



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

Newsletter to Members

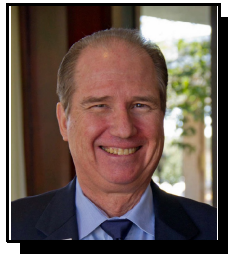
Vol. LII No. 10

October 2015

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB**

## President's Message

“Homecoming” is a theme that resonates with us all. Whether we returned from defending our country to a Hero’s welcome, such as from WWII and Desert Storm, or returned from the valley of the shadow after the Vietnam War to a nation where supporting the Troops was at an all time low—we are grateful to be Home! Now begins the opportunity to give back to our Republic as Civilian servants. It was truly a teachable moment for us all when recently a USAF Airman and a US Army National Guard Soldier overcame a terrorist on a French train and potentially saved many lives. Their “spider sense,” learned from their excellent military training, coupled to their elan as American warfighters, gave them the ability to do the deed.



Eugene A. Vecera,  
LTC USA

In our own way, as members of our Houston MOAA, we are doing the same when we support the many worthy activities in our area. **Next week** will be our Houston “Stand Down” for homeless Vets, followed shortly thereafter by the Ellington Retiree Appreciation Day, then our USAA + MOAA Salute to Veterans, and finally followed by Veterans Day and our participation in the City of Houston parade. I am Very Grateful to be a part of our amazing organization, and look forward to our continued service together in many future actions.

Respectfully,  
*LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President*

## SPECIAL UPCOMING DATES:

**October 10: Retiree Day at Ellington Field**

**November 10: USAA Luncheon Honoring Veterans**

**November 11: City of Houston Veterans Day Parade**

## Officers

### President

Eugene A. Vecera, LTC USA  
 713.516.3459 evecera@hotmail.com

### 1st Vice President Program (Open)

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## MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues.**  
**Oct. 27, 11:30**  
**Rudi Lechner's**  
**2503 S. Gessner**

**Future Meetings**  
11/16 No mtg in Dec unless called

All members are welcome.

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## MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

**Saturday**  
**October 31**  
**11:30 fellowship**  
**12 Noon Luncheon**  
**BraeBurn Country Club**  
8101 Bissonnet St  
(near S. Gessner)  
Houston TX 77074  
(713) 774-2586

### MENU

House Salad  
Trout Almondine  
or  
Chicken Marsala  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Starch  
Rolls & Butter  
Key Lime Pie  
Coffee and Tea

\$30

**Reservations to**  
Jeannette Evans,  
281.467.6775 or  
495.2202, by  
Wed. Oct. 28

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### 2015 MOAA-HA Meetings

11/19 (with MOWA)  
12/12 Christmas Party

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### Military Officers Wives Association

## MOWA

**Thursday, Oct. 15**  
**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.**  
**10 a.m.**

**See you there!**

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### MOAA-HA

## \$ Treasurer's Report Oct. 1, 2015

Receipts	\$	642.
Expenses	\$	440.
Balance	\$	7,941.22

The DJ for our Christmas Party has been paid. Plan now to attend!

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

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### Don Couch on TV

Don Couch was featured in a Channel 26 TV story recently. You may find it at [www.fox26houston.com/news/23399331-story](http://www.fox26houston.com/news/23399331-story).

## Speaker for 10/31

### Lt. Col Neil Chaffee

Professor of Military Science of the University of Houston Army ROTC, **Lt. Col. Neil Chaffee** grew up in Houston. He attended Texas A&M and was commissioned in Aviation in 1994. After completing flight training in 1995, he served on sensitive reconnaissance operation with both manned and unmanned aircraft. He has served in SW Asia, the Balkans, South America, and Europe. He is a Master Army Aviator and has more than 4,000 flight hours in rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. His last command was with an aerial exploitation battalion. He also holds an airline transport pilot rating from the FAA. Lt. Col. Chaffee assumed command of the UH-AROTC on January 2015.

Come on out to our October 31 meeting and hear this excellent presentation!

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### Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,  
CAPT USNR-  
Ret.

**SHALOM!**  
**PEACE BE**  
**WITH YOU!**

My friends, this column will be rather short this month, as I am still fighting digestive system problems and continuous low energy. Please keep me in your prayers. Thanks!

Also, please keep **Mrs. Bobbye Parsons** in your prayers as she suffers from health issues, plus anyone else

you know of in our Chapter who may be ailing or grieving that I am not aware of.

I do ask that, during the month of October, you perform at least one random act of kindness for someone. I trust your spirits will soar as a result.

I know that my Catholic friends were deeply blessed by Pope Francis's visit to our land. It was heartwarming to hear him ask God to bless the United States of America upon his arrival. As the Vicar of Christ, he surely is a Godly man, and his visit was a blessing to our people and many around the world.

