2018 he transferred to 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion and currently serves as the Inspector Instructor First Sergeant for Company C, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion. He is married to Laura and they have two sons; Reynaldo, 10, and Adreyan, is 8. His personal

decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars.

We are honored to have him speak to us and strongly encourage our members to come and meet him on July 27.

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## REPORT ON JUNE 29 SPEAKER



**COL Rich Bradley, M.D.,  
USAF NG  
Commander, Medical Group  
147th Attack Wing  
Texas Air National Guard**

What a great speaker! We are so grateful to COL Bradley for taking his time to come and talk to our members. The 147th Attack Wing, at Ellington Field in Houston, TX, flies combat support missions 24/7 via advanced satellite communications thus providing surveillance, reconnaissance, and air support for US and Allied forces. One of their missions is Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or "AEVs" (COL Bradley told us they never call them "drones.") The reapers are all around, and the world is now covered by radio and satellite, and they are now engaging with the FAA, even in restricted areas. They also perform asked-for assistance to local, state, and federal agencies.

COL Bradley was deployed during Hurricane Katrina, where people rescued from the water needed to be evacuated. His unit consists of about 50 ANG and they are the Guard version of active duty. They drill one weekend every year and train 15 days

a year. Dr. Bradley is on full-time status for one year, with a full-time staff. He takes care of all 1100 members of their wing, making sure they are ready for combat, even though they may do nothing related to medical during their off-time. He brings his medical techs to the ER at Memorial Hermann when he is on duty there to give them some emergency experience, so when they see it in reality, they will be better equipped to handle the situations.. Memorial Hermann ER is the busiest one in the country!

Today's improved body armor is helping to decrease fatalities. As he told us of several military heroes in explaining "This is why I do what I do," we were enthralled to hear about Navy SEAL Master Chief **Mike Day**, whom he picked up after surgery. Day told him he was on a regular raid of a house in Fallujah, Iraq, and became separated from his unit. He was caught in a firefight with three al-Qaeda insurgents with fully automated weapons.

The enemy fighters opened fire, hitting Day 26 times, some of which were stopped by his body armor, but he was left severely wounded. Day was able to pull his sidearm while they reloaded and killed all 3! He then walked himself to our waiting helicopter and said to COL Bradley: "Doc, patch me up quick. I want to go back!"

He also told us of **Travis Mills**, an Army Infantry Sergeant of the 82nd Airborne Division, who stepped on an IED as his unit was on patrol. He lost all four limbs. COL Bradley was privileged to meet Mills when he woke up from surgery and was able to

accompany him on the long flight back to the U.S. Only 1 of 4 survive such quad injuries.

They landed at Andrews and negotiated the 5 p.m. Washington traffic to Walter Reed National Medical Center. Mills said, "Doc, I don't know if I'm ready to meet my wife and our parents." He said his wife, who was pregnant with their first child, should leave him because he would be useless. But she had the baby, who is now 10, and they had another child. Travis Mills recovered, is active with prosthetics, and has opened a facility for Wounded Warriors through the Travis Mills Foundation. Check out his amazing story at [www.travismills.org](http://www.travismills.org).

COL Bradley told us: "I am honored to have been a small part of his recovery. He is now a fully functional member of society and an inspiration to us all."

And by the way, he also said, "WE NEED MORE PILOTS!"

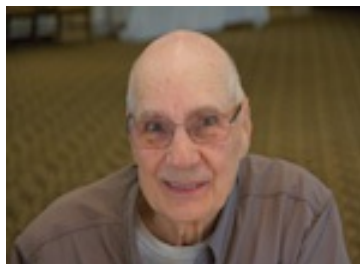


President MAJ Dan Gutierrez presenting certificate to COL Rich Bradley

Thank you, COL Bradley, for a presentation we will long remember.

## PHOTOS FROM JUNE MEETING

What would be do without our Past-President and crackerjack photographer, COL Andy Parsons? Many thanks for more great memories from out June 29 meeting.



