



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. L No. 6

June 2013

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, June 29, 2013 THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

President's Message

I trust that all had a rested and happy Memorial Day holiday. I saw some of our members at the Memorial Day program at our Houston National Cemetery. This year it seemed that turnout was smaller than the last several years.



We celebrate during June two battles that turned the tide of WW II in favor of the US and our Allies. The Battle of Midway commenced on 3 June 1942 when reconnaissance from Midway spotted the Japanese invasion force. The battle would last from 3 through 7 June. The Japanese suffered both a tactical and strategic defeat, from which they would not recover and increasingly would fight on defensive lines losing all offensive advantage in the Pacific.

On 6 June 1944 the invasion of Fortress Europe began, the invasion of Normandy, known in history as **The Longest Day**. American and allied ships and aircraft of the largest armada ever assembled in history would succeed in breaching defenses at Normandy and begin the push that 12 months later would result in the surrender of Germany and Victory in Europe (VE Day).

Truly, both battles saw the all Armed Forces of the US operating in perfect unity and execution in these pivotal battles that changed the tide of war and secured victory!!!!!!

In addition, on 14 June we celebrate Flag Day. The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin, Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as "Flag Birthday."

(continued on page 4)

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

Officers

President

James W. Mehrmann, CAPT USN Ret
281.935.1559 captjimkehrmann@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 martyhc2@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. June 11, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings
7/9 8/13 9/10 10/8
All members are welcome.

**MOAA
Houston Area
Monthly Meeting
and Luncheon**

**Saturday June 29
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon**

**The Junior
League**

1811 Briar Oaks Ln
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191

Mixed Greens Salad

Chicken with Mushroom
Sauce, Buttered Carrots,
and Minted Peas

OR

Mediterranean Grilled
Salmon with
Wild Rice & Asparagus

Assorted Rolls

Pecan Ball

Tea or Coffee

\$30

Reservations to Jeannette
Evans, 281.495.2202, by
Wed. 6/26

2013 MOAA-HA Meetings

6/29 7/27 8/31 9/28
10/26, 11/21 with MOWA
Christmas Party/Dance 12/7

**Military Officers
Wives Association**

MOWA

**June Luncheon
Thursday, June 20, 2013
11:30 a.m.**

The Junior League

1811 Briar Oaks Ln
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191

MENU

Mixed Greens Salad

Chicken Spinach Crepes with
Mushroom Sauce, Grilled
Asparagus, and Broiled Tomato

OR

Mediterranean Grilled Salmon with
Wild Rice & Asparagus

Assorted Rolls

Pecan Ball

Tea or Coffee

\$28

RSVP TO: Bobbye Parsons,
713-541-3143, by June 10, 2012



MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report

As of 5/19/13

Receipts \$ 0.
Expenses \$ 198.59.
Balance \$ 4,078.19

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

*"A government big enough to
give you everything you want
is a government big enough to
take from you everything you
have."*

—Gerald R. Ford,
President of the United
States from 1974 to 1976

From Our Chaplain



CAPT Kerry Magee

***SHALOM! PEACE BE
WITH YOU!***

I pray that all of you
participated in some way or
manner in observing
Memorial Day! In Lake
Jackson on Monday night, I
gave a Memorial Day
program at my Masonic
Lodge, where we remembered
not only our fallen dead for
our Country, but also the
Brothers who passed in 2012.
As part of my program, I
recited the poem, "In Flanders
Field" and would like to share
it with you:

In Flanders Fields the
poppies blow between the
crosses, row on row
that mark our place; and in
the sky the larks still bravely
singing, fly scarce heard
among the guns below.

We are the dead, short days
ago we lived, felt dawn, saw
sunset glow, loved and were
loved, and now we lie in
Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with
the foe:

To you from failing hands
we throw the torch; be yours
to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us
who die, we shall not sleep.

Though poppies grow in
Flanders Fields.

