



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

Newsletter to Members
 May 2020

Vol. LVII No.5

NEXT MEETING JUNE 27

President's Message

Greetings, Everyone,

I hope that all of you have fared well since our last newsletter. Although COVID-19 is not yet behind us, it appears that we are "flattening the curve" according to the medical experts, and Gov. Greg Abbott is allowing Texas businesses to reopen in phases.



Joe Willoughby

Speaking for myself, I know there is certainly a desire to return to a normal life distant from the quarantine existence I've experienced the past six weeks. However, my wife reminds me daily of the need to remain vigilant in a responsible way with social distancing, hand washing, and face masks. When I grow restless and agitated, she simply tells me, "You have no constitutional right to spread your germs!" and I quickly quiet down.

I share the desire to return to daily life without restrictions as soon as medical science says it is safe to do so. In the meantime, I think about what I have learned through all this that might make our life even better in the future. Soon I hope, but with added complications, we'll be able to get a table at our favorite restaurant on a Friday night, play a round of golf with friends on a Saturday morning, hit the gym on the way home from work, or visit the local library that we so dearly miss.

Although MOAA-HA has no events planned in the month of May except for the monthly MOAA HA board of directors meeting, we plan to resume our monthly MOAA HA chapter luncheons in June. So please mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27th. To reach more of our members across the Houston area, the June luncheon will take place at a venue located in the Pearland area. We have not made a final decision regarding which Pearland-area restaurant will host the June luncheon, but rest assured we will get the word out well before the luncheon date.

(Continued on p.3)

2020 Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings

Board Meetings are being held
online and by telephone
As Noticed by the President

All members are welcome.
Please let President Joe
Willoughby know if you
would like to participate.

MOAA Houston Area MEETING

June 27, 2020

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING WILL BE ON
JUNE 27, 2020, IN
PEARLAND. PLACE TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON.**

Future 2020 Monthly Meetings

**Military Ball
RESCHEDULED to 9/19**

Monthly Meetings
To Be Announced

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

**NO MEETINGS
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE**

**Phyllis Ottis,
713.774.2282**

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, April 30, 2020

Receipts \$ 330.00
Expenses \$ 437.47
Balance \$ 3,906.29*
*Award Fund Reserve \$ 1,967.71
Operating Balance \$ 1,944.58

*Frank Tricomi, 2020 Treasurer
COL USA Ret.*

MOAA-HA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS DISCONTINUED PUBLICATION OF A MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY TO SAVE EXPENSES

Chaplain's Message

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE WITH
YOU!**



When CAPT Kelly Magee was President of MOAA-HA, COL John W. Price was the Chaplain. This is a reprint of his Chaplain's Message in the May 2014 newsletter. We wish CAPT Magee a continued recovery.

In this month we observe Memorial Day on 25 May—really, all through that weekend with time off. We have taken that particular time to remember the ultimate sacrifices men and women made in military service of our Nation.

I consider the moving statement, "Greater love has no one than to lay down his life for his friends," but it

really covers more than dying. To have raised your hand, taken that oath, and done all that followed it, amounts to laying down your life. All us military officers did exactly that, as did the enlisted members.

But for someone to go beyond those steps and give up his or her life in our Nation's service is assuredly worth an official national holiday to remember them, particularly to God.

Memorial Day was established following the Civil War as a way to remember the men and women who died serving both North and South, Blue and Grey.

In all the relaxation, festivities, reunion with family and/or friends for a good time, do not fail to remember why we take that time off. Fly the flag, salute it in memory of those who fell, remember them, and give thanks for their sacrifice. If you have a family grave with one fallen in training, travel to a theater of operations, or especially in battle, visit it, salute, give thanks, and resolve to return to remember and honor again and again. If that grave is too far away, recall it in your mind's eye and remember the one(s) who fell.

*John W. Price, COL, USA
(Ret.), Chaplain 2014*

God bless you all!

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd from p. 1)

In closing, I wanted to remind our members that the month of May brings us a day of solemn remembrance, Memorial Day. A day when we thank our service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms and reflect on what our country, especially our great military, has accomplished. Let us also think about the families who are left behind by these brave service members. Many of us cannot begin to understand the burden families of our fallen soldiers carry, but we can join them in remembering the remarkable lives of their loved ones.

Regards,

Joseph C. Willoughby,
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
President, MOAA-HA

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Willoughby
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
MOAA-HA President

Endowment Fund & Houston Corps of Cadets

I know times are tough, they may get tougher. Most of us are in a retired position with a set income. Please try to take a small part of it and share with the University of Houston Corps of Cadets, as any amount will be appreciated.

Bill
William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret

What Is the Space Force?

On December 20, 2019, President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which established a sixth branch of the armed forces: The United States Space Force. This independent service is singularly focused on protecting our interests and security in space, and it combined with the standup of the United States Space Command in August of 2019. The Act re-designated the Air Force Space Command as the U. S. Space Force.



The United States Space Command was the newest of the eleven unified commands in the Department of Defense (DoD) and increased the ability of the Joint Force to project power and influence, reduced decision timelines for space operations, and brought focused attention to defending U.S. interests in space..

It is temporarily headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, with additional personnel and functions at Schriever AFB, Colorado, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and Vandenberg AFB, California. General John "Jay" Raymond, is the commander and Chief of Space Operations for the United States Space Force, serving as the senior commander of all space unified military forces.

