



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

Newsletter to Members

Vol. LVI No. 9

September 2019

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, September 28, 2019 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

During our monthly luncheon and meeting of 31 August, one of our members came to me and asked if I remembered **Colonel George McDowell**, USAF (Ret.) founder of the our Houston Chapter of MOAA. I said yes. I had the honor of sitting at the Colonel's table on two occasions. I remarked that I had talked with him about his World War II service in North Africa on **General George S. Patton, Jr.**, USA, and General of the Army **Omar N. Bradley** staffs. At that time he was still in the Army Air Corps and stayed in service until the US Air Force was formed, whereupon he continued his military service until his retirement.



Daniel Gutierrez

Colonel McDowell was particularly alert during one of our conversations so I asked if he had ever come across General of the Army **Dwight Eisenhower**. Yes, he said he had met the general briefly while he was the Commander of Troops during a large military review in Belgium just after the war ended. Being an absorber of military history and lore, I was fascinated and impressed. Had the colonel been able, I could have talked with him for hours. I salute his memory.

Now, I wonder what Colonel McDowell would think of the present state of the chapter he founded. How would he handle the fact that the board of directors has functioned this year with a vacant secretary position; that the board needed to ask the members to alter the bylaws two years ago to eliminate vice presidential positions it could not fill; that of the 92 members currently active on its rolls, 28 are in arrears for their 2019 dues and face being stricken from the active roster in 2020 and that 13 of these are **MOAA Life Members!** I cannot say.

(Continued on p. 3)

2019 Officers

President

Daniel M. Gutierrez, MAJ USA (Ret.)
 281.543.1257
 danielgutierrez1751@gmail.com

Vice President

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

Secretary (VACANT)

Treasurer

Don L. Couch, LTC USA (Ret.)
 832.205.2009 couchdon@hotmail.com

Organizations Liaison Eugene Tulich
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 ene42@flash.net

Chaplain Kerry Magee CAPT USN (Ret.) 979.964.3236h 979.236.2415c
 usnr06ret@brazoriainet.com

JROTC

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

Editor Carol Ann Wilson

Reservations

8902 Sunnywood Drive
 Houston TX 77088-3729
 281..642.4050 cell
 carolwilson@earthlink.net



MOAA Houston Area Board Meetings

Monday before the last Saturday
of each month
12 Noon

Sept. 23, 2019

La Madeleine Restaurant
10001 Westheimer 77042
713.266.7686

All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area

September 28, 2019

11:30 Fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon

BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet
713.774.2586

MENU

Caesar Salad

Grilled Chicken Breast
w/Basil Bruschetta
-OR-
Steak Diana
w/Mushroom Demi Glace

Scalloped Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Warmed Rolls & Butter
Tea, Coffee

French Chocolate Silk Pie

\$30

Complimentary
Valet Parking

Reservations by Wed.
9/25 to Carol Wilson,
281.642.4050

2019 Monthly Meetings

Remaining 2019 meetings
are: 10/26, 11/21 (w/MOWA)

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

Thursday, Sept. 19
11:30 Fellowship
Luncheon at Noon

Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner

Order off the Menu
and Pay Individually

RSVP to Phyllis Ottis,
713.774.2282,
by Mon. 9/16, 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report, September 1, 2019

Receipts	\$ 720.00
Expenses	\$ 598.60
Balance	\$3,775.76*

*Award Fund Reserve \$2,540.63
Operational Balance \$1,235.13
Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

COL Frank A. Tricomi, USA (Ret.)
Spouse: Barbara
22 Granite Path Place
Spring TX 77389
314.330.6936
ftricoli@earthlink.net

October 12, 2019

Retire Appreciation Day
at
Ellington Field

Please Help at Our Table

Chaplain's Message

SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!



Kerry Magee
CAPT USN (Ret.)

Recently, I have been trying to catch up on my casual reading, specifically, my monthly *Guideposts*.

Each issue has a page entitled "Someone Cares—pass it on!" I want to briefly share with you y'll one story called "Hug a Soldier."

