



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

Newsletter to Members

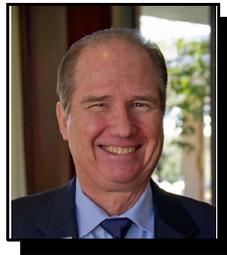
Vol. LIII No. 6

June 2016

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, June 25, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

We had a "Ball"! This year's annual Armed Forces Day Houston Military Ball, sponsored by the Houston Military Affairs Committee and the AUSA, was the best ever! At our MOAA-HA table, and joined by our MOWW comrades at the next table, we had a great vantage point.\*



Eugene A. Vecera,  
LTC USA

From the outstanding host of ceremonies, State of Texas **Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**, to the keynote speaker **MG Jimmy Wells**, the US Army FORSCOM CoS; from the NATO representative and military attache of the Czech Republic **Col. Karel Schuch**, to the Congressional representatives of both parties, **Congressman Al Green (D)**, and **Congressman Brian Babin (R)** (whose son is a Navy SEAL); from the delicious food to the superb band, "**Andy and Dreamsicles**," who channeled perfectly the music of the '70s and '80s; and to the great "band of brothers and sisters" of all the military services present, it was an awesome affair! The POW/MIA table ceremony—very sharply executed by the JROTC cadets of **Bellaire HS**—was made even more memorable by the presence of three former POWs of the Korean War. The traditional toasts to the nation and each of the armed forces services was made in an untraditional-but-very-positive manner by toasters of services—other than the service being toasted—giving the toasts. It made for very moving and beautifully worded toasts. It was the finest ball of many a year!

By the time you read this, we will have commemorated our American Heroes at Memorial Day ceremonies around the city. Personally I will attend the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War. It's been quite a memorable and patriotic month! We are truly blessed, here in Houston, to have so many outstanding activities and ceremonies—do come and join us!

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

*\*Photo and additional information about the Military Ball on page 5. Speaker info for 6/25 meeting on page 6.*

## Officers

### President

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## MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues., Jan. 21  
11:30**

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

### 2016 Meetings Left

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 June 25  
11:30 fellowship  
12 Noon Luncheon  
BraeBurn Country Club  
8101 Bissonnet St  
Houston TX 77074  
(713) 774-2586**

### MENU

House Salad  
Trout Almondine  
or  
Steak Diane  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Rolls and Butter  
Coffee and Tea

Pecan Ball

\$30

**Reservations by Wed.  
6/22 to Jeannette Evans,  
281.495.2202**

### 2016 MOAA-HA Meetings Left

6/25 7/30 8/27 9/24 10/29  
11/17 (with MOWA)  
12/3 Christmas Party

## Military Officers Wives Association

### MOWA

**Thursday, June 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. 6/13, 10 a.m.**

**See you there!**

### MOAA-HA

## \$ Treasurer's Report

June 1, 2016

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Receipts | \$ 240.00   |
| Expenses | \$ 252.48   |
| Balance  | \$ 6,275.69 |

Disbursements consisted of \$54 for dues to TCC for dues and \$198.48 for directory mailing costs

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

**NOTE: See page 6 for Membership Directory Corrections.**

**NOTE:** Membership Directories were returned for bad addresses, unable to forward: **Col. Stephen H. Evans, Erma Fennema, and Althea Smith.** Please send any new info to Carol Ann Wilson.

## Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,  
CAPT USNR-  
Ret.

**SHALOM!  
PEACE BE  
WITH YOU!**

LIFE can be like:

1) A ship in a snug harbor, protected from wind and sea, anchored or tied to a wharf, sails furled, safe, at ease, dormant, idle, at rest, with time for maintenance, awaiting purpose, a cocoon state.

OR,

2) A ship heading out to sea, full of mission and purpose, sails bellowing with a stiff wind, bow crisply cutting into the sea, helm positioned to achieve desired destination, operated by God-fearing and God-loving, determined, competent, courageous men, knowledgeable of wind, sea, and navigation, willing to brace the unknown, facing fear in the face, and go in Harm's Way, meeting the Challenge of the Sea, and owning it!

One is lifeless, the other is full of LIFE. Which have you chosen, my Brother or Sister?

