



HOUSTON AREA
PO BOX 1082
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIII No. 11

November 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, November 17, 2016 RUDI LECHNER'S RESTAURANT

President's Message

"Let the inspiration that brought you into the military keep you active in our MOAA Houston chapter!"

That ideal drew us together and produced a magnanimous show of force at the Retiree Appreciation Day on October 8th at Ellington JRB. Our MOAA booth was staffed by **Dr. Don Couch, Dan Gutierrez, Andy Parsons, Rollins Collins, Don Wallin and Eugene Vecera**. We displayed our colors (literally, as we had our chapter flag at our table, which was covered by our chapter banner) and we signed up new members at this outstanding opportunity to project our presence into the Houston Veteran community. **Well Done!**

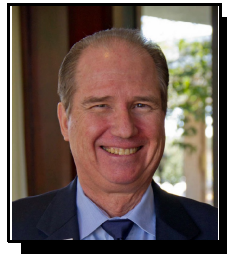
November 11 is Veterans Day and another great opportunity to serve by participating in the **City of Houston Parade**. **Dr. Couch**, our coordinator, he welcomes chapter members to join with him. I would also share that your president has been appointed to the VA Administration Center of Excellence in Innovation Community Engagement Committee. As one of six appointees to this board; I will be providing the medical personnel and researchers at the VA hospital and research center in Houston with insights from a Veteran's perspective. I welcome your input, as well, so that it can be shared with those who make the decisions that affect ourselves and our fellow Veterans.

Lastly, as the year draws to a close, I sincerely thank all who have done so much to make our chapter a success; especially **Jeanette Evans, Carol Ann Wilson, and Mac McConico**.

Let's continue to take the High Ground together in all our endeavors—and Hold It!

Respectfully,

LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues., Nov. 15
11:30**

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

No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

**IN NOVEMBER
WE MEET
JOINTLY WITH
MOWA**

**Thursday
November 17
Rudi Lechner's**

**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS NOW
FOR THE CHRISTMAS
PARTY DECEMBER 3**

We must give a head count to BraeBurn Country Club by mid-November.

Call:
Andy Parsons
713-531-3143
or
Don Couch
713-782-5876h
832-205-3009c-txt

**PREFERABLE:
EMAIL TO DON COUCH
couchdon@hotmail.com**

Christmas Fun and Festivities
at our
December 3 Gala
Christmas Party!

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings
11/17 (with MOWA)
12/3 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

**Annual Joint Meeting
with MOAA-HA**

**Thursday, Nov. 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. 11/14, 10 a.m.**

See you there!

MOAA-HA \$ Treasurer's Report Nov. 1, 2016

Beg Bal	\$5182.23
Receipts	\$ 655.00
Expenses	\$ 566.00.
Balance	\$5271.23

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

**Contact me to participate in
Veterans Day Parade!**



HEADS UP: DUES DUE 1/1

January 1 is the time to renew with your annual dues. Check the Membership Directory to see your "paid through" date. Each newsletter contains a form to renew (or join), to let us know of any changes in your information. Make checks payable to MOAA-HA and send to PO Box 1082, Houston TX 77251-1082.



Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!**

The month of Thanksgiving is at hand: it's November!

And what do we have to be thankful for? How about LIFE! How about GOOD HEALTH! How about your WIFE/HUSBAND! How about FAMILY! How about FRIENDS ! How about FOOD on the table, ROOF over your head, CLOTHES on your back, SHOES on your feet?(Simple things, right?)

How about your Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, and your Church Congregation!

How about your ACCOMPLISHMENTS!
How about your JOBS!

How about the FELLOWSHIP you have with our MOAA-HA members at monthly luncheons!

How about the FREEDOMS and LIBERTIES you still (?) have! How about GOOD things in your retirement! How about you being an AMERICAN, living in a Constitutional Republic with its Bill of RIGHTS! How about the PRIVILEGE and duty of voting for God-loving and God-fearing men and women in all levels of Government!

How about the many BLESSINGS God has given you! For Christians, How about His best gift of all, His only Son, Jesus Christ!

Yes, we are indeed blessed in our beloved USA! But, how often do we remain silent in meditation, and thank God for all the things He has provided? I'm guilty, I must confess. I do not do this enough. How about you, my Friends?

George Washington originally called for an official celebratory "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." While Congress overwhelmingly agreed to Washington's suggestion, the holiday did not yet become an annual event.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory at Gettysburg, announced that the nation would celebrate an official Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, 1863. The fourth Thursday of November remained the annual day of Thanksgiving from 1863 until 1939. Then,

at the tail-end of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hoping to boost the economy by providing shoppers and merchants a few extra days to conduct business between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, moved Thanksgiving to November's third Thursday. In 1941, however, Roosevelt bowed to Congress's insistence that the fourth Thursday of November be re-set permanently, without alteration, as the official Thanksgiving holiday.

Since then we have has set aside a day in America, the 4th Thursday of November every year, when we can give thanks to God Almighty, on America's THANKSGIVING DAY!

I pray that we all remember the TRUE meaning of this special Day: giving thanks to God!

