



**HOUSTON AREA**  
 PO BOX 1082  
 HOUSTON TX 77251-1082  
[www.moaahoustonarea.com](http://www.moaahoustonarea.com)

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LVI No. 11

November 2019

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, November 21, 2019 RUDI LECHNER'S RESTAURANT**

## President's Message

Well, there is finally some chill in the air, autumn leaves and pine needles are beginning to fall and so we will soon close out this chapter year. However, there is still important business to complete and duties to fulfill.



Daniel Gutierrez

First we need to elect a new board of directors for 2020 and adopt by law revisions as previously announced. You will find the slate of officers posted in this newsletter for your information. Sadly, we still have no candidate for the key position of **chapter secretary**. However, the good news is we do have a candidate for the **chapter treasurer. Frank Tricomi, Col, USA (Ret.)** who joined the chapter in August, has put his name forward for your consideration. An official ballot will be sent to all members very soon for those desiring to vote electronically. The election will be held on November 21 in concert with our joint meeting hosted by the ladies of the **Military Officers Wives Association (MOWA)**. Joining us again, as last year, will be the **Houston Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)**. We also have duties to fulfill within our community. There will be commemorative ceremonies at the **Houston National Cemetery** on November 11 ( the day the guns stood silent) to honor those who served and those lost in conflicts which have tragically marked the nation's history. On Thanksgiving Day we can all give thanks to their sacrifice. Other commemorative events will be a ceremony in front of **Houston City Hall** followed by a celebratory parade. Our Legislative and Veterans Groups Liaison, **Eugene Tulich, CDR, USCG (Ret.)** who also chairs the **Houston Military Affairs Committee (HMAC)**, will hold the MOAA flag during these events.

Last month, as promised, your chapter participated in **Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington JRB**. I, as your president and

*(Continued on p. 3)*

## 2019 Officers

### President

Daniel M. Gutierrez, MAJ USA (Ret.)  
 281.543.1257  
[danielgutierrez1751@gmail.com](mailto:danielgutierrez1751@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Joseph C. Willoughby, LtCOL USAF (Ret.) 713.569.6700  
[joe.willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:joe.willoughby@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

Eugene Vecera, LTC USA (Ret.)  
 713.516.3459

### Secretary (VACANT)

### Treasurer

Don L. Couch, LTC USA (Ret.)  
 832.205.2009 [couchdon@hotmail.com](mailto:couchdon@hotmail.com)

### Legislative & Military Affairs Liaison

Eugene Tulich CDR USCG (Ret.)  
 281.376.0061 [ene42@flash.net](mailto:ene42@flash.net)

### Chaplain Kerry Magee CAPT USN

(Ret.) 979.964.3236h 979.236.2415c  
[usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com](mailto:usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com)

### JROTC

Rollins J. Collins LTC USA (Ret.)  
 704. 213.2334  
[rollins.collins93@gmail.com](mailto:rollins.collins93@gmail.com)

### Editor Carol Ann Wilson

**Reservations**  
 281.642.4050 cell  
[carolwilson@earthlink.net](mailto:carolwilson@earthlink.net)



## MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings

Monday before meeting, 12 Noon

November 18, 2019

La Madeleine Restaurant  
10001 Westheimer 77042  
713.266.7686

All members are welcome.

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## MOAA Houston Area

### THURSDAY

November 21, 2019

11:30 Fellowship  
12 Noon Luncheon

Rudi Lechner's  
Gessner N. of Westheimer

With MOWA  
and MOWW

Order from  
Rudi's Menu

Reservations by Mon.  
11/18 to Carol Wilson,  
281.642.4050

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### 2019 Monthly Meetings

No meeting in December.

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**GRATEFUL  
THANKS TO**

**BRAEBURN  
COUNTRY  
CLUB**

**FOR GOOD FOOD,  
SERVICE, AND  
FELLOWSHIP  
IN 2019!**

## Military Officers Wives Association

# MOWA

**THURSDAY  
November 21  
Traditional  
Joint Meeting with  
MOAA-HA  
and  
Military Order of World  
Wars**

**Rudi Lechner's  
2503 S. Gessner Rd.  
713.782.1180**

**Order from Menu**

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### MOAA-HA

### \$ Treasurer's Report, November 1, 2019

Receipts	\$ 575.00
Expenses	\$ 874.85
Balance	\$3,198.31*

\*Award Fund Reserve \$ 2,192.78

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

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Dr. Milinda M. Morris**  
Maj USAF (former)  
Spouse: Carl  
8010 Braesview Ln  
Houston TX 77071  
milindammd@gmail.com



Happy Thanksgiving!

