



HOUSTON AREA
PO BOX 1082
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIV No. 5

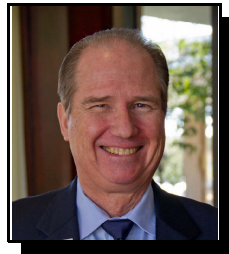
May 2017

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, June 24, 2017 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Discover those civilian opportunities that can best employ your warfighting ethos!

The further we march from the day we exited the military—the less we feel the pull of that world. That is good. After all, we are now civilians and will remain so into the future. However, we will never lose the warfighting spirit that made us who we are today and that is also good. We can now sublimate that spirit into positive efforts of service in our community, our city, and our nation. So as we move into the last half of 2017, here are some opportunities for you as members of our Houston MOAA:



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

1. Military Ball: May 20—Join us at the MOAA table.
2. Retiree Appreciation Day—Oct 14—Join us to staff our booth-to-recruit at Ellington JRB.
3. Veterans Day City of Houston Parade—Nov 11—Join us in our classic car convoy.
4. Holiday Gala—Dec 9—Join us in celebrating our year of success at BraeBurn CC.

There's more

The USAREC Army Recruiting Battalion in Houston has a “Military & Civilian Influencers” committee that meets four times per year and is currently in need of military representatives. This is a great opportunity to affect the recruitment of our future warfighters.

(Cont'd on p. 3)

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

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VACANT

2nd Vice President Arrangements
VACANT

3rd Vice President Membership
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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings for 2017

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues. 5/23 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Remaining 2017 Meetings
 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 June 24
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
 8101 Bissonnet St
 Houston TX 77074
 (713) 774-2586

MENU

- Garden Salad
- Chicken Picata
OR
Baked Tilapia
- Parmesan Orzo
Green Beans
- Rolls, Butter
- Coffee, Tea
- Key Lime Pie
- \$30
- Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
 6/21 to Don Couch,
 832.205.2009

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings Remaining

May is Military Ball
 6/24 7/29 8/26 9/23 10/28
 11/16 (with MOWA)
 12/9 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, May 18
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. 5/15, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, May 1, 2017

Receipts	\$ 840.00
Expenses	\$1,506.27
Balance	\$4,923.28

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

Membership Directory for 2017 has been published and distributed to those who attended our April meetings. They will be mailed to our other members in the coming days ahead.



Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
 CAPT USNR-Ret.

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!

This month's column is dedicated to our beloved COL George C. McDowell, West Point class of 1937, and Founder of our Chapter of MOAA.

He went home to be with his Lord, last Sat. April 22, 2017. He spent 24 years in both the U.S. Army. and the U.S. Air Force, retiring as full "Bird" Colonel in 1961, the year he founded our Chapter. The Colonel was elected our first President in January 1963.

His Funeral Service at St. John's Presbyterian Church on Bellfort, Houston, was held on April 27, and was well attended honorably by our Officers, Spouses, and Members: LTC **Eugene Vecera**, President; your humble **Chaplain and wife, Solange Ann**; our photographer **COL Andy and Bobbye Parsons**; CDR **Eugene and Joan Tulich**, Liason; LTC Keith and Sisy Fitz; and **Jeannette Evans**, who has served so many years to the chapter and came from rehab to attend. The Service was a fine tribute to a most honorable man.

In my humble opinion, COL McDowell was the epitome of the "Outstanding Professional Military Officer," a Christian Gentleman, and a man of compassion for his fellow men! We would do well to emulate him. He will be sorely missed.

Psalm 139:33 comes to my mind here:

“Search me O God, and know my heart; Test me and know my anxious thoughts. “See if there is any offensive way in me. and lead me into the way everlasting.”

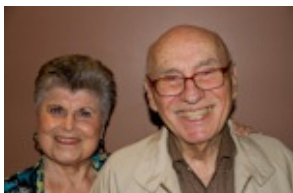
I believe COL McDowell is now resting joyfully in MOAA’s “Chapter Everlasting.”