A grandmother and her retired USAF husband were on vacation, staying in a nice hotel with restaurant. The couple was enjoying the "Welcome Buffet," when the Mrs. realized a young man in Army fatigues had joined the line. She offered the young man to precede her in line, but he politely refused. They then chatted about his home town, family, his three small children with his wife. She related her experiences of being alone when her husband was far, far away. So, he related the pain his family was going thru as he was being deployed. Then she said, "Would you accept a hug from a grandmother who appreciates your service?" The soldier told her he could really use one. So she did!

Since then, this grandmother makes sure she gives a hug or a pat on the back to servicemen or servicewomen every time she sees one, when and wherever. End of story.

My challenge to y'all is to "Pass it on" by also showing your appreciation and respect to members of the Armed Forces, whenever and

wherever y'all see one!
GIVE THEM A HUG!

**MAY GOD BLESS AND
KEEP YOU!**

Humbly submitted by

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

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

(Cont'd from p. 1)

Ladies and gentlemen of the Houston Area chapter, I despair when confronted with these matters. Am I fated to be the last president of this chapter? Where are the champions who carry the spirit of "Never stop serving?" Will we find amongst our ranks those who continue to feel that the chapter offers service and value to its community? Can our recruiting efforts yield new members eager and able to serve and be active participants? For this is what we need, fellow members, if we are to survive and insure we are not just a memory.

Meanwhile, as president, it is my duty to carry out this year's chapter program of meetings and activities. Accordingly, we will have our members' meetings as scheduled. We will participate in **Retiree Appreciation Day** on October 12 at Ellington Joint Reserve Base. We will be represented during commemorative services at the **Houston National Cemetery** on November 11. And the chapter will conduct its annual meeting of members and annual election

in November. **Members, it is up to you what we do next.**

On an even more somber note, lets us pause a moment to honor and pay tribute to the lost ones of September 11, 2001, and to quote Lincoln, "[T]o care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." May we cherish their names forever. And never let us forget our triumphs! On September 2, 1945, the Japanese signed the instrument of surrender on the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, which formally ended the Second World War. General of the Army **Douglas MacArthur** was the presiding officer.

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

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

**WILL YOU CONSIDER
SERVING IN AN OFFICE?**

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN
FULFILLING THE CHAPTER'S
GOALS AND PURPOSE.

**Endowment Fund &
Houston Corps of Cadets**

One Hundred and nineteen days left until the end of the year. Save some of that money, just a little, and give it to the Houston Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund at the University of Houston. Believe me, they will appreciate it. Doesn't have to be a lot, but every little bit helps. The form and address is in the back of this Newsletter.

Thank you very much,

Bill

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret

**HAVE YOU CHECKED
YOUR PAID
THROUGH DATE?**

Each year's Membership Directory contains the date your dues are paid through as of the printing.

If yours says "2018," we will have to drop you from active membership next year. We don't want to do that.

**THANK YOU,
COL ROBIN RITCHIE!**

COL Ritchie, one of our own members, gave us a fantastic presentation at the August 31 meeting, and we are sorry for those who missed it.

He told us about his work with Impact a Hero, which is doing such great things with wounded veterans right here in Houston. Go to YouTube for a wonderful video that will inspire you:
<https://youtu.be/eZU9umUsS-U>

They have an annual "Links and Drinks" golf tournament each year to benefit Impact a Hero, and the next one is Oct. 18. See flyer on page 7 of this newsletter if you or anyone you know might be interested. It's for a very worthy cause.

COL Ritchie is a Vietnam veteran, and he told us of being in country (though not in combat) when some important events happened, such as the post-TET offensive, with 400+ KIA each week. It was at a reunion symposium meeting of his "Brother Rats" of the 507th that he decided he needed to be more involved. So that led him to Impact a Hero, and he

has served on the Board of Directors for three year.

Impact a Hero provides all forms of support for wounded veterans. It was originally formed for the severely wounded post-9/11 veterans, but has been expanded.

The “Operation Impact,” mentoring program, which is shown in the YouTube video referenced above, occurs every year at Rockport, TX. They also work with Camp Hope , and they sponsor a Toastmasters unit for the vets. In addition to “Links and Drinks,” they have other major fundraisers, including the October 5th Hall of Fame Gala (black tie), for which they can use auction items. (COL Ritchie may be reached at 713-818-0408 if you’d like to help.) They also have a 5K Run, a “Veterans Day Cycle Ride for Heroes,” and many other events. Information about “Impact a Hero” may be found at impactplayer.org .He said they “always need volunteers.”