## Chaplain's Message

**SHALOM!  
PEACE BE  
WITH YOU!**



Kerry Magee  
CAPT USN (Ret.)

Do we read  
The Holy Bible every day? It is the Word of God and contains God's Commands and the Plan of Salvation. We learn about the Power of God in the Old Testament, and about the Love of God in the New Testament. More copies of the Bible have been sold or given away than any other book in history. It has been translated into more than 1,200 languages. To many people, it is the most important book in the world!

**John Adams** said, "The Bible is the best Book in the World." **Abraham Lincoln** said, "The Bible is the best gift God has given to men . . . [b]ut for it, we could not know right from wrong."

**Noah Webster** said, "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from, vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war proceed from them despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." And from **Harry Truman**: "The fundamental basis of this Nation's law was given to Moses on the Mount. The Fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days." And **Ronald Reagan** said, "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinct Nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

Read the Bible! It is good for the Soul!

May I express my humble thanks for all your kind, generous, and loving Prayers for me during my present health issues! Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

Humbly submitted by

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*(Cont'd from p. 1)*

**Vice President Joe Willoughby, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)** “were present and accounted for” at the MOAA HA booth. We had occasion to inform, cajole, explain, engage, and harass anyone who cared to listen to virtuous qualities of being a member of the chapter. We did manage to enroll on new member on the spot. Our new member is **Dr. Milinda Morris, MD, Major, USAF (former)**, and we hope to be introducing her to the membership at one of our upcoming monthly meetings.

“And now,” (some of you may remember the epic documentary called **Victory At Sea**; they always began each episode with those words) we come to the part in this column when I ask each of you to take a moment to pause and pay your own solemn tribute to the men and women of **Belleau Wood, Chateau Thierry**, and the **Meuse Argonne** that marked the bloody year of

1917-1918 when America entered “the Great War.” In that one year 125,000 Americans died on battlefields of France. Can you imagine that? Thankfully, it is now very difficult for us to contemplate that kind of sacrifice. But my fellow Americans, it happened, it happened. November 11, 1918, it was finally “over, over there” (as **George M. Cohan** wrote) and “**Armistice Day**” was born. We now honor their glory by calling it **Veterans Day**.

Fellow members, until we meet again, remember, “**Never stop serving.**” God bless.

Respectfully,  
**Daniel M. Gutierrez**  
**MAJ USA (Ret.), President**

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## OCTOBER 26 MEETING SPEAKER



CDR Gene Tulich

We were again fortunate to have as our October 26 speaker our own member **CDR Eugene Tulich, USCG (Ret.)**, who chairs the Houston Military Affairs Committee ([www.houstonmilitaryaffairscommittee.com](http://www.houstonmilitaryaffairscommittee.com)). He is a fountain of knowledge about all things military not only in the Houston area but of things going on in Washington and the world.



Our main concern is Ellington Joint Reserve Base, which in 2003 was

involved in “BRAC,” the Base Realignment Closings. The City of Houston wanted it to be shut down, and CDR Tulich and two others mounted the opposition. Ellington JRB had begun as the 147th Fighter Wing, with F16s in an Alert Unit,

and they had escorted Air Force 1 on 9/11/01. The 147th is a part of the Texas National Guard. “The Air Force had said it could get rid of the base and the aircraft,” said CDR Tulich, but “We said ‘NO!’” Ellington in fact was kept open, and it was due in large part to the help of Rep. **Tom Delay**. They put in the Predators and stopped the shutdown of Ellington, but we lost the Fighter Wing. “Corpus Christi is a training base, not an alert base,” said Tulich, “and we had to protect the Ship Channel with its wall-to-wall refineries.” He added, “So it became Ellington Joint Reserve Base, and now we are on a DOD PowerPoint.” Senator **Kay Bailey Hutchison** also helped with getting needed funds to continue. The 75th was going to be moved to San Antonio, but since the Joint Reserve Base was established, it saved that as well.

Ellington had started with 1500, and now it has 6000 Reserve and Guard personnel, but it is still a de facto and not a de jure base. It is, as CDR Tulich described it, a “Coalition of the Willing.” Reapers are flown from Ellington over Iraq and Afghanistan, and they have “search and avoid” capability, while the Predators must be accompanied. The Base now has a new state-of-the-art tower. The prior one, said CDR Tulich, “had been held up with sticks since Ike.” (We think he meant the hurricane and not the President.)

