



HOUSTON AREA
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Newsletter to Members

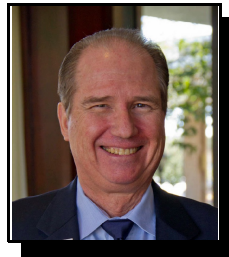
Vol. LII No. 3

March 2015

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, March 28, 2015 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

From the most monumental and influential conflict in human history, WWII, to one of the most recent American victories, Desert Storm, the past month has been auspicious! February 19 was the 70th commemorative of the Battle of Iwo Jima; Feb 24 was the 25th commemorative of Desert Storm. In the months ahead we will remember the 50th commemorative of Vietnam and the 150th commemorative of the ending of the US Civil War. It is truly a cycle for remembrance!



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

It behooves us to take a moment and reflect on the service of those Americans who took up the torch of Liberty and defended Freedom—including ourselves! To that end purpose we are continuing each month at our chapter meetings having one of our members speak about their military history. Don't be shy, You are at home now, Veteran; be at ease, and remember and share. We are also continuing the work of legislative involvement to ensure the earned benefits of military service for our Sons and Daughters who are just beginning on this journey of uniformed service to our Great Nation. Join us as we advocate in Austin and in Washington, D.C.

We are an amazing cluster of talents and experience. To that end, I challenge You to become more electronically connected. Check out our Houston MOAA Facebook page and add to it. Access our Houston MOAA Newsletter online. Connect with the Chapter Board by email and let Your voice be electronically be heard. I want to hear from You! We need all of our voices to be heard in order to succeed as a vibrant MOAA chapter in 2015. Then we will be that dominating force on the battlefield of life that will shape legislation and a future for our Nation that will be prosperous.

Press on...press harder!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

President

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**MOAA Houston Area
Board Meeting**

Tuesday before Monthly
Luncheon Meeting

**Tues.
March 24, 11:30**
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings
4/21 5/26 6/23 7/21 8/25
9/22 10/17 11/16
No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

**MOAA,HA
Monthly Meeting and
Luncheon**

Saturday March 28
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
(Between Fondren & Gessner)
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Pan-seared Salmon OR
Steak Diane with brandy
demi glaze

Scalloped Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

German Chocolate Cake

\$30

Free Valet Parking

Reservations to
Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202, by
Wed. 3/25

2015 MOAA-HA Meetings

3/28 4/25 May is Military Ball
6/27 7/25 8/29 9/26 10/31
11/19 (with MOWA)
12/5 Christmas Party

**Military Officers
Wives Association**

MOWA

Thursday, March 19
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. 3/16
10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA
\$ Treasurer's Report
Feb. 27, 2015

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Receipts | \$ 810.00 |
| Disbursements | \$ 566.00 |
| Balance | \$6385.84 |

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

2015 Membership Directories are ready and will be mailed to those who did not pick them up at the February 28 meeting.

Note your "Paid Through" date so you will know when to renew. Due January 1 of each year. (Some of you are past due. Please help us out by renewing and letting us know if your information has changed. We especially need your email address!)

**Speaker for
March 28**



Mr. Daryush Baudo

**Topic: The Dark Web:
Threats, Reality and New
Trends. How Terrorists Use
the Internet.**

Mr. Daryush Baudo is currently an embedded analyst working for a Fortune 500 company as a political and security analyst. He also consults for private intelligence groups in New York City that specialize in threats associated with Internet security—the Deep Web.

He previously worked for the Australian government for five years in intelligence and policy development, that covered national and international security matters. He also served on the Australian task force for counter-terrorism and illicit drug enforcement.

Make sure you don't miss this one! We have had many outstanding speakers, and Daryush Baudo will have you on the edge of your seats.

Have a great meal, free valet parking, and fellowship. Come on out!

Be sure to call Jeannette Evans to reserve your space: 281-495-2202.

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH YOU!

For Christians this is the Lenten season; a time for reflection and repentance before Easter. In my readings recently, I ran across this story:

“Once there was a rabbi who was asked, 'When should a man repent?' And the wise old rabbi answered, 'On the last day of his life.' 'But, they said,' None of us can be sure which day is the last day of our life.' The rabbi smiled and said, 'Then repent now.'”

Repentance is not a negative self-condemnation. Repentance is “turning around” to walk God's way. What else can you do now to change your life?

May God bless you and keep you!

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

New Members

Welcome to the following new chapter and auxiliary members not previously reported:

Wade ADAMS Col USAF
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Scott0606@att.net

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(713) 734-2400

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tncthompson@hotmail.com

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Theodore L. Whiteman CDR USN
Spouse: Maggie
20711 Flagmore Ct
Katy, TX 77450-4232
(281) 298-3437
TMRVing@gmail.com



Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Here it is early March and you are about to prepare your 2014 tax returns. Think of how nice it would be had you made a donation to the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund at the University of Houston! You could have written the amount off of your return.