Col John Brodak, USAF (Ret.)



CMDR Diane Kalina, USCG (Ret.), New Mem



LCDR Vernon Gillette, USN (Ret.)



Capt Kevin Abreu, USAF (former.)

We had another outstanding meal and our hats are off once again to the chef, cooks, and staff of BraeBurn Country Club!



President MAJ Dan Gutierrez, USA (Ret.)



Stancie Chamberlain, Guest of President Dan



CDR Gene Tulich, USCG (Ret.)



Joan Tulich, USN (Ret.)



LTC Eugene Vecera, USA (Ret.), and Past-President MOAA-HA

Carol Wilson won the drawing and donated it back!

*(More meeting photos continued next page)*



Glora DeValcourt, SS



VP LtCol Joe Willoughby,  
USAF (Ret.)



Phyllis Ottis, SS, and  
President of MOWA



Visitor Lea Solomon, who  
picks up wheelchairs and other  
utility items for redistribution  
to veterans.  
sawdust1to5@gmail.com



MAJ Gutierrez representing us  
at TCC meeting in Waco



Gene Tulich (l.) at Change of  
Command, USCG and Navy  
League

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## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

**Solange Ann Magee**, the wife of our  
Chaplain and Past-President **Kerry  
Magee**, CAPT, USN (Ret.), has  
written several poems and has shared  
this one about Hurricane Ike with us.

### GALVESTON, OH GALVESTON!

The Texas Coast was under warning.  
Hurricane Ike the Gulf covered, strongly  
churning.

Very soon, evacuation was in planning  
As fear levels were alarming  
In Galveston.

Oh Galveston, I could sense your seawall  
fighting  
As furious waves came crashing.  
Fierce winds were howling  
And rains in sheets came pouring,  
pounding  
On you, oh Galveston!

Night gently was descending  
When the surge tide came in, rising.  
Oh, I could hear your heart throbbing  
As your people scurried leaving  
From Galveston, yes Galveston!

Morning twilight was breaking,  
Yet, Ike wasn't in the least relenting  
And the Gulf Coast kept assailing  
With the whole world, in awe. watching  
You, Galveston, oh Galveston!

People prayed while others cried.  
Most survived though many died.  
By Galveston, oh Galveston!

Gulls and birds gusts of winds couldn't  
stand  
As they were whipped by sea and sand.  
Fish thrust in fences by the Strand

Died from shock, as seen first  
hand,  
In Galveston, oh Galveston!

The coast sustained hours of  
flooding.  
Yet, surge waters began  
receding,  
As devastation was appearing  
On streets and homes of a city  
perishing.  
Galveston, oh Galveston!

Boats were tossed upon the  
shore. Cars floated,  
Trees uprooted. Piers sunk and  
disappeared.  
Buildings were ripped and others  
smashed.  
Piles of debris on streets were  
trashed  
Through Galveston, oh  
Galveston!

Seaweed hung from cable wire  
Carried by waves in their ire.  
Homes and buildings were  
devoured by fire.  
Ike left the town in condition  
dire!  
Yes, in Galveston, oh Galveston!

Today, the coast is recovering.  
While days and weeks have been  
passing,  
Deep scars from Ike are still  
showing,  
Though each and all work at  
cleaning  
In Galveston, oh Galveston!

Soon enough the island will be  
rising  
And life again will be thriving  
As tourists to the beach come  
flocking  
And church bells will be ringing  
In Galveston, oh Galveston!

Solange Ann Magee ©  
October 3-9, 2008

*No reproduction allowed only by  
special exception. Thank you!*

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

## 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 Rank

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Status \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Nat'l ID \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Spouse's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. For Directory \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** Regular Membership \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30

(Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each addn'l year *pd w/renewal*)

Surviving Spouse \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA

PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082

For more information, call MAJ Dan Gutierrez, 281.543.1257

*\*If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:*  YES  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (Company)

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