



PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Greetings, All

As you all know, the Holiday Season is almost upon us. Many of us will have traveled to visit loved ones during the Thanksgiving Day weekend, Christmas shopping on Black Friday, and have travel plans for the foreseeable future, up to and including Christmas and New Years. As your President, I personally wish each and every one of you a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Years, especially if you plan to be on the road. Safe journeys to you all!

Remember the reason for the season: The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For whatever reason you celebrate Christmas - Christ’s birth, spirit of giving, or connecting with friends and family, I wish you all the best.

A recap from this month:

- On Wednesday November 6 at 11:00, HOTMOAA presented Baylor Vets with a donation of \$1000 at the Sid Richardson Building on the Baylor Campus at their office in the basement.
- On Saturday November 9, I attended a License to Carry (LTC) certification class out at Chandler’s Gun Shop and Shooting Ranges given by our own Don Speed. Thank you, Don!
- The November 11th Veterans Day Parade was a resounding success, including coverage by KWTX.
- On Thursday November 14, I attended the weekly Veterans Luncheon. On that day, it was held at the Lee Lockwood Library on W. Waco Drive due to a last-minute location change, and it was an absolutely wonderful!
- On Friday and Saturday November 15-16, the MOAA Texas Council Chapters (TCC) met here in Waco. Each chapter provided a status update and heard from the Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs from MOAA National.
- Remember the weekly Veterans Lunch at the Veterans 1-Stop, 2010 La Salle Avenue every

Thursday from 11:00 to 1:00 (excluding Thanksgiving Day). Donations are always welcome!

The 2024 Presidential Election is now history and now waiting for the incoming administration and their changes. THANK YOU to those for getting out and VOTING! It is important that voters exercise their Constitutional right to vote.

Donations Needed: Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive an extra ticket for our nightly drawing. Collection being made for donation to the Veteran’s One Stop.

There will be a Homeless Veterans Holiday Lunch at the Veterans 1-Stop on **Friday** Dec 6 from 11-1. All are welcome to attend. Gary Urban will have more information on this as it becomes available.

The initial planning for our June 7, 2025, golf tournament fundraiser will commence soon with the goal of increasing membership and Waco community support for the event. This requires a full team effort. New ideas are always welcome on how to attain success for 2025!

Challenge Coins. We still have HOT MOAA challenge coins available. Pick up one or two at the registration table. The proceeds go toward our fundraising efforts. Finally, please continue to pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and to reestablish trust in our institutions to restore civility and sanity. Thank you for your excellent work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our December 12th dinner and dance with music provided by (you guessed it!) The Morticians - come out and enjoy!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Bill Porter

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

“The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.” – John Adam, A

Defence of the Constitutions of the Government of the United States of America, 1787

“It is much to be wished that slavery may be abolished. The honour of the States, as well as justice and humanity, in my opinion, loudly call upon them to emancipate these unhappy people. To contend for our own liberty, and to deny that blessing to others, involves an inconsistency not to be excused.” – John Jay, Letter to R. Lushington, 1786

“I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery.” - George Washington, Letter to Robert Morris, 1786

“The ordaining of laws in favor of one part of the nation, to the prejudice and oppression of another, is certainly the most erroneous and mistaken policy. An equal dispensation of protection, rights, privileges, and advantages, is what every part is entitled to, and ought to enjoy.” - Benjamin Franklin, Emblematical Representations, ca. 1774

“We may define a republic to be ... a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people and is administered by persons holding their offices during pleasure for a limited period, or during good behavior.” – James Madison, *Federalist 39*, 1788

“Pure democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property; and have, in general, been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.” – James Madison, *Federalist 10*, 1787

“The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.” – James Madison, *Federalist 47*, 1788

‘Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name and becomes licentiousness.’ – James Wilson, *Of the Study of the Law in the United States*, 1790

Source : <https://bilofrightsinstitute.org/founders-quotes/>

THINGS TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON IN DECEMBER:

Dec 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded.

Dec 1, 1955 - The birth of the American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dec 2, 1823 - President James Monroe introduced his "Monroe Doctrine" prohibiting any further colonization of the American continents by European powers, stating, "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety."

Dec 3, 1962 - Edith Sampson was sworn in as the first African American female judge.

Dec 4, 1991 - The last American hostage held in Lebanon was released. Journalist Terry Anderson kidnapped on March 16, 1985 and held for 2,454 days by the Islamic Jihad.

Dec 5, 1955 - The AFL-CIO was founded thus becoming the leading advocate for trade unions in the U.S.

Dec 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery, stating,

Dec 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

Dec 12, 1870 - Joseph Hayne Rainey of Georgetown, South Carolina, became the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and served until 1879.

