



HOUSTON AREA
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LIII No. 9

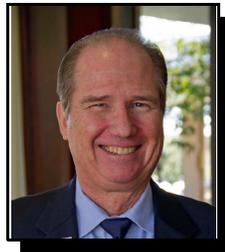
September 2016

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, September 24, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

There's a Perfect Storm coming!

When the Congress returns from its summer recess after Labor Day they will be considering BIG changes for military benefits from health care to retirement. It will affect You!



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

Do read your MOAA magazine, the *Military Officer*, to get the details; but make it a priority to act now and let your opinions be heard. If you have any doubts on who are your Congressional or State Legislators, then email our chapter legislative officer **Bill Taylor** and he will help you identify them.

Next comes the unexpected information that MOAA National will no longer be able to assist us in paying for ROTC and JROTC medals and certificates. Therefore, we will need to come up with the money to cover those costs in the future. If you feel the calling to donate to this new requirement, then email our ROTC officer **Mac McConico** and he will coordinate with you.

Next comes the future status of Ellington Field, which is very likely to be considered for a Congressional BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) in 2018-2019. There is no time to lose in working to maintain our one military installation in Houston. If you are moved to join in this fight, then email our Liaison officer **Gene Tulich**, and he will use you on the Ellington Task Force.

Next comes the future viability of our Houston MOAA chapter and the need to recruit new members. Since our numbers have been dwindling over the past several years, it is imperative that we retain our current members and recruit new members. If you are able to join in a recruiting effort then email our Third Vice President **Dan Gutierrez** and take on some of the burden of this effort. (*Cont'd on p. 3.*)

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues., Sept. 20
11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Remaining 2016 Meetings
10/24 11/15

No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Sept. 24
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Trout Almondine
or
Steak Diane

Seasonal Vegetables
Starch

Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Tea

Pecan Ball

\$30

Reservations by Wed.
9/21 to Jeannette Evans,
281. 495.2202

Remember:
Free Valet Parking!

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings
Remaining
9/24 10/29 11/17 (with MOWA)
12/3 Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Sept. 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. 9/12, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report August 28, 2016

Receipts	\$1,120.00
Expenses	\$ 816.61
Balance	\$5,926.08

Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

RETIREE DAY AT ELLINGTON FIELD

October 8 we need help in manning the booth for Retiree Day at Ellington Field. Contact **Dr. Don Couch** if you can help ..

HAPPY LABOR DAY!



Chaplain's Message

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

My Friends, People of Faith, I wonder if you have seen or perceived during the last four years an emerging, steady, continuing, yet ever-increasing phenomenon in our society: Random Acts of Kindness? Maybe you or your family have been a recipient. Ann and I have!

Recently at Cracker-Barrel, Pearland, an elderly customer came up to me and thanked me for my service to our country. I was wearing my Tin Can Navy Blue baseball cap, with "scrambled" eggs on bill; and I also had to use my walking cane, as my right knee was acting up. We chatted, and then he and his wife left. Afterwards, our waiter came up to us and informed us that our Bill had been for by that same gent! I vowed to repeat it and Pay It Forward !

What is the root cause or catalyst for such compassionate behavior? This may be a stretch answer, but I believe it just might be that God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is truly working in our daily lives! Think about it: First we need to open the "door" of our hearts, let Him in, then request corrected course and speed, receive the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). Our Course has already been laid out on the Master Chart of Life by the Supreme Navigator! All we

have to do is maintain that course with directional guidance by the Holy Spirit!

I want to thank you all for keeping me in your prayers, and please say a prayer for **Mac McConico** on the recent loss of his son, and for **Val Henneberg**, who is enduring a lengthy hospitalization.

May God Bless You and Yours!

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

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

I think a little explanation might be in order to explain the two methods we have of providing money to the Cadets, both Army and Air Force at the University of Houston. There is some confusion.

First, if you attend the monthly luncheons you are familiar with the raffle ticket sales on the 50/50 split. Half goes to the Scholarship Fund and half to the lucky winner. We have done this for years. At the appropriate time during the school year, usually at the end of the semester (spring), an award is made from our chapter to the PMS&T's of the various units and they alone make a selection as to their outstanding student (s)—usually approaching \$1,000.

Second, a few years ago we also started an Endowment Fund, also to benefit the Cadets. This fund is what I

try to convince you to make a donation to in the monthly Newsletter. There is a big difference as to how the two are handled. The main difference is that the Endowment Fund is fully tax-deductible and your gift goes directly to the University of Houston for the MOAA,HA Endowment Fund and is specified for the benefit of the Cadets. That money is treated exactly the same as any other Endowment Trust Fund at the U of H. The proceeds are distributed annually to the PMS&T's for their distribution to the worthy cadets and you will receive a tax receipt from the University.