The 75th has had many names, but now it is the “75th Innovation Command.” It’s a reserve component for the Army Futures Command, and efforts are underway to make Ellington a “Smart Base.”

Ellington is one of the few places with all five services aboard. The Army National Guard has the latest Apache Longbows and needs more hangars. Ellington is pushing for part of the Space Research Component of the Space Port.

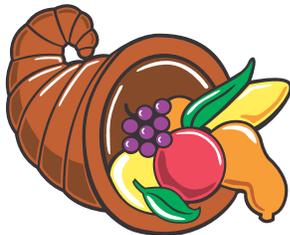
Recent efforts have been made to move AFRICOM (U.S. Africa Command) to Ellington from Stuttgart, Germany, because of our oil and gas business with the largest petrochemical port in the USA, the largest medical center in the world, and we have light attack aircraft at Ellington, which are used in Africa.



MQ9 Reaper

CDR Tulich's speech was so interesting and informative, and we don't room to report everything here, but we are truly sorry for those who missed it. He reminded us that the Military Ball will be May 16 at the Marriott Westchase Hotel, with this year's spotlight on the Navy, and Rep. **Dan Crenshaw** has been invited.

Thank you, CDR Tulich!



## SLATE OF OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 2019

Ballots have been sent by email, so that our members can vote even if they are unable to attend the meeting on November 21 at Rudi Lechner's. The nominees for elected office are:

### **President:**

Joe Willoughby, LtCol USAF (Ret.)

### **Vice President:**

Rob Ritchie, COL USA (Ret.)

### **Treasurer:**

Frank Tricomi, COL USA (Ret.)

### **Bios of Nominees**



JOSEPH C.  
WILLOUGHBY,  
LtCol USAF (Ret.)  
Candidate for  
President

Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984 and served as a forward observer in the 82nd Airborne Division for four years, followed by subsequent assignments to the Defense Language Institute and Fort Huachuca, AZ, for Russian language and intelligence training. Joe earned his USAF commission in 1993 through Officer Training School after completing his bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in Russian from the University of Texas at Austin. Trained as an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch officer at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, he was assigned to the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana.

After completing his master's degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in 1999, Joe served as a systems analyst with the AWACS E-3 Sentry Program Office at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts, where he was responsible for developing the cost estimates for multiple airborne early warning and control platforms.

In 2001 as a Captain, Joe deployed to the Republic of Georgia to serve as a United Nations observer in the Georgian - Abkhazian conflict. Joe was subsequently assigned as the deputy comptroller to the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia, responsible for providing direct financial guidance to the Ministry of Defense and Aviation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Joe went on to serve two consecutive tours in the Defense Attaché System, serving as the Air Attaché to Uzbekistan and the Assistant Air Attaché to Russia. After leaving the US Embassy in Moscow, Joe served as an air advisor and the J8 for the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing/Combined Air Power Transition Force, the USAF's unit responsible for training, assisting, and mentoring the Afghan Air Force. Joe's final assignment was at the Pentagon, where he served on the Russia Desk under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine/-Eurasia at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Joe retired from active duty in October 2012. After retiring from the Air Force, Joe returned to school to study cathodic protection and to work in the pipeline business. Joe is now pipeline inspector with the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (DOT PHMSA).

*(cont'd next page)*



ROBIN P. RITCHIE, COL, USA (Ret.)

Candidate for Vice President

Rob is the co-founder and Managing Partner with Prohealth Resources, LTD, a healthcare consulting and recruiting firm. Rob has over twenty-five years of information technology and healthcare experience in sales, operations, project management, business development, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate finance. Rob has served as General Manager for Data Foundry, one of the original 50 ISPs' in North America; President and CEO of Strategic Communication Networks; President and COO of e-DOCs.net, a medical transcription and voice recognition company and Vice President of Sales and Operations for Community Health Computing (Cerner Corporation).

Rob also is a retired Colonel with twenty-seven years' service in both the active and reserve components of the U.S. Army where he held worldwide command and staff positions including combat command and advisory tours of duty as well as intelligence and university level teaching assignments.

He received his undergraduate degree from The Virginia Military Institute and his MA degree from Texas Christian University. Additionally, Rob has extensive experience in the 501c-3 sector. Rob is a past Board President of Fort Bend County Habitat for

Humanity. As well as former Vice Chairman of the Board of Habitat for Humanity, Texas. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors of Impact a Hero.



FRANK A. TRICOMI, COL, USA (Ret.)

Candidate for Treasurer

COL Tricomi retired in 1995 after having served more than 27 years. After receiving a regular Army commission, served in Viet Nam as an infantry platoon leader with the 4th Infantry Division and subsequently commanded troops at the company and battalion levels including command of the Army's only Watercraft Battalion. Subsequently, commanding the Defense Contract Management Area, headquartered in St. Louis and served as the Executive Director of the Acquisition Center of the Army's Aviation and Troop Command. Had two assignments to the Pentagon; the first in the Strategic Mobility Division for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics; the second, as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) and as the Deputy for Combat and Support Systems in that office.

Immediately after retirement from the military, started a career in industry as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Procurement Institute, a non-profit corporation which assisted Wisconsin companies to capture government business. Subsequently, served as the Director of Program Management for Engineered Support Systems Inc. (ESSI), a publically-held Defense manufacturing company. After which, assigned to create, launch and was President of ESSIBuy.com, Inc., another ESSI subsidiary. ESSIBuy delivered life cycle support solutions for ESSI manufactured products. For the last 13 years, acted as the Chief Operating Officer for Conley &

Associates, Inc., which provides worldwide technical and maintenance support for Communication, Navigation and Electronic systems aboard Military Watercraft and operates a shipyard in New Orleans providing hull, mechanical and electrical maintenance and repairs on tug and workboats as well as compliance consulting on USCG rules and regulations.

Served as a member of and as President for the Board of Directors for the St. Louis Lighthouse for the Blind Industries and was the Executive Director of St. Louis Federal Executive Board Small Disadvantage Business Opportunity Council. Was an Adjunct Professor in the Lindenwood University School of Business MBA Program and advised in the St. Louis University's Entrepreneurship Program.

Received a BA in Political Science from John Carroll University, an MS in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology and an MA in National Security Planning and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. Attended executive development courses at Harvard University and is a graduate of the Defense Acquisition University's Program Management School, the Army Command and Staff College and the Navy War College.

Selected as a Distinguished Member of the Transportation Corps Regiment and was awarded the St. Louis Federal Executive Board Leadership Award and chosen as a 1994 St. Louis Federal Executive of the Year. His military decorations include the

Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

***Nominations for Secretary may be made either by entering on the ballot or from the floor at the meeting on November 21 at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant.***

Thanks to COL Andy Parsons, USA (Ret.) for serving as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

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**We appreciate the efforts of all who have attended our meetings throughout the year. We NEED to see you and we NEED you to help so that we may continue.**

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

Holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far away. We have roughly two months to look in your account and come up with a token to provide for the Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. Please give what you think is appropriate. Remember it is tax deductible. The form is in this newsletter. Thanks to Carol for her help.

Thanks again,

***William Taylor***  
*Cpt., USA (Ret.)*

## **PHOTOS FROM OCTOBER 26**

Many thanks to COL Andy Parsons, our ace photog!



CDR Tulich receives certificate from President Dan Gutierrez



Carol Wilson presents winnings to Judith Thomas, who donated it back to the ROTC fund



Phyllis Ottis



Joan Tulich, CDR, USCG (Ret.), and Gene Tulich, CDR, USCG (Ret.)



Kevin M. Abreu, Capt, USAF (Ret.)



Stancie Chamberlain

**VETERANS DAY: Our Best to all Veterans and we wish success for all Veterans Day activities.**

**President Dan Gutierrez, MAJ, USA (Ret.), will be attending the festivities at City Hall as our chapter representative.**

**Houston's many activities—many of which will be fun for kids and grandkids—may be found at**

**<https://houston.kidsoutandabout.com/content/veterans-day-activities-and-events-and-around-houston>**

**Reminder:** **Thursday, November 21, 2019\***

**Rudi Lechner's Restaurant**

2503 S. Gessner (just north of Westheimer)

**MOAA-HA ANNUAL MEETING**

**AND**

**TRADITIONAL MEETING WITH**

**MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION (MOWA)**

**AND THIS YEAR ALSO IN CONJUNCTION WITH**

**MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS (MOWW)**

**We will elect officers for MOAA-HA for 2020**

**and**

**Vote on Bylaw Amendments**

*\*There will be no meeting on the last Saturday of November.*

**Now and Always  
We'll be There.**



**1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com)**

# 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 MAJ Dan Gutierrez, 281.543.1257

*\*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: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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