COL Ritchie also told of his Vietnam experiences, such as advising a Vietnamese unit and commanding the last infantry company on the DMZ. He also left us some informative brochures. He also told of a recent meeting with young Army recruiters, one of whom told him: “You guys showed us the way, and we want to thank you.” COL Ritchie passed that on to our members.

Many thanks, COL Ritchie, for speaking to us and for your support of MOAA-HA.

PHOTOS FROM Aug. 31

Thanks once more to our talented Past-President COL Andy Parsons, for these terrific pix!



COL Ritchie receives certificate from President MAJ Gutierrez



MAJ John “Randy” Elms



New Member COL Frank Tricomi



Barbara Tricomi



Capt Bill Humphries



CDR Eugene Tulich



Joan Tulich



Past-President LtCol Eugene Vecera



Myrna Vecera



VP LtCOL Joe Willoughby



Capt Kevin Abreu



Phyllis Ottis, SS



LCDR Vern Gillette



Stancie Chamberlain, who won the drawing and donated it back!

SPEAKER FOR September 28 Meeting



We have another excellent speaker scheduled for September 28: **COL Albert J. Nahas**, author of *Warriors Remembered*.

Albert Nahas joined the Army after graduating from West Point in June 1967. He found his way to Vietnam in July 1968 and spent 18 months with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, as a platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon leader, company executive officer,

and finally as a company commander.

His 26-year military career included service with both infantry and engineer units, teaching at West Point, developing new weapons and equipment for the Infantry, and deploying for a brief time to Desert Storm. After retiring as a Colonel, he had success in several industries, including manufacturing, power plant construction and operating a global broadband telecommunications network. He founded and still leads Focused Leadership, a very successful executive coaching company, and is also a registered Professional Engineer.

Colonel Nahas is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star for Valor with first Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart and several other awards, but takes the greatest pride in being an Airborne Ranger with a Combat Infantry Badge as a Screaming Eagle combat veteran. He is the author of *the book Warriors Remembered*, the only photo documentary of Vietnam veteran memorials from all 50 states. He and his wife Carolyn currently live in Sugar Land, Texas.

Warriors Remembered is available for \$49.95 at the Website www.warriorsremembered.com.

Mark your calendars NOW to be sure you attend our meeting at BraeBurn Country Club on Sept. 28. Get a copy of his book and bring it to be autographed!

Recognition of 100th Anniversary of American Legion

*From a tribute at the Flag Day ceremony presented in Lake Jackson, Texas, on June 14, 2019. Many thanks to **Capt. Kerry and Ann Magee** for sharing it with our readers.*

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the

American Legion in Paris, France. In 1919, **LtCol Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.**, selected a group of non-career officers, and American Expeditionary Forces Commanding **Gen. John Pershing** ordered them to report to a YMCA office in Paris on Feb. 15. The ostensible purpose was to address declining morale among cold, wet, and miserable troops awaiting passage home from the war that was supposed to end all wars. But when the officers met the following evening, they envisioned something more. This was the perfect time, they decided, to talk about a new kind of wartime veterans association, one specifically for them, built on what they had learned from the war. It would be the brotherhood of men who had realized their responsibility to the nation. They would later call it "The American Legion," and the Legion's draft preamble and constitution were soon approved. There was little debate regarding whether to include "for God" in the preamble to the American Legion Constitution. To the Legion's founders, service to country was service to God, and service to God was service to country. On Sept 16, 1919, Congress chartered the "American Legion," and the first convention was held in Minneapolis November 10-12, 2019.

Today, membership stands at 2 Million+ at more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized in 55 departments: one for each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Now and Always We'll be There.



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MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Rudi Lechner's Restaurant

**MOAA-HA ANNUAL MEETING
AND**

**TRADITIONAL MEETING WITH
MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION (MOWA)**

**We will elect officers for MOAA-HA for 2020
and
Vote on Bylaw Amendments**



SUPPORT **IMPACT A HERO** AT THE

TEXAS WHISKEY FESTIVAL'S

LINKS AND DRINKS



BENEFITING IMPACT A HERO



2 Person Team **\$250**

Tour Eighteen Golf Course in Houston, TX | October 18, 2019

More information available at

www.txwhiskeyfest.com

www.impactahero.org

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