God bless you all!

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

TAPS

We sadly report the passing of one of our stalwart members and chapter leaders, **LTC Robert R. Ottis (USA ret.)** on Saturday, April 28. Our prayers and thoughts are with Phyllis and their family and friends as they endure this loss.



LTC Robert Ottis and wife Phyllis at our November 2016 monthly meeting

Upcoming Events

May: Military Ball
June: John Wagner, Speaker
July: Gen. Joy Stevens, Spkr
Aug. Nick Barnett, Spkr
Sept: Brian Barnes, Spkr
Oct.: Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington and Joint Meeting with MOWW
Nov.: Vets Day Parade and Joint Mtg with MOWA

President’s Message

Cont’d from p. 1

The VA hospital’s “Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety (IQUEST)” committee that meets six times per year is currently in need of Military Veteran representatives. This is a great opportunity to affect the quality of medical care for Veterans.

The University of Houston and Gathering of Eagles Veterans group is currently in need of military Veterans to teach classes to middle and high school students on STEM subjects. This is a great opportunity to affect the quality of high school graduates who can then go into military service.

Don’t be a spectator on the sidelines; but rather come join us, your fellow Comrades-in-arms, in the arena of Life!

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

Report on Our April Speaker Robert A. Beeley, Civil Air Patrol Commander

What a treat to hear this speaker, who told us all about the Civil Air Patrol and what it does! We also learned that there is *no age limit* for volunteers! “We need more people!” he said.

They perform a Texas coastal patrol using planes provided by the U.S. Air Force (Cessna 172s and 182s). They do 90% of the search and rescue missions, and the Coast Guard picks up at water’s edge. The Civil Air Patrol radios to ground troops. “Twelve-year-olds



work with us, and some of our 14-year-olds get their pilot’s license for CAP before they even get their automobile driver’s license,” Beeley said.

During Hurricane Ike in 2008 the CAP Houston took 40,000 photos of coastal damage, flying 18 hours a day, and got those pictures to Austin. They also assise with airborne reconnaissance for the Border Patrol, searching for fires.

Although the USAF furnishes the planes, the CAP pilots furnish their own gas! They need about \$25 million a year to operate. Again, there is **NO RESTRICTION** on age of who can serve—and there are many other needs besides pilots. The Houston base has 14 units, with volunteers aged 12 and up. After high school graduation, they can go into the Air Force as an E3. CDR Beeley said that the Cadet Corps is “like Boy Scouts on steroids.”

The Civil Air Patrol is the only group that performed during WW II and got no recognition! With the help of Rep. McCaul, they have changed that, and CDR Beeley said that if we know of anyone who worked in the CAP in WWII, please let him know (bob@beeley.net).

The CAP has about 3000 members in Texas, 900 of which are in the Houston area. In Texas, there are about 200 pilots. The average age of their aircraft is 12-15 years. The Air Force authorizes their missions, and when working, they are on duty with the Air Force, but with no pay.

We all enjoyed his talk very much!

**Deceased Members
Recognized at Tribute
Ceremony April 29**

LtCol James Wilkinson
USAF-RET, 4-30-15
Maj Philip A Trainor
USAF-RET, 4-29-16
Maj George W. Boe
USAF-RET, 6-5-16



CAPT Kerry Magee conducted the ceremony



CPT Bill Taylor assisted

More 4/29 Photos

Thanks again, **COL Andy Parsons**, for great photos!



