



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

Newsletter to Members

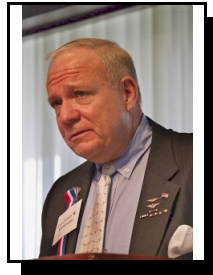
Vol. L No. 9

September 2013

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, September 28, 2013 THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

President's Message

A chapter's success is measured in its impact upon the community where it resides and by the effectiveness by which it brings to bear its voice to be heard in the issues and events it participates in. It must wisely choose its participation, not over extending itself to remain effective and efficient. This we must come to grab hold of and take action to move forward on. We must decide what our *true mission and purpose is, what if any impact we desire to leave as a legacy for the future membership*, if any. What resources do we possess to move forward our chapter, and do we possess the fortitude—the strength, stamina, determination, and resilience to accomplish it. Our chapter's success is *to be measured in its impact upon the community where it resides and by the effectiveness by which it brings to bear its voice to be heard in the issues and events that impact our local veteran, retiree and military community as well as state and national.*



We must now search deep inside of ourselves and ask the questions: Am I prepared to make the necessary sacrifice and change in perspective as to the chapter's mission and purpose; am I prepared to meet the needs of our veterans community, their families and those who have served in the recent conflicts and now are suffering from the wounds of war, as well as their families? Am I prepared to make a positive change and stand up and be counted as one who is courageous and intrepid, or am I only willing to remain in a state of status quo and slowly fade away, as will the chapter itself? An organization's life is perpetuated through its action and legacy it leaves behind—its inheritance by the future membership. In five years will we celebrate our 55th Anniversary?

(Message cont'd on page 4)

See you at the 9/28 Luncheon at The Junior League!

**James W. "Pappy" Mehrmann, President
Captain, USNR, Ret.**

Officers

President

James W. Mehrmann, CAPT USN Ret
281.935.1559 captjimmehrmann@yahoo.com

1st Vice President Program

Kerry Magee CAPT USN Ret
979.964.3236 h or 979.236.2415 cell
usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com

2nd Vice President Arrangements

Jeannette Evans, Aux 281.495.2202

3rd Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Val G. Henneberg MAJ USA Ret.
713.729.8217 valhenneberg@aol.com

Treasurer

Martin J. Harris Maj USMC Ret.
713.436.0429 martymc2@aol.com

Legislative Representative

ROTC Scholarship
William Taylor Cpt. USA Ret.
281.482.7315 waterbury3@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Legislative Representative

George McDowell Col USAF Ret.
713.723.5166

Liaison

Eugene Tulich CDR USCG
281.376.0061 gene42@flash.net

ROTC

Wilbur E. "Mac" McConico
LTC USA Ret 713.436.5912
wemconico@gmail.com

Chaplain

Kerry Magee (see 1st VP)

Editor

Carol Ann Wilson
8902 Sunnywood Drive
Houston TX 77088-3729
281.847.9754; 281.642.4050 cell
carolwilson@earthlink.net

**MOAA Houston Area
Board Meeting**

Tues. Sept. 24 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meetings
10/22 11/19?
All members are welcome.

**MOAA
Houston Area
Monthly Meeting
and Luncheon**

Saturday Sept. 28

11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
**JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF HOUSTON**
1811 Briar Oaks Ln
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191
www.juniorleaguehouston.org

Mixed Green Salad

Grilled Pork Tenderloin with
Shrimp & Roasted Green
Chile Cheese Grits and
Haricots Ver

OR

Mediterranean Grilled
Salmon with Garlic and
Olive Wild Rice and
Asparagus

Assorted Breads
Coffee or Tea
Pecan Ball
\$30

*Reservations to Jeannette
Evans, 281.495.2202, by
Wed. 9/25*

Remaining
2013 MOAA-HA Meetings
10/26 11/14 (MOWA)
Christmas Dance 12/7

**Military Officers
Wives Association**

MOWA

Thursday Sept. 19

11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
**JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF HOUSTON**
1811 Briar Oaks Ln
Houston TX 77027
713-622-4191
www.juniorleaguehouston.org

Mixed Green Salad

Chicken Spinach Crepes with
Mushrooms, Buttered
Asparagus, Broiled Tomatoes

OR

Mediterranean Grilled Salmon with
Garlic and Olive
Wild Rice and Asparagus

Assorted Breads
Coffee or Tea
Banana Pudding

\$28

*Reservations to Jeannette Evans,
281.495.2202, by Mon. 9/16*

MOAA-HA

**\$ Treasurer's Report
September 1, 2013**

Receipts	\$ 915.
Expenses	\$1,003.
Balance	\$4,270.29

*Martin J. Harris, Treas.
Maj USMC Ret.*

Can you help us out by
paying your 2014 dues early?
The form is at the back of
this (and every) newsletter.

The membership thanks you
for helping our finances.