So please take out your checkbook and write a check of any size and send it to the U of H, MOAA,HA Endowment Fund. The form is in this Newsletter. You will be glad you did. Maybe you can't help everyone, but you can help with this.

Thank you.

*William Taylor
Cpt. USA 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.

NOTE: We apologize for the misinformation in our August newsletter that this group had disbanded. We stand corrected for the erroneous report. Page 2 of the August newsletter states that the Military Order of the World Wars "has disbanded and no longer has meetings." This is NOT TRUE!

The Military Order of the World Wars (neither the Order nor the Houston Chapter) has NOT disbanded. The Houston chapter continues its tradition of canceling

meetings during the summer months. Their next chapter meeting will be on 27 September at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant.



Col. McDowell, 103rd birthday on the day of our August 27 Meeting

President's Message *(cont'd from p. 1)*

Next comes the need for excellent speakers for our monthly meetings at Braeburn Country Club. Great speakers draw bigger attendance. If you know of someone special, then email our vice-president Don Wallin with their contact info.

Lastly is our need to staff special events, specifically the Retiree Appreciation Day at Ellington Field on October 8, 2016. If you can help, then email our treasurer Don Couch with your info.

As you can see, there is much work to be done on both the national and local level. With your assistance, we can weather the storm and expect a brighter new day.

Respectfully,
*LTC Eugene Vecera,
USA, President*

Some people wonder all their lives if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem.

Ronald Reagan

Report on Our August 27 Meeting and Speaker

If you weren't there, you missed a GREAT meeting! Our own Capt. **Kerry Magee** (USN-Ret.), a accomplished Toastmaster, spoke eloquently to us about 9/11 and its consequences. He began by telling us a "sea story," which he says any sailor worth his salt has, while he was serving at Gitmo. You'll have to ask him to repeat it when you see him.

Kerry described 9/11/01 as the second "Day of Infamy, recounting the awful deaths that day of 59 on American Flight 77 that hit the Pentagon, 87 on American Flight 11 that hit the North Tower, 60 aboard United Flight 175 that hit the South Tower, and 40 on United 93 that the brave passengers overtook and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania to save the eventual destination of the U.S. Capitol. Of the 2800 who perished in the twin towers, 23 were NYC police officers, 343 were NYC firefighters, and 37 were NY Port Authority police officers. 143 workers died in the Pentagon. Kerry noted that "Let's Roll!" will now rank with the famous "Remember the Alamo!" They gave their tomorrow that we might have freedom today.

Kerry reminded us that September 11 is now designated as "Patriot's Day," and he then read a poem written by his wife, **Solange Ann Magee**, who gave us permission to reprint it here:

9/11 Colors

We were white in shock
We've been blue in pain
We're now red with anger.

Yet our colors fly proud and tall
Uniting one and all
To fight evil and never fall.

Fearless courage and bravery
Were shown facing the enemy
In air, on land of our great country.

Lord, great is our resolve
With you this war to solve
As days ahead evolve.

September 2001

Solange Ann Magee

Thanks, Kerry, for another inspiring message, beautifully delivered!

Photos From Our August 27 Meeting

Thanks again to our crackerjack photographer **Andy Parsons** for more great photos!



Col George McDowell, daughter Linda Novasad, and #103 birthday cake!



LTC Robert & Phyllis Ottis



1VP Don Wallin presents certificate to Capt Magee



Leg Rep Bill Taylor with Janice and daughter Linda Brown



Secy Rollins & Pat Collins



Dale Persha & Mary Lee Lanik



Ann Magee, who sang a birthday song in French to Col McDowell, with Capt Magee



Our new 3VP Dan Gutierrez with Stancie



Winner Phyllis Ottis
with Treasurer Dr. Don
Couch

THEY Remember The Fallen Soldiers



These pictures were taken at the beach in Santa Barbara right next to the Pier. There, a veterans group started putting a cross and candle for every death in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amazing thing is that they do it only on the weekends.

They put up this graveyard and take it down every weekend. Guys sleep in the sand next to it and keep watch over it at night so nobody messes with it. Every cross has the name, rank, and D.O.B. and D.O.D. on it. Very moving, very powerful. So many young volunteers. So many 30-to-40-year-olds as well.

Amazing!



The ACLU has filed a suit to have all military cross-shaped headstones removed.