Speaker Beeley receives certificate from Pres. Vecera



Don Couch with Winner Dan Gutierrez (he donated it back)



MAJ Dan Gutierrez (USA) with Stancie Chamberlain



Janice & CPT Bill Taylor (USA)



LtCol Ed & Sisy Fitz (USAF)

Texas Legislation

An important piece of legislation passed the Texas House on April 13. House Bill 846 by Rep. John Raney addresses several problems that veterans have faced when trying to use their benefits to access higher education in Texas. Students have been charged late fees due to the Veterans Administration not making tuition payments on time, which has resulted in students being dropped from their classes mid-semester, or have been forced to take out loans to prevent being dropped. I am proud to have joint-authored House Bill 846, which will prevent institutions of higher education in Texas from placing additional hurdles on students when using guaranteed state or federal military education benefits. The bill now goes to the Senate.

**Kevin Roberts, State Rep.
House District 126**

**Awards Presented
By MOAA-HA
Members**



LTC Rollins Collins presents MOAA Award to **Cadet Henry Toledo** at Aldine High School.

Big thanks to **LTC Wilbur “Mac” McConico** for many years of chairing this position for MOAA-HA. We are proud to continue the tradition of presenting medals to outstanding ROTC and JROTC cadets at area high schools. As we have reported in prior issues of the newsletter, MOAA national has stopped funding these activities. MOAA-HA wants to continue giving these medals, because they mean so much to the recipients.

It is not the same to these cadets if they receive a ribbon, or if they are able to list the award on a resume. It is the actual medal that matters most, and, unfortunately, they are expensive. So we are exploring the possibility that high schools will purchase the medals for future presentations. We understand that they have places in their budgets for it. If you can help in this area, please let LTC Collins know.

And don't forget: we need members to help present these awards at area schools! Please help us to continue this valuable activity.

Award Presented at Alief-Elsik High School

On Wednesday evening, May 3, 2017, **Major Daniel M. Gutierrez**, US Army (Ret.), 3rd Vice President for Membership of the Houston Area chapter, represented the MOAA during the annual Alief-Elsik High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) awards program.



Gutierrez presented the Military Officers Association of America JROTC medal to **Cadet Flight Commander Emily Rubio**. The medal is awarded annually to one cadet in each JROTC program who exemplifies high qualities of leadership, academic excellence, and deportment. Cadet Rubio is completing her third year of high school and is a prominent member of the cadet group at Elsik.

The Air Force JROTC program at Elsik was founded in 1994 and today consists of about 150 cadets. The cadet curriculum includes studies in aerospace science, leadership development, basic air force history, customs and

practices of the service and physical training. **Lieutenant Colonel Lance T. Murray**, USAF (Ret.) is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor and acted as master of ceremonies of the event. He has served in this post for six years.

Winner of MOAA-HA Scholarship



Army ROTC student **Ovie Obada** won the MOAA award this year and received the \$500 scholarship we provided. He is a Junior MS III Cadet working toward a BS in Geophysics at the University of Houston. **COL Andy Parsons** presented his award.

Congratulations to all!

Celebrating Military Appreciation Month

Concerned Veterans for America

May is Military Appreciation Month. We celebrate and recognize several military holidays and remembrance days in May, and the whole month is dedicated to the military. We celebrate the end of World War II's European campaign on Victory in Europe Day, recognize the support behind our service members on Military Spouses Day, and remember the fallen on Memorial Day.

The military lifestyle is unlike any other. Difficulties include base transfers, weekends of training, responding to natural disasters, deployments, physical or mental

injuries, or death. Nevertheless, men and women of the military jump right into these situations, to protect the freedom we enjoy.

Civilians can never repay the debt paid by those who served, but civilians can: ensure that veterans are honored by the government and citizenry; ensure that the VA properly cares for veterans; ensure a welcoming economy for veterans transitioning back to civilian life; and make sure the Pentagon uses taxpayer dollars efficiently

Give to those who have given so much!

Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

Well, we got a rather large contribution for the Endowment Fund in a sort of sad way. The Military Officers Wives Association (MOWA) closed their checking account and sent the proceeds, more than \$2,300, to The Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund at the University of Houston. And we have really hit the Big Time, as we have made the printed mailing of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences from the U of H gifting. So please continue to support this effort for the Cadets.

Thanks,

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