It is to late for 2014, but 2015 is now here and if you make a donation to the Endowment Fund in 2015 you can write it off next year. The amount makes no difference; you will get full tax credit receipted by the University of Houston for your 2015 return and really help out officers of the future. Think hard on it.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

Report Our 2/28 Speaker

John L. Martinec gave a very interesting talk with PowerPoint presentatin about the history and status of Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. Martinec was the Chairman, and our own Gene Tulich the Vice Chairman, of the committee that kept Ellington Field from being closed in 2003, and that committee continues today as the Ellington Field Task Force.

At that time, we were about to lose not only the F16s that keep us (and our vital refineries and petrochemical manufacturing facilities) so

safe, but we were about to lose the entire base!

Today there are about 7000 troops from all five services stationed on that 300 acres, plus NASA astronaut training and research aircraft for high altitude research. The Task Force is working very hard on Infrastructure, efforts to get a Veterans Center and Commissary, and the continuing efforts to get AfriCom moved from Stuttgart, Germany, to Ellington Field, which also is home to an airport with two of the longest runways anywhere.

Houston's Ellington Field would be just as efficient, and even cheaper, to maintain the African Command for many reasons, including:

Houston has 42 foreign consulates (3rd highest in US), including 12 African consulates.

40% of all US trade exports is to African nations.

The Port of Houston is 1st in the world in exports.

Texas Medical Center is the largest in the world.

Houston has numerous universities.

At least 26 Houston-based energy companies do business all over Africa.

A boon that could help their efforts is that His Excellency Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, who is recognized to be the "Nelson Mandela of West Africa," will be writing a letter to President Obama requesting that AfriCom be moved to Ellington.

We all felt even more proud of Houston after his moving and informative talk.

Report Advocating on The Hill in Austin

At our 2/28 meeting, President Vecera reported on the recent visit to the legislators in Austin by our chapter with the Texas Council of Chapters. The Texas Council has 28 MOAA chapters, and 80 percent of them were represented last Wednesday and Thursday as they left materials and visited with Texas legislators about four major issues:

1. Increase amount of homestead exemption.
2. Employment for Veterans in Texas.
3. Hazelwood Act (education).
4. Military Absentee Voting.

Gene Tulich added a report about his visit with John Martinec with the chairs of veteran-related matters:

- (1) Make Ellington a de jure base and not a mere de facto one
- (2) Veterans Service Center at Ellington
- (3) Moving Africa Command to Ellington from Stuttgart.

We have the support of the Texas congressional delegation.

We were reminded that ALL of us need to be more active with our legislators.

It was an excellent report. Look for updates as this year's Texas legislature progresses.

Photos From Our Feb. 28 Meeting

Thanks again to Col. Andy Parsons for more great photos!



Speaker John Martinec with
President Vecera



New Member Bill
Gottfried, Navy



Winner Don Wallin,
AF, with Treasurer
Don Couch, Army



Bruna & Don Couch



Eugene Tulich, CG



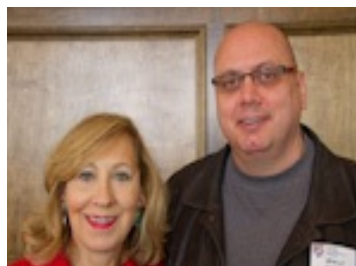
Charles/Henrietta Siragusa, Army



Donna & David Yatto, both Army



Ed & Sissy Fitz, AF



Myrna Vecera with visitor
Attorney Bryant Banes, Army

Advocating on the Hill by Eugene Vecera, Pres.

To ensure the same benefits for Veterans in the future, as those that we enjoy today; the Coordinating Council of MOAA's 28 chapters in Texas sponsored a day for "Advocating on the Hill" at the state capitol in Austin on March 25 and 26. More than 20 MOAA retired and former Officers visited the offices of state legislators and shared our military views on pending bills and on what actions need to be taken in support of Veterans. In addition to meeting with legislative staffers and elected officials; chapter members also attended meetings supporting Veteran affairs. Gene Tulich and Eugene Vecera, Chapter 9 members, participated in the Texas Military Preparedness Commission meeting and shared their views on the issues involved with Ellington Joint Reserve Base. Additionally, John Martinec, a member of the Ellington Task Force, spoke with Texas Senate and House members and was very well received. Eugene Vecera also met with US Senator Ted Cruz's regional director for central Texas, Mr. Kenneth Depew, to coordinate issues for Veterans. Mr. Kenneth Depew is a retired US Army Staff Sergeant who is a Purple Heart medal recipient from the Afghan war. The efforts of our members were very successful, but the work of defending Veteran benefits never ends.

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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 _____.

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____ 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

Mark Your Calendars Now

May 16: Armed Forces Military Ball

Oscar-Winning Documentary

The documentary that won the Oscar recently is about a VA crisis line in NY that helps Vets contemplating suicide. *Here is the film's Web site:*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2015/02/20/this-documentary-about-the-va-crisis-hotline-is-among-sundays-oscar-nominees/>

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 Capt Matt Mancuso 703.200.3030



Randolph A.F.B Commissary will be hosting the
Ellington Field JRB Sale (Case Lot).

Where: Ellington Field , Houston Texas
When: **March 26-29, 2015**
Time: 09:00-17:00 Hours

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREAT SAVINGS!!!!!!

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