And they filed another suit to end prayer from the military completely. They're making great progress.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for holding our troops in Your loving hands. Thank you for protecting them as they protect us.

"Thank you for blessing them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us every day.



"For all these things, and more, I am so grateful.

"Amen."

GOD BLESS YOU.

COMBINED ARMS

We are fortunate in Houston to have a new center for helping Houston's 300,000 veterans as they return to civilian life. The "Combined Arms Center" is located downtown near Minute Maid Park at 2929 McKinney in a beautifully renovated facility. Their super Website is at www.combinedarms.us/houston.

Our two "**Eugen**es" (**Vecera and Tulich**) recently visited wthe CAC and met with Executive Director Kelly Land. The facility has a Day Room, Gymnasium, and other amenities, and houses offices of Wounded Warriors, USO, Grace Under Fire, the City of Houston, and the VA and others will also be there.

The Grand Opening will be November 3, and we hope our members will "take a tour" via their Website, and then be able to attend the Grand Opening and see all the great work they are doing!

www.combinedarms.us



Speaker Sept. 24



We are excited about getting to hear Sheriff Nehls's presentation at our

meeting on Saturday, 9/24, at BraeBurn Country Club.

Sheriff Nehls has served since his election in 2012, and before that he served two terms as Precinct 4 Constable in Fort Bend Co. He holds a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from the U of H and has more than 20 years in law enforcement. He chairs the "Fort Bend Salutes America" Memorial Day festivities and is a life member and former Comdr of VFW Post 3903.

After serving 21 years in the U. S. Army Reserve, he retired as a Major. He was deployed to Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and received two Bronze Star Medals.

Come on out 924!

SAVE THE DATES

10/7 Homeless Vets
StandDown Day, beg. 8a.
Call **Col. Vecera** for details.

10/8 Retiree Appreciation
Day at Ellington Field; we
will have a booth, and Dr.
Don Couch needs volunteers
to help.

11/3 Grand Opening,
Combined Arms Center,
2929 McKinney

11/5 Veterans Smile Day
(see flyer on page 7).

11/11 Veterans Day Parade,
where both Bill Taylor and
Don Couch will be driving
cars with our signs and are
looking for volunteer riders.

January 2017: Annual
“Storm the Hill” Activities in
Austin for the new
Legislature

ANNIVERSARIES TO REMEMBER

2026 brings the following
noteworthy anniversaries:

100th Anniversary of the
United States Marine Corps
Reserve

100th Anniversary, ROTC

15th Anniversary of the
9/11/01 Massacre

“It’s silly talking about how
many years we will have to
spend in the jungles of
Vietnam when we could
pave the whole country and
put parking stripes on it and
still be home by Christmas.”

Ronald Reagan

MEN ARE JUST HAPPIER PEOPLE

(Enjoy this Internet Traveler)

What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just “too icky.” You don’t have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental \$100.

People never stare at your chest when you’re talking to them. New shoes don’t cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Two pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. One wallet and one pair of shoes—one color for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can “do” your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives On December 24 in 25 minutes. No wonder men are happier.

Nicknames. If Laura, Kate, and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah. If Mike, Dave, and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Bubba, and Wildman.

Eating Out. When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave, and John will each throw in \$20, even though it’s only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want

change back. When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

Money. A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs. A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn’t need but it’s on sale.

Bathrooms. A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel. The average number of items in the typical woman’s bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

Arguments. A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a *new* argument.

Future. A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband. A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

Marriage. A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn’t. A man marries a woman expecting that she won’t change, but she does.

Dressing Up. A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the trash, answer the phone, read a book, and get the mail. A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

Natural. Men wake up as good-looking as when they went to bed. Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

Offspring. Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favorite foods, secret fears, and hopes and dreams. A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

Thought for the Day. A married man should forget his mistakes. There’s no use in two people remembering the same thing!

—Author Unknown

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



The Greater Houston Dental Society
Presents

Veterans' Smile Day

★ Saturday, November 5, 2016 ★

**Katy,
TX**

We will be performing all aspects of dentistry from X-Rays, Exams, Cleanings, Fillings, and Extractions.

These services will be available free-of-charge to you on November 5th only

- All veterans are eligible - please provide a copy of **dd214**
- Only the most emergent teeth will be addressed - not comprehensive treatment
- Appointments are required to receive free dental services on November 5. To reserve your spot, please contact us at veteransmileday@gmail.com or call us at **(713) 701-7756**

 HENRY SCHEIN

 ADA
American Dental Association



 GHDS

WWW.GHDS.ORG

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

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 In itial 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