**God bless you all!**

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

**TAPS . . . .**

**Maj. Philip A. Trainor** passed away April 29, 2016. He was a longtime MOAA-HA member.

## Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Well, summer is here. On this “unofficial” start of summer (Memorial Day), we still have time to contribute to the Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston.

I know we did not get a COLA last year, but these future officers would greatly appreciate any amount you could contribute to help them further their careers in the United States Armed Forces. Remember when you first joined, how tough it was financially. It is worse now.

So please help these young people in their quest to serve the United States. May God Bless The United States Armed Forces.

See form in each issue of our newsletter.

*William Taylor  
Cpt. USA Ret.*

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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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**NOTE: See page 6  
for Membership  
Directory  
Corrections.**

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## Meaning of a Flag-Draped Coffin

Every United States veteran has the right to have a flag-draped coffin at his or her funeral. Having the flag at the funeral, however, is much more complicated than simply purchasing a flag and draping it over the coffin. Out of respect



for both the veteran and the flag, a burial flag must be handled properly by the proper military representatives.

All Americans can benefit from this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD’s word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and it’s high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation’s history. Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our GOD-GIVEN rights.

As we have just observed Memorial Day in memory of our Fallen Heroes,, it is timely to understand the flag that is laid upon a coffin and then surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

**Do you know** that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? Some think it symbolizes the original 13 colonies, but read on:

**The 1st fold** of the flag is a symbol of life.

**The 2nd fold** is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

**The 3rd fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

**The 4th fold** represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

**The 5th fold** is a tribute to the 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 6th fold** is for where people’s hearts lie. It is with their hearts that they 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 7th fold** is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

**The 8th fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

**The 9th fold** is a tribute to womanhood, and especially Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

**The 10th fold** is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

**The 11th fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**The 12th fold** represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

**The 13th fold**, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding them of their nation's motto:

***"In God We Trust."***

After 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 them the rights, privileges, and freedoms we all enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of Liberty and Freedom.

*—From the American Legion*

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## **Report from *USA Today* May 13, 2015**

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP) - Two Florida hearse drivers have been fired after they stopped at a doughnut shop with a flag-draped coffin in the vehicle on the way to a funeral and an outraged man sent a video to a local veterans group.

Multiple news outlets report Rob Carpenter spotted the hearse in the parking lot of a New Port Richey Dunkin' Donuts on Tuesday with its curtains open and the coffin visible.

In the coffin was the body of 84-year-old Lt. Col. Jesse Coleman, a decorated soldier who served in Korea and Vietnam. The hearse was transporting him from Veterans Funeral Care to his funeral.

Carpenter confronted the driver and sent images to VeteranWarriors. The group posted the images to Facebook.

Funeral home director Jim Rudolph says he has fired the men.

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## **U.S. Lifts Photo Ban on Military Coffins**

By Elisabeth Bumiller  
From *International Herald Tribune*,  
**DEC. 7, 2009**

WASHINGTON — In a reversal of an 18-year-old military policy that critics said was hiding the ultimate cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the news media will now be allowed to photograph the flag-draped coffins of America's war dead as their bodies are returned to the United States, but only if the families of the dead agree.

The decision, which Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Thursday, lifts a 1991 blanket ban on such photographs put in place under President George Bush. It chiefly

affects coffins arriving from Iraq and Afghanistan that go through Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

"I think that foremost in our thinking about issues like this should be the families and giving them choices," Gates said at a news conference at the Pentagon.

Renewed as recently as a year ago by the administration of President George W. Bush, the ban has long been a source of intense debate.

The military said the ban protected the privacy and dignity of families of the dead. But others, including some of the families as well as opponents of the Iraq war, said it sanitized the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was intended to control public anger over the conflicts.

Gates, who said at the news conference that he was "never comfortable" with the ban, tried to have it overturned a year ago.

But he said he encountered resistance in the Pentagon, and so he "demurred."

But once President Barack Obama said this month that he was reviewing the ban, Gates again sounded out senior officials at the Pentagon.

"I'll be perfectly honest," Gates said. "There was a division in the building."

But, he added, a "very compelling" memorandum from the army in favor of changing the policy was persuasive, particularly because the army accounts for most of the war dead in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gates said he came to the conclusion that "we should not presume to make the decision for the families; we should actually let them make it."

Under the new policy, photographs will not be permitted of a coffin if a family says no. The policy is similar to one in place for funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

Reaction to the change from both sides was swift. "I'm very disappointed," said John Ellsworth, the president of Military Families United, whose son, Lance Corporal Justin Ellsworth, was killed in Iraq in 2004 at age 20.

"There was nothing wrong with the way things were. I believe that the administration basically caved to the special interest groups, the

antiwar groups, that are going to politicize our fallen."

"What is the need to show these caskets," Ellsworth added, "other than to try to inflame controversy?"

Senator Frank Lautenberg, Democrat of New Jersey, introduced a measure in 2004 to try to lift the ban. Lautenberg commended Gates's decision, saying in a statement that "we should honor, not hide, flag-draped coffins."

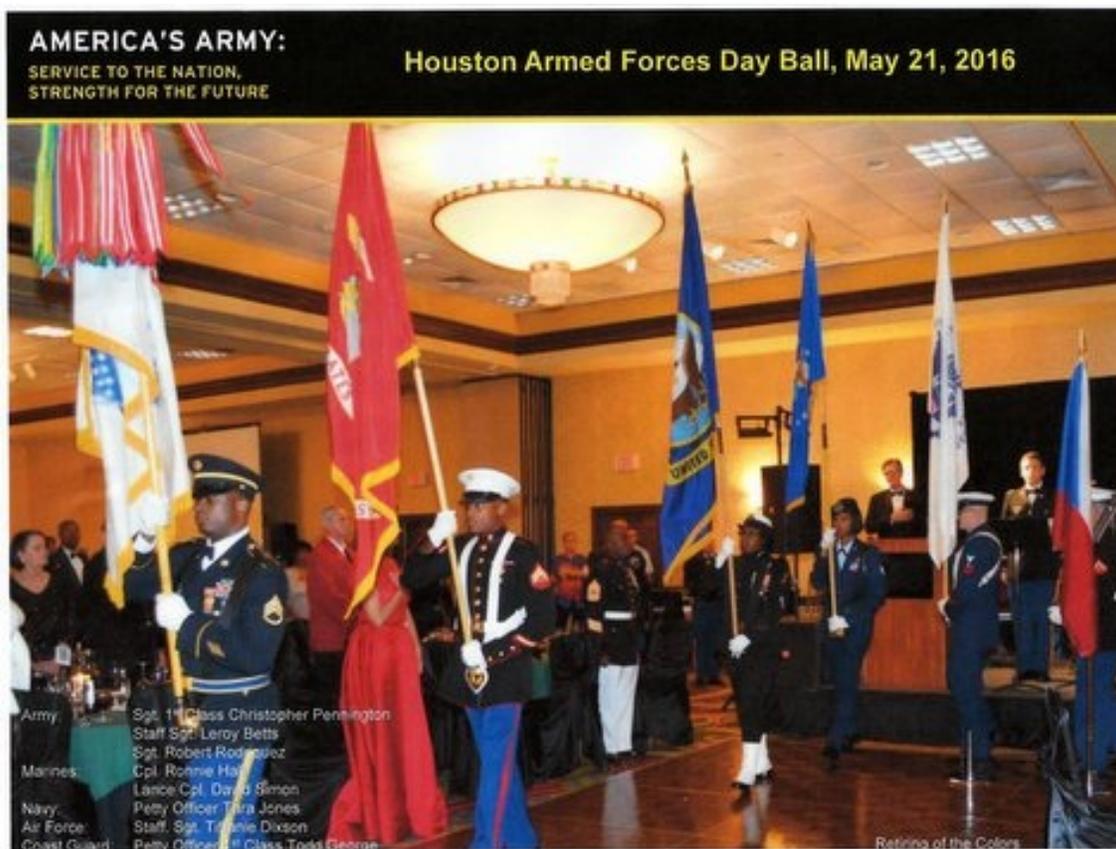
News organizations also praised the change in policy. "The public has a right to see and to know what their military is doing, and they have a right to see the cost of that military action," said Santiago Lyon, the director of photography for The Associated Press. "I think what we had before was a form of censorship."

## MILITARY BALL MAY 21

Please visit our Web site, [www.moaahoustonarea.com](http://www.moaahoustonarea.com), and click on the tab labeled "LINKS," for a 13-page pictorial report on the "best ever" Houston Armed Forces Day Ball held on May 21, 2016. We commend and applaud **CDR Eugene Tulich** for his consistent hard work and effort on behalf of the Houston Military Affairs Committee!



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick with Myrna and Eugene Vecera





## *SPEAKER FOR JUNE 25 MEETING*

MIKE SULLIVAN  
HARRIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

A native Houstonian, with a long history of community involvement, Mike Sullivan was sworn in as Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector on January 1, 2013, and is serving a four-year term. His focus is on improving customer service, embracing technology, and advocating for the taxpayer.

Mike Sullivan served on the Executive Committee of the Region H Water Planning Group from 1997 to 2005. He then ran for the Humble ISD school board, where he served from 2004 to 2007. Sullivan was elected to Houston City Council in 2008. Serving District E, he represented the communities of Kingwood and Clear Lake, as well as the Houston Ship Channel, Ellington Airport, and NASA/Johnson Space Center. Sullivan was known as the most conservative member of Houston City Council. Elected to a third and final term, he was the only member of council to run unopposed in 2011.

Sullivan believes strongly in community involvement. He presently serves as a board member of Hospital Corporation of America-Gulf Coast Division and Camp Allen. He also serves on the Lone Star College System Chancellor's Advisory Council and is a member of the Kingwood Musical Arts Society Advisory Board. Additionally, Sullivan is an Ex-Officio Director of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, a leading economic development organization. Governor Rick Perry appointed Sullivan to serve on his nine-member Task Force on Unfunded Mandates in 2011.

Mike has been married to his wonderful wife Kim for 32 years. Together, they own and operate Mike Sullivan Realty, a full-service real estate brokerage firm. They also have an amazing daughter, Paige, who recently graduated from Baylor University. Sullivan received an Associate of Arts degree from Lone Star College-Kingwood in Spring 2012. In 2014, at age 56, he graduated from UH-Downtown, with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

Sullivan's mission is to create the best customer service experience possible.

***We hope to see you at our luncheon meeting on Saturday, June 25, at BraeBurn Country Club, to hear this very interesting and informative speaker!***

**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

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**2016 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS**

*Erroneously omitted from directory:*

MAJ **Daniel M. Gutierrez** USA (Ret.)  
6035 Moss Boulder Dr.  
Houston TX 77084-6623  
daniel1751@att.net  
281.543.1257

CDR **Eugene N. Tulich**, USCG (Ret.)  
Spouse: Joan  
17110 Wood Bark Rd.  
Spring TX 77379-4539  
gene42@flash.net  
281.376.0061

***Please correct in your directory:***

Maj. **Martin J. Harris**'s correct ZIP is 77584  
Maj. **Kenneth Vanway**'s correct address is  
2804 Nottingham  
Missouri City TX 77459-2610  
Col. **Wade Adams**'s new address is  
2455 Dunstan Rd., Apt. 584  
Houston TX 77005-2320

Capt. **Matt Mancuso**'s new address:  
421 Hunter Hill Dr.  
San Marcos TX 78666-4107

Correct **LtCol. Wallin**'s name: DONAVON.

Maj. **Philip a. Trainor** is deceased.

## Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area

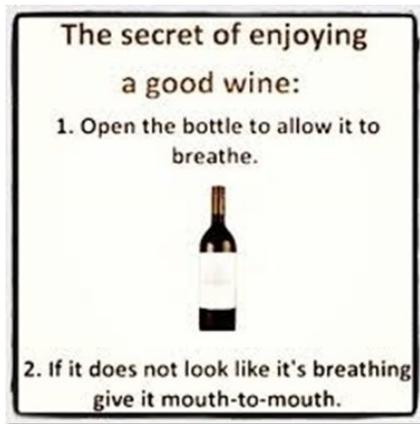
Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

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



### Words of Wisdom or Just a Few Laughs?



**IN WINE  
THERE IS WISDOM,  
IN BEER  
THERE IS FREEDOM,  
IN WATER  
THERE IS BACTERIA.**

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