By COL John McCrae,
WWI

Also, on that morning I
attended the Annual
Memorial Day Program,
presented by the local K of C
4th Degree members at the
Restwood Funeral Home in
Clute, Texas. It was well
attended by local Veterans,
American Legion, VFW, and
DAV. The Air Force JROTC
Color guard presented the
flags of The United States,
Texas, Service Flags,
POW/MIA and KIA flags,
and they deserved a "Well
Done"! Taps was played by a
young man from the
Brazoswood High School
band; many tears fell.

LEST WE FORGET!
LEST WE FORGET!
FLY THE FLAG ON
JUNE 14!
AND DON'T FORGET
YOUR DADS ON
JUNE 16!

GOD BLESS Y'ALL!

Kerry B. Magee
CAPT USNR-RET

*"The totalitarian world
produces backwardness
because it does such violence
to the spirit. Thwarting the
human impulse to create, to
enjoy, to worship. The
totalitarian world finds even
symbols of love and worship
an affront."*

—Ronald Reagan, President
of the United States from
1981 to 1989

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

If you are reading this, welcome to
the new age. Just because we are
now in the new age of the online
newsletter, please let us not forget
our mission of supporting the
Houston Corps of Cadets
Endowment Fund. We do that the
same way as ever. Send your tax-
deductible donation to the University
of Houston; the form is still in this
newsletter, and you may print it and
mail it to The Houston Corps of
Cadets in care of Nancy Clark at the
U of H. You will be receipted by the
University and receive a tax-
deductible receipt.

This chapter has and is undergoing
some radical changes—not the least of
which is the elimination of the direct
mail newsletter. Such is the case due
to dwindling membership and
resources; nevertheless, we still have
a mission to support those who are
coming after us. Please do your part
as best you can, and any amount
counts.

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.

Speaker for June 29

Charles Ynman,
Vice Commandant
Department of
Texas Marine Corps
League



A native of San Antonio, Texas,
Charles Ynman and his family
moved to Houston more than thirty
years ago. Charles is a four-year
veteran of the United States Marine
Corps and served in Vietnam from
1965 through 1967, where he
participated in Operations Harvest
Moon and Starlight with the 3rd
Marine Division.

In Houston, he has served as
President of the Ashford Community
Association and as a Vestryman at

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.
Charles was employed by
several oil companies in
Houston and retired from
Prosper, a Scottish
Engineering Co., where he
had been in charge of offices
in Brazil, Venezuela, and
Houston.

Charles is a member of the
McLemore Detachment of the
Marine Corps League and has
been the Detachment's
Commandant. He served on
the Marine Corps
Coordinating Council and is
the current Vice Commandant
Department of Texas Marine
Corps League. Among his
duties in this position, he is in
charge of the League's
ceremonial recognition of the
Boy Scouts of America's
Eagle Scout Award, the Texas
Young Marines Program, and
the Jr. ROTC program. He is
also responsible for directing
the League's efforts to assist
Marine Veterans in the
preservation of the traditions
of the United States Marine
Corps.

Charles and his wife, Marcia,
enjoy their red Corvette and
membership in the San
Jacinto Corvette Club (SJCC),
the oldest Corvette club in
Texas. Charles is a member
of SJCC's Board of Directors
and chairman of the annual
participation in the City of
Houston's Veteran's Day
Parade. He also coordinates
SJCC's efforts to support Kidz
Harbor, a home for youth who
are separated from their
families.

Charles and Marcia have two
daughters and six
grandchildren. Since all
family members reside in
Houston, they stay busy with
family activities.

We appreciate his kindness in accepting our offer to speak to us and look forward to his presentation!

President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day." The anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on 30 May 1916.

While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until 3 August 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating 14 June of each year as National Flag Day.

