



HOUSTON AREA
PO BOX 1082
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LI No. 3

March 2014

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, March 29, 2014 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

By the time you read these words, the Texas State March 4 Primary Election may be over. My question to you, our Chapter Members, is, "Did you exercise your God-given right to VOTE for the person(s) of your Political Party, found in our U.S. Constitution that gave us our Federal Republic? (ART I, Sec.2-House of Representatives; Sec.3 [Changed by 17th Amendment]-Senate; Sec. 4: States hold Elections; ART II, Sec. 1 [changed by 12th Amendment]: President).



If you did, God Bless you for maintaining our beloved Republic! *Republic*—that is a grand and glorious name: Representative Government, of the People, by the People, and for the People!

If you didn't vote, WHY??????????? Voting is not only a right, but a privilege we Citizens have in our Republic! If we don't use it, in the future we may lose it! Someone said long ago, our Republic is only one generation away from extinction. I fear we are very close!

Allow me to offer a few quotes from one of the men I admire most on this planet that I find apropos, Sir Winston Churchill:

* "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried."

* "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy."

* "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

(Cont'd on p. 4)

CAPT Kerry B. Magee, USNR-RET, President

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues. Mar. 25, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings

04/22 05/27 06/24 07/22
08/26 09/23 10/21 11/18
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Mar. 29
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
(near S. Gessner)
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Flounder Florentine
w/Spinach, Parmesan Sauce
OR

Sliced Roasted Sirloin
Topped with Onion Gravy

Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli

Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea

Pecan Pie

\$30

Reservations to
Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202,
by Wed. 4/26

2014 MOAA-HA Meetings

4/26 Military Ball May 6/28 7/26
8/30 9/27 10/25 11/20 (MOWA)
12/6 (Dinner-Dance)

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday Mar. 20

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON

1811 Briar Oaks Ln
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon

House Caesar Salad

Red Snapper Ponchartrain
w/Jumbo Lump Crab & Shrimp
Rice Pilaf, Haricot Vert
OR

Pan Roasted Chicken with
Raisin Sauce
Potatoes, Asparagus

Assorted Breads
Coffee OR Tea
(not both)

Vanilla Caramel Flan

\$30

RSVP Bobbye Parsons,
713.541.3143, by Mon. 3/17

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report March 1, 2014

Receipts \$3,170.
Expenses \$1,590.
Balance \$6,320.57

Martin J. Harris, Treas.
Maj USMC Ret.

Speaker for March 29



COL [TX]
Robert Morecook
PhD, a psychologist, is the public

affairs officer of the Medical Brigade of the Texas State Guard.

He previously has served as a commander of the Houston Medical Response Group, and as medical unit commander at hurricane evacuation sites and numerous community service events in Texas.

The Texas State Guard is the third branch of the Texas Military Forces, the others being the Texas Army and Air National Guards. COL Morecook is a Vietnam veteran of the US Army. In his day job he is a psychology professor at Houston Community College. He will speak to us about the Texas State Guard.

Come on out and hear this interesting speaker!

Eugene Vecera
LT. COL. (USA Ret)

Many thanks to **LTC Mac McConico** for agreeing to continue to chair the ROTC Committee that presents the medals to deserving young students!



Chaplain's Message

I hate to have to tell you, but our Military Chaplaincy is in disarray, due to several factors. When I retired from the Army in May of '95, I left the Texas National Guard at 95% of strength for the Chaplain Corps, including both Army and Air Guard. Soon after a few more mobilizations, the Chaplain strength dropped to 25%.



What happens in a mobilization of the Guard or Reserves (Berlin Crisis, Iraq War I, Serbia Peace-keeping force, Iraq War II, Afghanistan, for example) is that the Chaplains who are also church pastors lose those churches. It's against federal law, but the fact is that the congregation grieves the loss of the pastor... and moves on, emotionally. He comes back after the deployment, and he is a different man as well. The situation is unsustainable.

I know of only one Chaplain in the Texas Guard whose post as pastor of a church survived a deployment (Afghanistan). He had been in the congregation only 3 months when he was mobilized, so they hadn't gotten to know him yet, to grieve him. Also, the church is in Bryan with a heavy military retiree congregation and a lot of Texas Aggies. They understood the deployment and stood up for him.

Many chaplains, knowing they had lost their church job, just stayed on active

duty. The active military won, but the Reserves and Guard lost out. Many who did return to civilian life resigned their commissions rather than go through the experience of losing a pastorate again.

Once a clergyman leaves a pastorate to go to institutional work, it is very difficult to get a pastoral call again. This was why I did not pursue promotion to Deputy Chief of Chaplains (BG) when I was a senior Chaplain (COL), as I would have had to move my family to Arlington for a 3-year assignment at the National Guard Bureau, at the end of which I would have been retired from the Army, but not old enough to retire from the church, and without a job. A star wasn't worth it. My kids were in senior high school at the time, also.

I belong to an online forum for military chaplains from the mainline denominations. One factoid shared recently stated that the Chief of Chaplains for the Navy said that the very conservative denominations' chaplains make up 84% of the Chaplaincy. This is all out of proportion to the actual faith/denominational spread of the active force. The clergy from the mainline denominations just aren't interested, for various reasons, in serving in the military Chaplaincy. It is a sad situation. I can't say why this is. Such a situation, though, makes it difficult for commanders to fulfill their Constitutional duty to provide religious coverage for the men and women under their command.

The 1st Amendment guarantees no religion will be "established," but it also safeguards free exercise of one's religion. This is why a (renegade) Satanist group has petitioned the State of Oklahoma to place a statue of Satan on their capitol grounds, since there is a monument to the Ten Commandments on the grounds already. We live in "interesting times," according to the ancient Chinaman's curse.

The first half of the 1st Amendment allows clergy to serve as military Chaplains, and the second half requires unit commanders to provide religious coverage. That, in turn, is, by tradition, pegged to the religious census of the command. In practical terms, it becomes very difficult.

For several years, I was Chaplain of a separate heavy infantry brigade – 6,000+ troops. I checked the religious census and found there were only 9 Jews in the brigade. That's not enough to hold a service, even if we did have a rabbi. In fact, when I found each one of them in the field, only one of the 9 was religious—so I took him, an E-4, to the Jewish chapel while he was in the field. (This won me an "E" from the evaluator when, at the end of the evaluation, he finally asked what I had done for the Jewish personnel of the brigade.)

I had a great time during my little active duty and my 30-year career in the Texas Army Guard. My congregation, wife, and children learned to put up with my absences, but none of the separations were longer than a month. I shared with my congregations that the Army Guard and my health club were the only places I came across the unchurched, so they should look on my service not only as a patriotic duty in which they participated by allowing me to serve, but it was marked by evangelistic and pastoral opportunities.

*The Rev. John W Price
Chaplain (COL),
US Army (Ret.)*

President's Message

(cont'd from p. 1)

My apologies to ALL for missing the February Luncheon due to illness. And thank you for your prayers of concern and well being. I hope to see many of you at the March Luncheon. Let's have a GOOD turn-out!

"ACTA NON VERBA"

"DEEDS NOT WORDS"

Very Respectfully,

*CAPT Kerry B. Magee
USNR-RET, President*

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Through a combination of the proceeds of \$674 from the Endowment Fund, \$1,000 from our 50/50 drawings at the luncheons, and two private donations totaling \$326, we are able to provide four scholarships of \$500 each split between the Air Force and Army ROTC Cadets.

Remember: we make no selection in the awards. This is all done by the PMS@T' for each branch. Rice University has withdrawn from the Houston Corps of Cadets, but any student studying at the University of Houston in the Navy ROTC at Rice will be considered for these awards.

So please continue to support the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund as best you can. Remember that it is a tax-deductible gift.

Congratulations to all the cadets who will receive these awards.

Thanks,

*William Taylor
Cpt. 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.

MARCH 21-23

MOAA National has asked us to staff a booth at the National Guard Association meeting March 21-23 at the Downtown Hyatt Regency. Since President Kerry is recovering from surgery, call 1st VP Eugene Vecera or Treasurer Martin Harris if you can help.

AWARD TO UH CADET

COL Andy Parsons will be presenting the award to the Cadet from the University of Houston on April 16. Any members are welcome to accompany him. Call Andy at (713) 541-3143 if you would like to attend.

RENEWALS ONLINE?

MOAA is working on a way to help chapters with renewals by accepting them online and then rebating the money to the chapters. We are looking into this possibility and will let you know the details. In the meantime, if you don't have a computer in your life, please rethink it, or enlist the aid of a grandchild. We are becoming an electronic world, for sure!

REPORT ON OUR FEB. SPEAKER

Wow! What a dynamic and interesting; speaker we had at our February Luncheon Meeting.

