



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIV No. 3

March 2017

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, March 25, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

"A meeting too far . . .!"

Is our current chapter meeting site too far for you? Your Chapter Board has an idea that may help.

We will do one meeting a year (October meeting) in a different area of Houston and rotate it around the city. To determine where to start, we would appreciate your feedback. Let us know by emailing any Board Officer (located on the front page of the newsletter).

Also, it is time to publish our annual Membership Directory. To both be included and to receive a copy, you need to be current in your dues. Remember that national dues are NOT local chapter dues. Chapter dues are \$30 per year. Please send them in to our Treasurer, Dr. Don Couch.

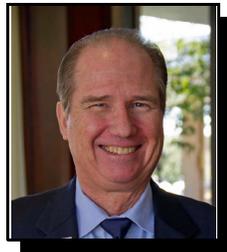
The 2017 Directory also needs ads from you and businesses in order to cover the costs of printing (full page \$100, half page \$50, and quarter page \$25). Please be generous!

Lastly, the service of providing medals and certificates to ROTC and JROTC Cadets may have to end unless we can secure more funds. Whereas National MOAA used to help subsidize the costs, that practice has ended. We now have to cover 100% of it and the annual bill is approximately \$1500. If you feel the call to help this outstanding service to our younger generation -- even if just to support one school at about \$25 -- do let your Board know.

We will succeed and overcome these obstacles be assured and continue as a vibrant and active organization!

Respectfully,

LTC Eugene Vecera, USA (Ret.), President
RN, BSN, ADN, M.Ed., BA,



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Officers

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VACANT

2nd Vice President Arrangements
VACANT

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2017

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Tues. March 21 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

2017 Meetings

3/21 4/25 5/23 6/20 7/25
8/22 9/26 10/24 11/14?
None in Dec

All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

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

MENU

Spinach Salad

Chicken Marsala
OR
Trout Almandine

Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

Carrot Cake

\$30

Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
3/22 to Don Couch,
832.205.2009

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings

3/25 4/29 **May 20 is Military Ball**
6/24 7/29 8/26 9/23 10/28
11/16 (with MOWA)
12/2 Christmas Gala

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Mar. 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. 3/13, 10 a.m.**

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, March 1, 2017

Receipts	\$1,010.00
Expenses	\$ 588.80
Balance	\$5,677.15

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

DUES ARE DUE

January 1 each year marks the day when our annual dues are payable. Please check your directory for your paid-through date. Must be current by 3/31/17 to be included in 2017 Directory, to be published in April.

Membership directory Ad Prices:
\$300 for either inside cover; \$100 for full page inside; \$50 for half page inside; \$25 quarter page inside; special Patron Ad List for \$25.

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!**

BOLDNESS FOR THE LORD GOD!

In my later years, I have become more bold when witnessing for God, to shake believers up as a call to action! My column this month is a bold step in that direction.

Seldom have I ever endorsed a group to my fellow MOAA comrades, but the urgency and intensity of the War on Christianity compels me to do so! The day has come in America when overt hostility to Christianity, free speech, and freedom of Religion has become acceptable.

Coordinated assaults by the past presidential administration, extremist groups, and corporate bullies ushered in a new era of social re-engineering, in which the LGBTQ agenda trumps religious liberty and rights of conscience. Religious liberties are being stripped away right before our eyes, and the majority of American Christians seem oblivious to the consequences! Left unchecked, our nation, our government, our judicial system, our culture, and our way of life are radically changed. I don't think you want that to happen any more than I do. If we lose our religious freedom, then we will lose America to tyranny!

Recognizing the historic crossroads America has reached, **Liberty Counsel** is

calling upon People of Faith to take an informed, bold stand against the forces threatening the freedom of American Christians! Please pray about this, and then please go on-line at LC.org and see how you can help maintain the Judeo-Christian culture of our nation.

I truly believe that God will bless you for your efforts!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU & KEEP YOU!

God bless you all!