A few of our members are either ill or still grieving loss of family ones: **Jeannette Evans, Val Henneberg, Mac McConico**, I ask you in God's name to pray for healing, quick recovery, comfort, and Peace. Please include Yours Truly, as I am still not up to complete par.

MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU & BLESS YOU!

God bless you all!

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



Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

The year is about up! Only two months left to make your tax-deductible donations to the University of Houston Corps of Cadets. Probably most of you have never been on the U of H campus, but this is our organization, and it deserves our support. Please do what you can.

Thanks.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.*



The Scuttlebutt is a free monthly veteran newspaper in the local Houston area. With a circulation of 15,000, it is being distributed at local VA facilities as well as in eight local counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Matagorda, Montgomery, Waller and Wharton.

Annual home subscription service is available for \$50.

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(832) 672-3950

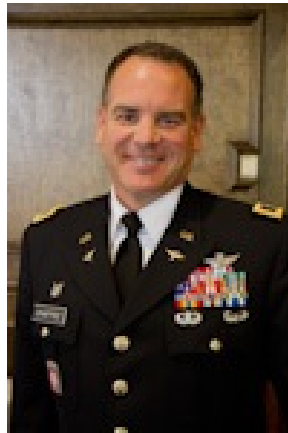
myscuttlebutt.com

*Everybody's service counts.
Everyone has a story.
Tell us yours.*

REPORT ON OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

We had another exceptional program October 29, as we enjoyed hearing is the Professor of Military Science of the University of Houston Army ROTC, **Colonel Neil Chaffee**. His presentation covered the activities of the unit and its future plans. Several of our members, including **Bill Taylor** and **Andy Parsons**, are long-time supports of the UH-ROTC; and as a chapter we fund a scholarship for both the UH Air Force and Army programs. What's more: COL Chaffee joined MOAA-Houston Area Chapter!

Thanks to this great speaker for all that he does and for his fantastic presentation!



COL Neil Chaffee, Speaker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4e_agQ9jwA

No, it's not a football game. It's an outstanding group of patriots who fly at air shows. They're like the Blue Angels, but *take no federal funding*. A nonprofit has been set up, pjtf.org.

Enjoy the 2014 Miramar Air show video at youtube!

NOVEMBER 12 USMC Birthday



Don Wallin presenting Certificate of Appreciation to COL Chaffee

Photos From Our Oct. 29 Meeting

Thanks once more to the ever-faithful Andy Parsons for more great photos!



Jim Markwell, Navy



Ed & Sissy Fitz, Air Force



Don Couch presents winnings to Pat Collins



Enlisted Sword



Officer Sword

The oldest weapons still in service in the United States Armed Forces belong to Marines. Today, the swords Marines carry represent the Marine Corps' rich heritage as America's original defenders.

Officers carry the Mameluke Sword, which was originally given to **Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon** in 1805 by a Mameluke chieftain in North Africa. Lt O'Bannon and his

A good time was had by all, and we look forward to meeting with MOWA in November and to our December 3 Christmas Party!

Marines marched across 600 miles of North African desert to rid the “shores of Tripoli” of pirates and rescue the kidnapped crew of the *USS Philadelphia*. By 1825, all Marine Officers carried the Mameluke sword in recognition of this historic battle—the Marine Corps' first on foreign soil.

Adopted in 1859, the NCO Sword is carried by Marine Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) and Staff Noncommissioned Officers (SNCOs). Used for ceremonial purposes, the M1859 NCO Sword was bestowed to NCOs and SNCOs by the 6th Commandant, Colonel John Harris, in recognition of their leadership in combat.

NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY

Happy Veterans Day to all!

Let **Don Couch** know if you can participate in the City of Houston Veterans Day Parade! We will have 2 cars, and there's room for you in one of them!

Friday, November 11, 2016



Houston Salutes American Heroes
Veterans Day Celebration

Mayor Sylvester Turner

9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
CITY HALL
AT&T VETERANS JOB & RESOURCE FAIR
Recruiting on-site by top companies
Resource information for Veterans.



US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN
VETERANS HEALTH FAIR
FREE health screenings on-site
Please see website for details.



FREE parking, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Theater District Parking Tranquility Garage,
entrances #2 & #5 only.
Produced by Mayor's Office of Special Events

10 A.M.
CEREMONY
City Hall, 901 Bagby
In recognition of our local heroes and in memory of the signing of the WWI Armistice ending at the 11th hour with a moment of silence.

11:30 A.M.
PARADE OF HEROES
Start: Dallas at Bagby,
Dallas east, Louisiana north,
Walker west, Smith south,
Lamar west, end on Bagby.

Sponsored by

















[WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/NOV11](http://www.houstontx.gov/nov11)
[#houstonsalutes](https://twitter.com/houstonsalutes)



HOUSTON SALUTES AMERICAN HEROES VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



For more details and a parade route map, go to <http://www.houstontx.gov/nov11/>

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

**NOTE: THE CURRENT AND ALL PAST NEWSLETTERS
OF MOAA-HA MAY BE FOUND AT OUR WEB SITE:**

WWW.MOAAHOUSTONAREA.COM

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



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