Have you ever wondered why the US Flag is folded in the manner it is? The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies. In the US Armed Forces tradition has established retreat, where the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and raised aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

The folds by tradition have the following meanings:

- ◆ The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life;
- ◆ The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life;
- ◆ The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world;
- ◆ The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance;
- ◆ The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong";
- ◆ The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- ◆ The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
- ◆ The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
- ◆ The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
- ◆ The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
- ◆ The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- ◆ The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ◆ When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

When the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

Have a great month!!!!!!
--James W. Mehrmann
President

Military Ball Saturday, May 18 Reliant Center

Our chapter was well represented at the Military Ball this year. Attending from the Houston Chapter of MOAA were: Andy and Bobbye Parsons, Robert and Phyllis Ottis, Erv and Jean Eggleston, Jeannette Evans, and Gene and Joan Tulich. In the July issue, we will have photos.

VICTORY AT MIDWAY

The annals of war at sea present no more intense, heart-shaking shock than this battle in which the qualities of the US Navy and Air Force, and the American race are shown forth in splendor. The bravery and self-devotion of American airmen and sailors, and the nerves and skill of their leaders were the foundation of all.

—Winston Churchill

AMERICAN VALOR BENGAZI, LYBIA

The stunning part of this story is that Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty killed 60 of the attacking force. Once the compound was overrun, the attackers were incensed to discover that just two men had inflicted so much death and destruction.

The news has been full of the attacks on our embassies throughout the Muslim world, and in particular, the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others in Benghazi, Libya.

However, there's a little known story of incredible bravery, heroics, and courage that should be the top story.

So what actually happened at the U.S. embassy in Libya? We are learning more about this every day. Ambassador Stevens and Foreign Service officer Sean Smith, along with administrative staff, were working out of temporary quarters due to the fact that in the spring of 2011 during the so-called Arab Spring, the United States cut ties with then president Moammar Gadhafi. Our embassy was looted and ransacked, causing it to be unusable. It is still in a state of disrepair.

Security for embassies and their personnel is to be provided by the host nation. Since Libya had gone through a civil war of sorts in the previous 18 months, the current government was and is very unstable, and therefore, unreliable.

A well organized attack by radical Muslims was planned, specifically targeting the temporary U.S. embassy building. The Libyan security force that was in place to protect our people deserted their post, or joined the attacking force. Either way, our people were in a real fix. And it should be noted that Ambassador Stevens had mentioned on more than one occasion to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, that he was quite concerned for his personal safety and the welfare of his people. It is thought that Ambassador Stevens was on a "hit list."

A short distance from the American compound, two Americans were sleeping. They were in Libya as independent contractors working an assignment totally unrelated to our embassy. They also happened to be former Navy Seals.

When they heard the noise coming from the attack on our embassy, as you would expect from highly trained warriors, they ran to the fight. Apparently, they had no weapons,