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

SPEAKER FOR MARCH 25 Meeting

COLONEL (RET) MARK N. CAMPSEY



Colonel (Ret) Mark Campsey was born in Amarillo and grew up in Lubbock,

Texas. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Texas Tech University and a Masters Degree from the United States Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

He retired from the service at the rank of Colonel in 2011, after 31 years in the Army National Guard, 21 years on active duty. He served in Company, Battalion and Brigade Command positions and as an Infantry Division Chief of Staff.

During his career he served leadership positions in the

Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraqi theaters.

In addition to the command and staff schools, Colonel Campsey attended Air Assault and Airborne Schools. During his career, Colonel Campsey earned awards and citations including the Texas Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit.

Mark IS the Director for the Project Management Office at ROSEN USA, a privately owned and internationally based company.

Additionally, Mark volunteers for three organizations that supported his Soldiers and families with whom he served.



These include: as a board member for the Texas Military Forces Family Support Foundation in Austin; as an Ambassador for the Armed Forces Appreciation Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; and in various positions as a member of The Church of the Epiphany, an Episcopal church at Fondren and Gessner in Houston. He resides in Richmond, Texas, with his wife Allyson. Their daughter Taylor and son Trevor both attend Texas A&M University.

NEW AUX MEMBERS

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ADS FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you would like to place an ad in our 2017 Membership Directory, please send your check payable to MOAA_HA to PO Box 1082, Houston TX 77251-1082 and email your copy for the ad to our editor at carolwilson@earthlink.net.

2017 Directory Ad Prices

Inside Cover	\$300
Inside Full Page	\$100
Inside Half Page	\$ 50
Inside Quarter Page	\$ 25
Patron Ad	\$ 25

We appreciate your support!

MOAA-HA
PO Box 1082
Houston TX 77251-1082

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

The Lenten season is upon us. Mardi Gras everywhere has come and gone, and I hope you had a really joyous time wherever you were. We all know what the Lenten season means for believers. For some, it means you have to give up a favorite thing for six weeks until Easter.

Please do not give up your kind donation to the Houston Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. Remember: it is tax deductible. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*

Report from February Meeting

President Vecera gave a summary of the latest happenings that are a concern to our members. One new challenge that our chapter faces is brought about because MOAA National is no longer funding the cost of getting medals to the high school ROTC outstanding students. **LTC “Mac” McConico** is our ROCT Chairman and has done and is still doing a fantastic job! He has served in this position for several years now, and he does have a few medals left. But it’s not enough.

Our Secretary, **LTC Rollins Collins** has volunteered to help alleviate this by being the point person for donations from our members to cover some of these costs. We also need members to help do some of the presentations at the schools. If you would be available to help, contact LTC Collins, who has the list of schools that are participating. LTC McConico also has the list. Perhaps one of the schools is close to you that you could “adopt”? LTC Collins proposes that we find as many of our members to contact the school, donate the cost of the medal, and present it on the date set by the school.

We have had much discussion about alternatives to the medals, and it is just about unanimous, that it is the MEDAL that is most treasured by these cadets, much more than a ribbon or some other substitute. Ours goes to a Junior Class Cadet.

Won’t you let **Rollins Collins** know if you can help him and **Mac McConico** to keep this worthwhile program going?

On the subject of Membership, **MAJ Dan Gutierrez** has been working overtime and then some! Not only is he spending his time, but he is spending his own money as well! He has sent a personal letter out to members who are behind in their dues, and it is helping with our retention. As to recruitment, Dan has studied the list sent to us by MOAA National and found 190 members of MOAA national who live in the Houston area, and they might not even know about our chapter.

But MOAA national won’t give us their email addresses! MOAA advised that they would contact the members and ask them to contact us. Time will tell if it will be productive. Meanwhile, we hope that every member will try to recruit some younger members for us to help carry on, and Dan will continue his efforts.

LtCol Donavon Wallin has resigned from his post as 1st VP, because he needs to spend that precious weekend time with his family. An Award of Merit was presented to him for his service to our chapter.



LtCol Donavon Wallin receives Award of Merit from LTC Eugene Vecera

Plan NOW for **Armed Forces Day MILITARY BALL**, which will be **May 20**. We need to again have a full table, Contact President Vecera if you can attend. Also see CDR Eugene Tulich’s Web site, www.houstonmilitaryaffairscommitee.com.