**Speakers for
Sept. 28
Donna Passmore and
Jan Smulcer**
Founders/Co-Directors
Values Through History



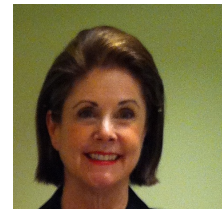
Donna Passmore

Both directors
have diverse
backgrounds,
giving them
the ability to
create the
Why

**America Is
Free**

Curriculum that would
normally require a large staff.
Donna Passmore's back-
ground is in litigation and
constitutional law, education,
history, dramatics, research,
script writing, negotiation,
and multimedia production.

**Jan
Smulcer's**
background
includes
business, fine
arts,



Jan Smulcer

advertising,
marketing, research, script
writing, graphic design, and
multimedia production.

Working as a team, they have
accomplished the following:

- Researched, written,
designed and developed all of
the curriculum materials;
- Designed, written, and
produced all of the cases,
CDs, DVDs and maps;
- Designed, written, and
produced all brochures and
marketing materials;
- Developed, designed, and
written the VTH website,
www.valuesthroughhistory.org,
that includes the curriculum,
resources, historic travel, and
calendar of events;
- Presented at state
educational conferences; state

departments of education, major historic sites; and state and national education legislators,

- Provided workshops for educators;
- Directed all aspects of board-leg nonprofits;
- Established a network of volunteers, museums, historic sites, and advisory boards across the United States;
- Implemented the Curriculum successfully into more than 100 schools in 10 states.

Before starting VTH, they worked together in their community, where they were instrumental in successful election campaigns and community improvements, including working as part of an eight-member group to raise \$128 million through bond issues for Fort Bend ISD facility upgrades. As docents with Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens in Houston, they have worked in historic education with elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers from both public and private schools. As parents of students and volunteers in both public and private schools, they have a keen understanding of how to reach decision-makers in schools.

Come on out to The Junior League and for this interesting program!

Help us out by paying your 2014 dues NOW!

New Members

Welcome to the following new chapter and auxiliary members:

LTC Robert T. HAAS, USA
 10042 Lost Hollow Lane
 Missouri City TX 77459
 (281) 778-5985 Spouse **Marguerite**

CAPT Karl A. KOWALSKI, USN
 13403 Finch Brook Dr.
 Cypress TX 77425
 (281) 370-0857 Spouse **Daphne**

LCDR Glen E. MACDONALD USN
 8006 Democracy Ct.
 Spring TX 77379
 (281) 379-3251 Spouse **Madonna**

LCDR Edwin R. SELLARDS, USN
 22 Misted Lilac Pl.
 The Woodlands TX 77381-6425
 (936) 321-6955 Spouse **Maritza**

LTC Barney F. SLAYTON, USA
 22022 Avonglen Ln.
 Spring TX 77389-4841
 (502) 633-2752 Spouse **Marie**

LTC Eugene A. VECERA, USA
 5434 Ariel
 Houston TX 77096
 (713) 516-3459 Spouse **Myrna**

AUX Kathy LEGROS
 4141 S. Braeswood Apt 216
 Houston TX 77025
 (713) 516-6697

AUX Susan M. SILVEY
 13810 Holly Lynn Ln
 Houston TX 77077
 (281) 531-4119

Preamble to the Texas Constitution

Texas 1845, Preamble: "We the People of the Republic of Texas, acknowledging, with gratitude, the grace and beneficence of God"

From Our Chaplain



CAPT Kerry Magee

SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH YOU!

This month marks the 12th Anniversary of the worse Terrorist attack on our Country, 9-11-01! More than 3000 of our citizens and military personnel were killed by Muslim jihad thugs who wanted to kill as many Americans as they could. More than 400 NYC Firemen and Policemen also lost their lives trying to rescue the surviving victims. 9-11-01 is a date Americans should NEVER FORGET!

And yet, many folks call Islam a "Religion of Peace"! I find it most difficult to reconcile a religion that's called "Peaceful" with its militant jihadist believers' desire to murder anyone who does not believe the way they do!

I consider myself a fairly tolerant man when it comes to recognizing different religions; we are ALL children of God! But, I'm not tolerant toward those who wish to exterminate me, my family, and those of my belief!

And yet, being a Christian, I face a most disturbing dilemma: Jesus Christ told us to forgive and love our enemies! I find it most difficult, nay impossible, to love and forgive Islamic jihadists! I guess that makes me a bad Christian. My

interpretation of Jesus's words, is that by loving and forgiving your enemies, they will see the Power of Love and Mercy of God and Jesus Christ, and reciprocate by stopping hating us and stopping killing us all. I guess I don't see that distinct possibility with Islamic jihadists. Their hatefulness is so strong, fueled by their understanding of strong words in the Koran. I find it hard to believe they will ever change their behavior toward "the Infidels"!

However, I do NOT believe that ALL Muslims are militant jihadists and therefore pray I have not offended any of our members who are of the Islamic faith. I also pray you will receive my heartfelt and painful comments with an open mind and heart!