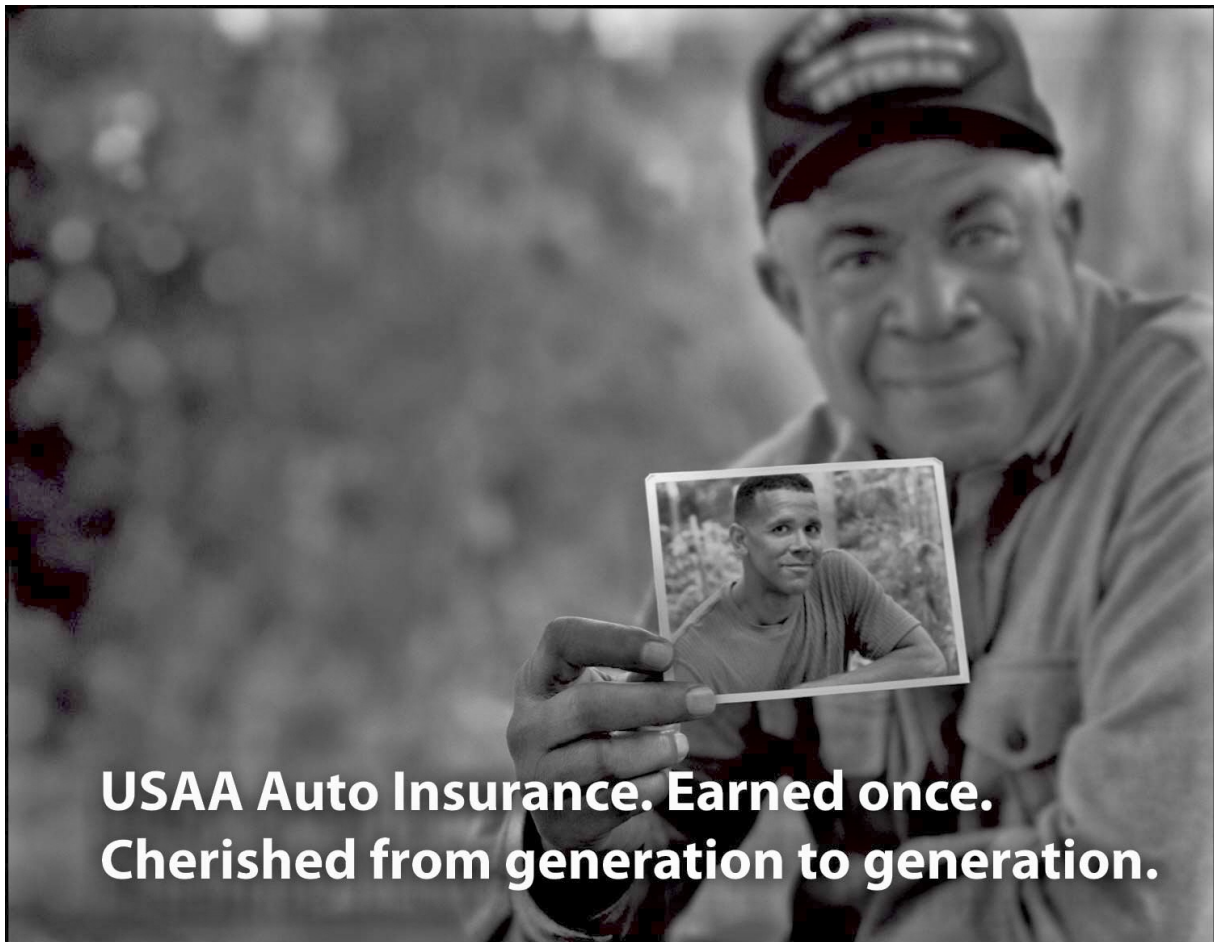
but seeing the Libyan guards dropping their guns in their haste in fleeing the scene, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty snatched up several of these discarded weapons and prepared to defend the American compound.

Not knowing exactly what was taking place, the two Seals set up a defensive perimeter. Unfortunately, Ambassador Stevens was already gravely injured, and Foreign Service officer Sean Smith, was dead. However, due to their quick action and suppressive fire, 20 administrative personnel in the embassy were able to escape to safety. Eventually, these two courageous men were overwhelmed by the sheer numbers brought against them, an enemy force numbering between 100 to 200 attackers that came in two waves. But the stunning part of the story is that Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty killed 60 of the attacking force! Once the compound was overrun, the attackers were incensed to discover that just two men had inflicted so much death and destruction.

As it became apparent to these selfless heroes, they were definitely going to lose their lives unless some reinforcements showed up in a hurry. As we know now, that was not to be. Those heroes probably knew they were going to die in this gun fight, but not before they took a whole lot of bad guys with them!

Dr. Charles R. Roots

Senior Pastor
Former Staff Sergeant,
USMC Captain,
U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps (Ret.)



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University of Houston; Advancement Services; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867

Attn: Nancy V. Clark E-mail: uh.edu/giving

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We hope that, even though you might not be computer-savvy, you have a relative or friend who will get it and print it out for you. The newsletter goes up on our site (www.moahoustonarea.com) on the first of each month, at the link for "Current Newsletter." Our past newsletters are also posted at the site. They are generally eight pages long, on letter-sized paper.

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HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO THE HOUSTON CHAPTER OF MOAA

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: _____
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Dues: Regular Membership \$10 first year; annual renewal \$20

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Comments _____

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