Marylyn Harris is a dynamo who is working several avenues to help veterans. She founded the first—and only—Women's Veterans Business Center. She is a 100% disabled veteran who works in many organizations that help military veterans and their families.

She pointed out that the families of veterans, and especially those who have been wounded or have other disabilities, are sometimes the greatest heroes and often suffer even more.' 'Ms. Harris helps veterans start and grow veteran-owned businesses, and is creating a new program for the Houston Community College system.

"Houston has 30,000 women veterans!" she told us. She makes monthly visits to the VA Hospital, just to talk, shake hands, hug, and thank the veterans who are patients there, and she encouraged us to do the same.

Her talk centered around three main topics:

- (1) Joining Forces
- (2) Hyper Vigilance
- (3) Protecting Our Military Honor

She encouraged us to join forces with like-minded groups, to have eyes and ears everywhere for opportunities, and to support veteran-owned businesses. Her Web site is www.Harrland.com, telephone (713) 594-0179.

Photos From Our February Meeting

Thanks to the ever-faithful Andy Parsons for more great photos! What would we do without him???



New Member Mitch Seaborn, USAA Wealth Manager, 713-213-9870



LTC Vecera presents Certificate to speaker Marylyn Harris



Visitor Camellia Jackson USN, also a military spouse



Visitor Greg Fulton, Army, Desert Storm, Dept. Vet. Affairs



Drawing winner LTC Robert Ottis with MAJ Harris (didn't he win *last* month, too? Hmmm.)



Speaker Marylyn Harris

Quotes from Marylyn Harris

“Do not let anyone take away what we earned or dismiss our military service on our watch!”

“I am a War Veteran, I survived that. I can survive anything!”

“Houston is one of the most veteran-friendly cities in the United States.!”

“Get a copy of the *Veterans Benefits Guide* and keep it with you. I do.”

“Look for signs that say ‘Veteran-Owned Business’ and support those businesses.”

THE BATTLING BOYS OF BENGHAZI

We're the battling boys of Benghazi
No fame, no glory, no paparazzi.
Just a fiery death in a blazing hell
Defending our country we loved so well.

It wasn't our job, but we answered the call,
fought to the Consulate and scaled the wall.
We pulled twenty Countrymen from the jaws of fate
Led them to safety, and stood at the gate.

Just the two of us, and foes by the score,
But we stood fast to bar the door.
Three calls for reinforcement, but all were denied,
So we fought, and we fought, and we fought 'til we died.

We gave our all for our Uncle Sam,
But Someone in a High Place didn't give a damn.
Just two dead seals who carried the load
No thanks to us . . . we were just "Bumps In The Road."

—Anonymous Marine Corps Officer





Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member

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¹Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

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Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
(Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

Please Print Donor name: _____

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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.

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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.

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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

Texas Association of Chapters

LTC Vecera attended the Texas meeting last week in Killeen and shared ideas with other chapters, all of whom are experiencing dwindling membership and difficulty getting young people interested. We must continue to adjust our policies and procedures, such as emailing the newsletter, charging more for those who want it mailed, increasing our online content and presence.

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Our Christmas Dinner Dance and Meeting will be at BraeBurn Country Club. Mark your calendars now for December 6!

Please Support Our Advertisers

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 LTC Eugene Vecera 713.516.3459



The Texas Council of chapters has asked us to pass this on to the Chapter members:

PRO BONO LEGAL HELP

The Military and Veterans Law Section of the Texas State Bar offers pro bono legal service to needy service members or retirees. These attorneys are often serving Guard or Reserve officers, or are retired or former Active, Guard or Reserve military attorneys. Many of these officers belong to MOAA and other veteran organizations.

Here is a simple list of the type of actions that the Military and Veterans Law Section have addressed.

- Military member is overseas and has legal issues such as an unexpected divorce, housing, lease, or other financial issues.
- Not having a job upon return, in violation of USERRA.
- Simple wills or Powers of Attorney for those who are terminally ill.
- Help with homeless veterans, and near-homeless veterans who are about to be evicted..

If you have veteran in need who approaches you, please forward full contact information for the veteran, location, and description of the problems. This information is critical so that the attorney can contact the veteran directly. If you, or I, serve as an intermediary contact, it does not work well, and slows the process. If the veteran does not have contact information, please provide the contact info for a person who can act as the intermediary.

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President, North Dallas-Fort Worth Military Officers Association
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