May we ALL pray for PEACE throughout all the World and especially in the Holy Land!

Hope to see y'all on the 28th.

GOD BLESS Y'ALL!

Kerry B. Magee
CAPT USNR-RET

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.

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

By the time you read this, Labor Day will have come and gone, and the end of the year is moving closer. We know what that means for those of us who might have forgotten that it means fresh demands for family gifts, family gatherings, perhaps even a little vacation travel.

It also means time to plan for your end-of-the-year tax planning. We all know the Feds are going to get theirs first—why not take a moment and write a check to the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund at the University of Houston? You will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the U of H, and you will receive the most grateful "thank you" from the Cadets you help to go on to be our future military and business leaders.

So please do the good thing now. The form and address is in this and every issue of our Newsletter.

Thank you,

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.

President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

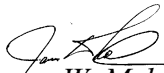
It is evident that our Chapter must look at changing to become more viable and profitable to keep a presence. Change can be good if planned and exercised with prudence, proven and successful methodology and innovative thinking. This we must do together!!

I ask that every member begin looking at how we can bring new members into the chapter, how we can create an income and bring in proceeds.

We need to begin to look at innovative ideas, bring in young new members who are not afraid to think

outside of the box. We must look at forming cooperative efforts with other organizations that are mutually beneficial to both parties in terms of income and undertaking, operational longevity and perpetual growth.

I want both our Board and Membership to focus on these items and begin thinking of ideas and then form a task force to develop, plan, and execute these concepts into reality.


James W. Mehrmann
President

Many thanks to those of you who have helped us out by paying your 2014 dues early!

*Deal with situations.
Anything you run from
will eventually find
you.*

*It's easy to give people
what why deserve, but
it's a privilege to give
them mercy.*

*The devil likes to set
you up to be upset.*

*If you will not run
when you feel fear, fear
will run, because it has
seen faith.*

Above quotes from Dave Meyer's *Nuggets of Life*.

**Photos
From Our
August 31 Meeting**

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



2Lt Jeramie Vecera, USAF, newly commissioned drone pilot, with father Eugene Vecera, USA



Janice and Bill Taylor, USA



Cheryl Cunningham, wife of speaker MAJ James Cunningham

We were very proud of our founder, COL George McDowell, USAF, who recently became 100 years of age and was there at our meeting, looking fit as a fiddle and grinning like the proverbial cheshire cat!



Speaker MAJ Cunningham (ctr) with Pres. Jim Mehrmann and VP Magee



COL George McDowell, USAF, who just celebrated his 100th birthday [!], with Mary Lee Lanik-Lear



Manuel, USA, and Christine Carnero



WINNER Christine Carnero with Treas. Martin Harris, Maj USMC

Report:
August 31 Speaker

Maj James Cunningham gave a very informative talk to us at the BraeBurn Country Cub on August 31. He is President of the Alamo Chapter in San Antonio and past-President of the Texas Council of Chapters, so he is very “up on” all things legislative.


He talked about the fine line between advocacy and lobbying. We are advocates, apolitical, working with all parties and factions for matters important to the military and their families. He updated us on bills passed in the 83rd Texas Legislature (85 bills concerning veterans were introduced, and 45 passed).

We should all be aware of the Hazelwood Act of 1919 that established 153 credit hours FREE for any veteran, and it is *still in effect!* Not only that, the Legacy Act of 2008 made unused hours available for the children of veterans.

The “Community Blueprint Program” was discussed, which is a program we as a chapter can partake in on the local level. We will be hearing more about in the future, so stay tuned.

And just to make sure you know, the Affordable Health Care Act (“Obamacare”) DOES NOT AFFECT TriCare in any way! But TriCare will certainly remain a topic at the top of all legislative lists in the future.

Remember: “Grass roots” works, and we should do our part every day!



**Mine was earned in
Vietnam. By my dad.**

Barbara Q., USAA member

**USAA Auto Insurance. Earned once.
Cherished from generation to generation.**

At USAA, our commitment to serve the financial needs of our military members, veterans who have honorably served and their families is without equal. In fact, families regard USAA Auto Insurance so highly, 95% of USAA members plan to remain with USAA for life.¹

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

usaa.com/insurance | 800-531-3550



Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

We know what it means to serve.®

¹Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

USAA means United States Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2013 USAA. 145760-0713

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

No Apologies

You may have seen this many times traveling around the Internet and among email messages, but it's so powerful, it never gets old, and we thought you might like to read it again.

JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60s when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond. *You could have heard a pin drop.*

At a conference in France, there were a number of international engineers, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?" A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?" *You could have heard a pin drop.*

–to be continued in the October newsletter

Please Support Our Advertisers

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

Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15

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 Maj. Val G. Henneberg 713.729.8217



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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Houston TX
Permit # 2102

TO: