



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIII No. 3

March 2016

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, April 30, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

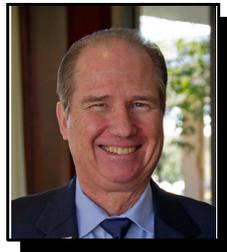
**Alert: NO MEETING IN MARCH!**

Voted by the advertising council as among the top 100 slogans of the twentieth century: "Be all you can be," and "A few good men;" are dear to our retiree hearts. However, like all things on this ever-changing planet, even they must adapt and change. Today each of the armed services has a very different ad slogan.

Time moves onward, and organizations must also adjust to new situations or cease to exist. Such is the need-of-the-hour for our MOAA both nationally and locally. At the national level a new president has assumed office as Adm. Ryan and his wife Judy have retired. Our new leader is **Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins** of the US Air Force, who was a command pilot with 4,000 hours of flying time and was a member of the Air Force Thunderbirds. He served in several major commands to include the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command; and he participated in the execution of the Kosovo-Serbia air war. He is an ROTC commissioned officer from the University of Portland and is joined with his wife, Laura.

In one of his first addresses to MOAA's 390,000 members, he committed to continuing the outstanding work begun by Adm. Ryan in focusing on the actions of the Congressional Armed Services committees, and specifically Tricare fees, national security and benefits. We will help him as best we can! So we, as the Houston MOAA chapter, will strive to focus more on supporting the goals of our national organization. To that end, we will invite Congressional Representatives to attend our meetings, and we will continue to recruit new members and upgrade current regular members to "Life" member status (it's quite inexpensive). Join with us in our monthly meetings at BraeBurn CC to hear great speakers, and to be heard. Let's advance with our new national leader and take the High Ground!

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



Eugene A. Vecera,  
 LTC USA

## Officers

### President

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## MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues., Mar. 22  
11:30**

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

### 2016 Meetings

4/26 5/24 6/21 7/26 8/22  
9/20 10/24 11/15

No mtg in Dec unless called  
All members are welcome.

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## MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon Scheduled for

**Saturday Mar. 26  
11:30 fellowship  
12 Noon Luncheon**  
BraeBurn Country Club  
8101 Bissonnet St  
Houston TX 77074  
(713) 774-2586

HAS BEEN  
**CANCELED**

DUE TO

CONFLICT WITH THE

EASTER WEEKEND

WE ENCOURAGE OUR  
MEMBERS TO  
CELEBRATE THE  
EASTER HOLIDAY

AND TO JOIN US FOR  
OUR APRIL 30  
LUNCHEON

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**2016 MOAA-HA Meetings**  
4/30 **May 21 Military Ball**  
6/25 7/30 8/27 9/24  
10/29 11/17 (with MOWA)  
12/?? Christmas Party

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## Military Officers Wives Association

### MOWA

**Thursday, Mar. 17  
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. 3/14, 10 a.m.**

**See you there!**

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## MOAA-HA

### \$ Treasurer's Report March 1, 2016

Receipts	\$ 827.00
Expenses	\$ 532.68
Balance	\$ 6,313.13

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

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### 2015 DUES ARE DUE!

Please bring your dues current to be included in the Membership Directory to be published in April.

Thanks to all who have renewed and saved us the work of sending reminders. Your membership directory shows the date you are "Paid Through." Please send in your dues using the form in every newsletter for new members in order to let us know of any changes to your information.

**And remember: Your MOAA-HA chapter dues are different from and in addition to MOAA national.**

## Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,  
CAPT USNR-  
Ret.

**SHALOM!  
PEACE BE  
WITH YOU!**

Continuing with my theme of "Kindness/Forgiveness" these past months, I thought about sharing with y'all one of the most enduring, meaningful, and beautiful Prayers in all of Christendom: "The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi".

*O Lord, make me an  
instrument of Thy Peace.*

*Where hate is, may I bring  
Love;*

*Where offense has been given,  
may I bring pardon;*

*Where there is discord, may I  
bring fellowship;*

*Where there is error, may I  
bring Truth;*

*Where there is doubt, may I  
bring Faith;*

*Where there is despair, may I  
bring Hope;*

*Where there is darkness, may  
I bring Light;*

*Where there is sadness, May I  
bring Joy.*

*O Divine Master let me seek  
To console, rather than to be  
consoled;*

*To understand, rather than be  
understood;*

*To love, rather than to be  
loved;*

*For it is in giving that I  
receive,*

*in forgetting myself that I find  
myself;*

*in pardoning that I receive  
pardon;*

*in dying, that I am born again  
to Life Eternal;*

*O Lord, make me an  
instrument of thy Peace!  
AMEN!*

May y'all have a Blessed and  
Happy Easter!

May God bless you and  
yours!

Humbly submitted,

**God bless you all!**

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

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## **Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets**

We are about to start Spring.  
That translates to three  
months of this year gone.  
You still have around nine  
months left to support The  
Houston Corps of Cadets  
Endowment Fund.

I hope you don't get tired of  
hearing about The Corps of  
Cadets, because your gift is  
very vital and much appre-  
ciated. So please send any  
amount, which is tax  
deductible, to The Houston  
Corps of Cadets. You will  
feel so much better. The  
form is in this 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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## **Scholarship Approved**

At the Board Meeting on February  
23, a \$500 Scholarship was  
approved, to be sent to the University  
of Houston for a worth recipient from  
either the Air Force or Army ROTC.  
This scholarship is awarded from the  
\$360 received through the "Split the  
Pot" drawings at our meetings and  
the balance donated from our  
treasury.



President Eugene and  
Myrna Vecera



Treasurer Don Couch with  
Winner Bobby Parsons

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## **Photos From Our February Meeting**

Thanks once again to our crack  
photographer Col. Andy Parsons for  
more great photos!

What a great speaker, once again, at  
our February meeting! Sugar Land  
Mayor James Thompson was one of  
the best speakers we have had, and  
we are sorry for those who missed it.

**Plan now to attend our April  
meeting** and all future meetings,  
where we have the best food and  
fellowship of any group we know!



Past Pres. Erv  
Eggleston, still up and



1st VP Don Wallin and Speaker Mayor  
James Thompson of Sugar Land



New Member Dave  
Gordon, Army



Myrna Vecera in  
her Rodeo wear!

Thanks to all for coming  
to our meeting!

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## MILITARY BALL MAY 21

*My Fellow MOAA Officers & Friends:*

It's time to start planning our attendance at Houston's annual Military Ball on Saturday May 21.

See next page for a flyer with details.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, and we will organize an MOAA table.

*Respectfully,*

*Eugene*

Lt. Col. (Ret)  
Eugene A. Vecera M.Ed.,  
BSN, RN, BA, CHt  
Houston, Texas, USA  
Home: 713.669.0952  
Cell: 713.516.3459

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***Let's make sure we  
have at least one full  
representing our  
chapter at the Military  
Ball on May 21!***

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### AD PRICES

**Newsletter ad prices:** Per-issue prices are \$200 for a full page; \$90 for a half-page, \$50 for a quarter-page ad, and \$20 for a business card size.

**Membership directory:** \$300 for either inside cover; \$100 for full page inside; \$50 for half page inside; \$25 quarter page inside.

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## What Is a "Life Member"?

MOAA, our national organization, has three classes of membership. One of them is that of "LIFE MEMBER." Are You a Life Member of MOAA? Many of our chapter members are Life Members of MOAA, but some may not even be aware of the category. In rating chapters and giving chapter awards, MOAA gives a chapter extra credit for its Life Members.

We hope more of our chapter members will not only become members of MOAA but will also become Life Members.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, MOAA launched a new three-tier model of membership. The new membership model provides a new connection with currently serving officers; a better bundled package of services for those nearing military retirement and those in their second careers; and a renewed emphasis to be all we can be to LIFE members. See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Chapters-and-Councils/Chapter-Recruiting/Bridge-to-MOAA-National/National-MOAA-Membership-Model.aspx#sth.ash.0Bqys0dH.dpuf>.

**LIFE members** are the regular commissioned component of MOAA membership, which represents half of all MOAA members today. MOAA will capitalize on the activism of LIFE members by encouraging them to continue to serve in their communities by:

- Further connecting them to the council and chapter network by offering them opportunities to make a difference. New LIFE members (non-chapter members) receive a voucher good for a two-year membership in their local chapter.

- Offering enhanced LIFE Membership benefits and privileges with transferability to spouse.

**Note:** Anyone can be a LIFE member at any time. Below is the rate schedule, which you can access through the "Why Join" section on the MOAA home page and by calling MOAA's Member Service Center (800) 234-6622. LIFE Membership has a separate Dual Military Spouse rate schedule.

MOAA LIFE Membership remains the **most elite level** of membership for military officers and their spouses. When you become a LIFE Member of MOAA, you not only make MOAA a stronger advocate for America's military officers, but you also make a lifetime investment for *yourself and your spouse*.

As a LIFE Member, you'll receive exclusive privileges and benefits, like bonus travel rewards and a waiver of initiation fees at the prestigious Army and Navy Club of Washington, D.C.

Life Membership cost varies by age:

\$693 (50 and under)
\$654 (51-55)
\$616 (56-60)
\$564 (61-65)
\$501 (66-70)
\$431 (71-75)
\$354 (76-80)
\$270 (81-85)
\$191 (86-90)
\$118 (91-95)
\$72 (96-100)
Free (101 and over)

For most of our chapter members, the cost of a Life Membership in MOAA is quite affordable.

Won't you check it out?

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## Deep Thoughts

From time to time we find “Internet Travelers” that we think may be of interest to our members. This issue we would like to share these “Deep Thoughts”:

1. Your shoes are the first thing people subconsciously notice about you. Wear nice shoes.

2. If you sit for more than 11 hours a day, there's a 50% chance you'll die within the next 3 years.

3. At least 6 people in the world look exactly like you. There's a 9% chance that you'll meet one of them in your lifetime.

4. Sleeping without a pillow reduces back pain and keeps your spine stronger.

5. Your height is determined by your father, weight by your mother.

6. If a part of your body “falls asleep,” you can almost always “wake it up” by shaking your head.

7. The human brain especially notices three things: food, attractive people, and danger.

8. Right-handed people tend to chew food on their right side.

9. Dry tea bags in gym bags or smelly shoes will absorb unpleasant odor.

10. You can survive without eating for weeks, but you will live only 11 days without sleeping.

11. People who laugh a lot are healthier than those who don't.

12. Laziness and inactivity kills just as many people as smoking.

13. Our brain uses the same amount of power as a 10-watt light bulb.

14. Our body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to boil 1.5 liters of water.

15. The ovum is the largest cell and the sperm is the smallest cell.

16. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day, and while you walk, SMILE.

17. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.

18. On awakening, pray for God's guidance for your purpose, today.

19. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.

20. Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, broccoli, and almonds.

21. Try to make at least three people smile each day.

22. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts, and things you cannot control. Instead, invest your energy in the positive present moment.

23. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a college kid with a maxed-out charge card.

24. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

25. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Forgive them for everything.

26. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

27. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

28. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.

29. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

31. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.

32. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: “In five years, will this matter?”

33. Help the needy, Be generous! Be a “Giver” and not a “Taker.”

34. What other people think of you is none of your business.

35. Time heals everything.

36. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

37. Your job might not take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.

38. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.

39. Each night before you go to bed, pray to God and be thankful for what you accomplished, today. What if you woke up this morning and only had what you thanked God for yesterday? DON'T FORGET TO THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING.

40. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.

# **GREATER HOUSTON**



# **MILITARY BALL**

Your Presence is requested  
**At the**  
**Armed Forces Day Military Ball**

**Sponsored by the Houston Military Affairs Committee**  
and chaired by  
**The Association of the U.S. Army Houston Metroplex Chapter**

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**  
**Social 6 PM / Dinner 7 PM**

**This Gala Event will take place at the**  
**Houston Marriott South Airport Hotel**  
**9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas 77017, (713) 943-**  
**7979**

**Tickets \$75 per person**      **RSVP NLT May 1, 2016**

**Contact: Liza Garza, Chair Phone: 713-828-1014**

**Email: [LizaGarzaRealEstate@yahoo.com](mailto:LizaGarzaRealEstate@yahoo.com)**

**For Ticket Purchase, visit the HMAAC or AUSA Houston**  
**websites**

**[www.hmac.us](http://www.hmac.us) or [www.AUSAHouston.org](http://www.AUSAHouston.org)**

**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**

**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 add'n'l year pd w/renewal)

Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15 (\$10 for each add'n'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