Photos from February Meeting

Thank you, **Col. Andy Parsons**, for these great photos!



COL Charles Siragusa



LTC Dennis O’Driscoll

We think new member **LTC Dennis O’Driscoll** would make a great addition to our Board! Legislative Representative! **Bill Taylor** has served so well for many years, and recent health problems have made it necessary for him to resign. Dennis is the Army JROTC Instructor at Bellaire High School.



LTC Rollins & Pat Collins



LTC Dr. Don Couch presents winnings to LTC Vecera (again!), who donated it all back (again!)



Speaker Maj Frank Urbanic Jr. receives certificate from President Vecera

Our speaker for the Feb. 25 meeting was our own member, Maj. Frank Urbanic Jr., who talked to us about his book and documentary sire, *We Were Prepared*.

What a great speaker with an even greater story! We were enthralled to hear about it first-hand from one who participated in the **deadliest industrial accident in our history** on April 16, 1947.

That was the horrible explosion of two ships in the refinery town of Texas City, which has come to be known as the “Texas City Disaster of 1947.” Frank’s book is the only one that describes how Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts heroically responded to the disaster. (Frank himself is an Eagle Scout, Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and a former assistant Scoutmaster.)

Frank told of how the the *SS Grandcamp*, a ship we had

given to France after WWII, was preparing to depart with 2,300 tons of ammonium nitrate (used in making explosives and fertilizer) bound for Belgium. A fire started on board, and the crew tried to put it out. The Texas City Volunteer Fire Dept arrived to help and did what they could, too.

For some unknown reason, the French captain ordered them to use steam to put out the fire, and at 9:12 a.m. the ammonium nitrate detonated and the tremendous explosion disintegrated the ship, showered Texas City with sizzling hot metal as it set fire to buildings on the north side of the pier. Fiery metal flew in all directions, penetrating oil and chemical storage tanks, causing them to explode and do further damage. 575 people died in the explosions that were felt as far away as 250 miles. The sky was black with smoke.

(Editor’s note: Recall that only 13 barrels, 9 of which held ammonium nitrate, were used in the truck that bombed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The Texas City tragedy involved 2,300 TONS!!!)

In 1947, there was no FEMA. No federal disaster plan was developed until the 1950s. So help was limited. But the authorities at the time knew that Scouts lived and breathed their motto, “Be Prepared,” and that Scouts could be depended upon to respond immediately, without any hesitation. So the Scouts were called to action to help and they jumped in.

The Red Cross helped, and even striking telephone operators left their picket lines and manned positions. Frank, 13-1/2 at the time, was a Second Class Scout, and he helped with delivering telegrams. Later, he begged for first-line duty and got it. The 12-year-olds were given “flag duty,” which involved planting a flag wherever they found a body part. (About 60 unidentified bodies are buried at Memorial Park in Texas City.)

Frank’s painted vivid pictures for us in his presentation, which was fascinating, but for a good read of what would make a super movie, get his book, *We Were Prepared*, and view the images at www.wewereprepared.com

Another tip: Be sure to visit the Texas City Museum on 6th Street.



Thanks, **Maj. Urbanic**, for a wonderful presentation, and for all your efforts to get the word out about this herosim!

Vietnam War Reflections

The **Marines of Morenci** led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that little Arizona copper town (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci’s mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. **Only 3 returned home.**

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month were May 1968 - 2,415 casualties incurred.

Welcome Home

IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETERANS



Enjoy a Family Fun Day filled with family activities & entertainment!

- VA Health Care & VA Benefits
- Community Resources
- Career Transitional Assistance
- Children's Activities
- Light Lunch and Refreshments



Saturday, April 1, 2017

10am - 3pm

United Way Community Resource Center
50 Waugh Drive
Houston, TX 77074

Please register for Family Fun Day at <https://www.eventbrite.com>
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-home-iraq-afghanistan-veterans-tickets-314265426357?aff=ehomecard>

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 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