As an Armed Force, the U.S. Space Force (www.spaceforce.mil) will organize, train, and equip space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. As a Combatant Command, it actively employs assigned forces from each of the military services to accomplish directed missions in the space domain.

The USSF offers 221 careers, including officer, enlisted, and specialty, for those between ages 18 and 39. They started taking applications on May 1. Here is information about a few of those careers (found at www.airforce.com/careers).

U.S. Air Force airmen who transfer into the U.S.

Space Force will continue to wear the Operational

Camouflage Pattern utility uniform, but with distinct blue thread and a colored U.S. flag on the left arm.



Weather Officer. Weather can be our greatest ally or strongest adversary. That's why accurate weather forecasting plays such an integral part in the success and safety of our missions. Air Force Weather Officers perform, manage and direct weather operations that have a direct effect on the activities of U.S. military forces. These duties primarily involve integrating current and forecasted atmospheric and space weather conditions into operations and planning. Weather Officers also develop, direct and coordinate meteorological weather studies and research.

Requirements:

Undergraduate academic specialization in meteorology, atmospheric science, or a related field with a successful completion of the Basic Meteorology Program. Atmospheric science degree programs must meet the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) basic instruction package for meteorologists. To qualify: Completion of a

current Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI); Completion of Officer Training School (OTS), Air Force Academy (AFA) or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC).

Maintenance Officer. The safety of our Airmen and the success of every mission all hinge on the integrity of our aircraft. It's up to Aircraft Maintenance Officers to ensure that everything is in perfect working order. More than just directing essential maintenance operations, they implement crucial aircraft inspections, deliver combat support, and perform airdrops all around the world. From technical systems to economic factors, they play a critical role in the U.S. Air Force's continued success.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree. Knowledge of capabilities, limitations, and basic operating principles of aircraft systems and components; Knowledge of theory of flight and airframe construction; Understanding of transportation, logistics, munitions, and other operations related to aircraft maintenance units; Completion of an AETC in-residence Aircraft Officer Course; Completion of Officer Training School (OTS), Air Force Academy (AFA) or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC).

Tactical Air Control Party Officer. Few things can change the course of battle like a properly executed air strike. As members of Air Force Special Warfare, Tactical Air Control Party specialists imbed with Army

and Marine units on the frontline with the incredible responsibility of calling in an air strike on the right target at just the right time. These highly trained experts go through intense physical, mental, and technical training in order to withstand the demanding conditions of battle and provide their team with the firepower they need for continued success on the battlefield.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree. Knowledge of maps and charts, command and control principles and procedures, survival techniques, field leadership and evasion. Completion of specialty training courses (JTAC); physical qualification to support parachute duty; maintain physical fitness and combat-ready status; completion of a current single scope background investigation (SSBI); completion of Officer Training School (OTS), Air Force Academy (AFA) or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFROTC). TACP Officers must follow a specific application and assessment process conducted four times a year.

Enlisted positions include vehicle management, weather, targeting analyst, tactical aircraft maintenance, structural, surgical service, space system operations, and special warfare forces careers.

Specialty positions include surgeon, urologist, nurse practitioner, and radiotherapist.

And so many more! Think about encouraging your children and grandchildren to consider a rewarding career in this newest field of our armed forces! As they say at their Website: **"Maybe your purpose on this planet isn't on this planet."**

In the first official launch for the US Space Force, a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on March 26, carrying a military communications satellite.



**Vietnam War Memorial
in Houston
Dedicated June 11, 2005**

Do you remember **COL Albert J. Nahas**, author *Warriors Remembered*, who gave us such a memorable presentation at our September 28, 2019 meeting? He spent several years traveling around the country to find and photograph war memorials and present it in a beautiful "coffee table" book. It may be that you would like to know a bit more about this memorial on Bellaire one mile west of the Sam Houston Tollway/TX 8.

One of three Vietnam War Memorials in Houston, this one was sculpted by **Pham Thong**, and the project was spearheaded by **Colonel Phung Nhu Truong** of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The space for it was donated, with perpetual maintenance, by State Representative **Hubert Vo**, owner of the shopping center at the site, 11360 Bellaire Blvd. The double life-size American and Vietnamese soldiers stand side by side in realistic detail. Celebrations are held at the Memorial every Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as well as on June 19, South Vietnamese Armed Forces Day, and April 30, Vietnamese Remembrance Day.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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 Rank

Branch Status MOAA Nat'l ID *

Spouse's First Name: Tel. For Directory

Home Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Dues: Regular Membership \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30

(Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each addn'l year *pd w/renewal*)

Surviving Spouse \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA

PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082

For more information, call COL Joe Willoughby, 713.569.6700

**If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:* YES No

Signature: _____



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Houston Military Affairs Committee
presents the
2020 Armed Forces Military Ball

Saturday, September 19

Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel (2900 Briar Park, 77042)

Contact President Joe Willoughby if you can attend and reserve your space at our table(s)
(details at www.houstonmilitaryaffairscommittee.com)

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:
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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.
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

Send completed form : Univ. of Houston; Advancement Svcs; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867

**We hope to see you at our next monthly membership meeting,
in Pearland on June 27, 2020.**