***GOD BE WITH YOU AND BLESS YOU ALL!***

Humbly submitted by

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

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

We are fast approaching the holiday season. Now is the time to set aside a little bit to contribute to the Corps of Cadets at the University of Houston. As you know this is a tax deductible gift. The form is in this Newsletter. I know those of us who are in retirement like to help others coming us and now would be a wonderful opportunity to do so. Doesn't have to be much, but everything counts.

*William Taylor  
Cpt. USA Ret.*

## **USAA Luncheon November 10 The Palm on Westheimer**

Plans are coming together for this fantastic event! **Make your reservations with our Treasurer, Don Couch**, 832.205.2009 (tel.) or email to couchdon@hotmail.com.

***SEATING LIMITED TO 50!***

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## **Military Order of World Wars**

Meets the 4th Thursday for Luncheons at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant, 2503 S. Gessner. Our members are invited to attend.

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## **WINGS OVER HOUSTON**

The annual "Wings Over Houston" will be held October 17-18, 2015, and the U. S. Air Force Thunderbirds are back!! Gates open at 8 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, and no one will be admitted for the air show after 3 p.m. Gates close at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Ticket information may be found at [www.wingsoverhouston.com/index.php/tickets/ticket-information](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com/index.php/tickets/ticket-information).

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## **Scholarship Winners**

Each year the MOAA presents scholarships and interest-free student loans to deserving students of military families. We congratulate these outstanding individuals and wish them the Best of All Good Fortune in their future endeavors! Winners in our Houston area include:

Rylee Edge of Huffman  
Matthew Power of Kingwood  
Jenna Niehl of Tomball  
Matthew Hill of the Woodlands  
Brennan Channell of Richmond  
Ashley Fisher of Katy  
Quadesia Harkness of Pearland  
Jack Mullen of Seabrook

## ***Congratulations to All!***

Thanks to Capt. Vecera for this report. -Ed.

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## **Photos From Our 9/26 Meeting**

Thanks to the **Don Couch** and **Myrna Vecera** for these great photos!



Myrna Vecera and  
Phyllis Ottis



MOAA Natl members  
Rollins & Pat Collins  
visited again. We hope  
they join our chapter!



Joe Decker, USA Ret.,  
Dir., UH Dept. For  
Veteran Bus. Devel.



Winner Janice Taylor  
with Dr..Don Couch



LtCol Wayne Ritter, USAF Ret., giving his history from the AF



Pres. Vecera presenting certificate to our excellent speaker, CPT Mike LaDouceur, who fascinated us with his talk on Veterans Affairs

## VET BENEFIT

Texas drivers' licenses may be furnished free of charge to Veterans who have service-connected disabilities rated 60%, or more, by the VA. Application must be made prior to the time the present driver's license expires. Application forms may be obtained from Department of Public Safety's license examining offices located throughout the state. Proof of the Veteran's disability rating must accompany the application.

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### **The Human Body: A MIRACLE!** **(Cont'd from September 2015 newsletter)**

1. During your lifetime, you will produce enough saliva to fill two swimming pools.
2. The human body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels.
3. The tooth is the only part of the human body that can't repair itself.
4. The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as an encyclopedia. Your brain uses 20% of the oxygen that enters your bloodstream and is itself made up of 80% water. Though it interprets pain signals from the rest of the body, the brain itself cannot feel pain. The brain operates on the same amount of power as 10-watt light bulb, even while you are sleeping. In fact, the brain is much more active at night than during the day.
5. The life span of a human hair is 3 to 7 years on average. Every day the average person loses 60-100 strands of hair. But don't worry, you must lose more than 50% of your scalp hairs before it is apparent to anyone.
6. By 60 years of age, 60% of men and 40% of women will snore.
7. Facial hair grows faster than any other hair on the body. This is true for men as well as women.
8. It takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown.
9. The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet in the air.
10. The most common blood type in the world is Type O. The rarest blood type, A-H or Bombay blood, due to the location of its discovery, has been found in less than a hundred people since it was discovered
11. Humans can make do longer without food than sleep. Provided there is water, the average human could survive one to two months without food, depending on their body fat and other factors. Sleep-deprived people, however, start experiencing radical personality and psychological changes after only a few sleepless days. The longest recorded time anyone has ever gone without sleep is 11 days, at the end of which the experimenter was awake, but stumbled over words, hallucinated, and frequently forgot what he was doing.

## "America, Why I Love Her"

As recorded by JOHN WAYNE; words by John Mitchum

"You ask me why I love her? Well, give me time, and I'll explain . . .

Have you seen a Kansas sunset or an Arizona rain?

Have you drifted on a bayou down Louisiana way?

Have you watched the cold fog drifting over San Francisco Bay?

Have you heard a Bobwhite calling in the Carolina pines?

Or heard the bellow of a diesel in the Appalachia mines?

Does the call of Niagara thrill you when you hear her waters roar?

Do you look with awe and wonder at a Massachusetts shore . . .

Where men who braved a hard new world, first stepped on Plymouth Rock?

And do you think of them when you stroll along a New York City dock ?

Have you seen a snowflake drifting in the Rockies—way up high?

Have you seen the sun come blazing down from a bright Nevada sky?

Do you hail to the Columbia as she rushes to the sea . . .

Or bow your head at Gettysburg . . . in our struggle to be free?



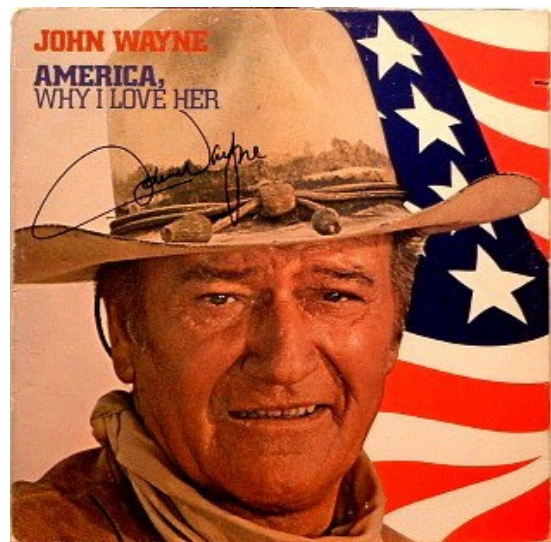
Have you seen the mighty Tetons?  
Have you watched an eagle soar?  
Have you seen the Mississippi roll along Missouri's shore?

Have you felt a chill at Michigan, when on a winter's day,  
Her waters rage along the shore in a thunderous display?

Does the word "Aloha" make you warm?  
Do you stare in disbelief When you see the surf come roaring in at Waimea reef?

From Alaska's gold to the Everglades . . .  
from the Rio Grande to Maine . . .  
My heart cries out . . . my pulse runs fast at the might of her domain.

You ask me why I love her?  
I've a million reasons why.  
My beautiful America... beneath God's wide, wide sky.



Now available for the first time on iTunes is *America Why I Love Her*, the spoken word patriotic album by John Wayne. First released in 1973, it sold over 100,000 copies in the first two weeks and was nominated for a Grammy Award.

ON THE ROAD TO RETIREMENT,  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO

# HAVE GOOD DIRECTIONS.

**Your goals. Our guidance.**

The end of the year is a good time to take a look at where your investments are heading. We can help you keep them on track and moving forward. Consider an IRA from USAA to help plan for what's ahead. Call us for guidance on building a strategy for your needs.



**GET STARTED TODAY.**

**800-IRA-USAA | [usaa.com/Investments](http://usaa.com/Investments)**



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**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

## Couponing

Who doesn't like to save money? TLC has a popular show called *Extreme Couponing*. It focuses on average families who have found the financial benefits from coupons. For those of you who do not have time to become an extreme couponer, here are some useful money-saving ideas for the rest of the year.

**October** – The holidays are swiftly approaching and there will be sales on baking products such as canned pumpkin, pie crusts, baking chips, chocolates and other baking supplies. This is also the month when wines, pasta products, and frozen pizzas go on sale. Also great bargains in the pet food aisles. *Clearance items:* The stores will be trying to get rid of the last of their summer items. Fans, air conditioners, camping equipment, and outdoor furniture will be deeply discounted.

**November** – This is the month of Black Friday! But before that can happen, we must have Thanksgiving. There will be plenty of bargains on turkeys, stuffing, soups, canned yams, and vegetables, canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce, marshmallows, gravy mixes, pie crusts, flour, sugar, baking soda and powder, cake mixes, frosting, evaporated/condensed milk, chocolate chips, broths, Jell-O and pudding, hot cocoa, coffee, and tea.

*(Cont'd on back page)*

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### 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 Capt Matt Mancuso 703.200.3030



(Cont'd from page 7)

*November Clearance items:* This will be a great time to purchase the expensive Halloween-themed decorations and costumes. Unlike most other holidays, the stores are trying to get their Christmas-themed inventory on the shelves, so they are quick to discount Halloween-themed items as much as 90% to make room. (Hint: Why not take this opportunity to purchase a bunch of costumes and donate them to a Children's Hospital? You can probably purchase 30 costumes for as little as \$50.)

**December** – Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to go broke during this season. Lots of eggnog deals this month. And sales on instant potatoes, gravy mixes, champagne, disposable containers, foil and cling wrap, and party platters. *Clearance items:* Fall merchandise, frozen turkeys, festive doormats, and outdoor decorations are all available at slashed prices.

Find more at [www.wisebread.com](http://www.wisebread.com).

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area  
PO Box 1082  
Houston TX 77251-1082