Dec 13, 1862 - The Battle of Fredericksburg - the Union Army of the Potomac suffered a costly defeat, losing 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. Confederate losses were 5,309. "It is well that war is so terrible - we should grow too fond of it," stated Confederate General Robert E. Lee during the fighting.

Dec 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights became effective following ratification by Virginia.

Dec 15, 1890 - Sioux leader Sitting Bull was killed in a skirmish with soldiers. as his warriors tried to prevent his arrest.

Dec 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into Boston Harbor.

Dec 16, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge began. There were an estimated 77,000 Allied and 130,000 German casualties.

Dec 17, 1777 - At Valley Forge the Continental Army settled in for the winter.

Dec 17, 1903 - Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

Dec 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

Dec 20, 1989 - *Operation Just Cause* - The U.S. invaded Panama after Noriega had declared unfavorable election results in his country to be null and void and toppled the Noriega government.

Dec 22, 1783 – General George Washington appeared before Congress and voluntarily resigned his commission.

Dec 25, 1776 – General George Washington took army across the Delaware River and conducted a surprise raid on 1,500 British-Hessians (German mercenaries) at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrendered after an hour with nearly 1,000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded (including future president Lt. James Monroe).

Dec 29, 1890 - Members of the 7th Cavalry massacred more than 200 Native American men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota.

Dec 30, 1903 - In Chicago, a fire inside the Iroquois Theater killed 588 persons, eventually resulting in new fire safety codes for theaters.

Dec 31, 1781 - The first U.S. bank, the Bank of North America, opened on January 7, 1782, in Philadelphia.

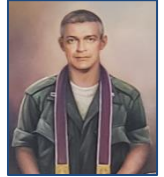
Source: <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/december.htm>

RECAP OF OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER – MR HENRY HERNANDEZ



Mr. Henry Gonzales provided a presentation at the November 21 dinner meeting of his personal relationship with The Grunt Padre”. Henry described his experiences in Viet Nam while serving with Father Capodanno as

his aide and personal security . He described the tremendous service, valor and sacrifice of Father Vincent Robert Capodanno in Vietnam 1966-1967. Father Capodanno was killed on his second tour of duty with the 5th Marines on September 4, 1967. For sacrifice he was posthumous awarded Medal of Honor which was presented to his family on January 7, 1969.



SECOND THURSDAY DINNER MEETING/DANCE, DECEMBER 12, 2024 IN THE MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE STADIUM – 5th FLOOR.

- - Enter the stadium parking lot through gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue onto I-35 side and look for double door with Media Entrance located above door. This is before the Baylor Club main entrance. Go through the double door and take the elevator to the fifth floor. There is normally a placard sign next to the white column. You can park in any numbered space.

DINNER SCHEDULE

**** 5:00 P.M. Registration Table Opens and Social Period.**

**** 5:35 P.M. Call to Tables.**

**** 5:40 P.M. Intro & Announcements - Chapter election for 2025**

**** 5:50 P.M. Dinner**

**** 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Dance – entertainment by the band, The Morticians**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, Artisan Bread, Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Dr. Pepper Pork Loin, Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Desserts, Iced Tea and Water. Coffee will be available at the beverage bar.

A bar will be available, and payment will be debit or credit card only due to Baylor Club policy.

The dinner cost is \$40 per person, payable at registration table, cash or check made to HOT Chapter MOAA. Please call Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 or e-mail vtobola@aol.com, NLT Thursday, 5 December, Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVPs are welcome and appreciated. After the 5th, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if you are planning to attend and we will update the attendee list to accommodate you at the dinner meeting.

NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, casual business attire with collared shirts and coat and tie and ladies' casual business attire. For this meeting, military uniforms are welcome.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

There is normally not a Board meeting in December due to the holidays.

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**, 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive. Our thanks to Uncle Dan's for providing the corner meeting room at no charge.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Lew Arend, or Vince Tobola, with prospect names.

Reminder that our website, hotmoaa.org, does have the chapter membership application form plus copies of newsletters. There is also a national MOAA membership form; basic membership is free. Newsletters are provided to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail.

Please note the Heart of Texas Chapter of MOAA is a member of the National MOAA organization of over four hundred chapters and together we are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

DECEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Beau Crosby, Julie Croy, TJ Hunting Horse, Carol McHaney, Barbara Purselley, Rusty Rowe, Marsha Slavens, Ann Speed, and Gary Urban.

Anniversaries: Jim and Joan Alexander, Michael and Teresa Flynn, and Harold and RoseMary Rafuse.

Congratulations to All

2025 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

- **16 January 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.**
Installation of 2025 officers and directors.
Program to be determined.
- **20 February 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.**
Program to be determined.
- **20 March 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.**
Program to be determined.
- **17 April 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.**
Program to be determined.
- **15 May 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane.** Program to be determined.
- **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, June 7, 2025,** for the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

DONATIONS NEEDED: Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive a free drawing ticket. The grocery collection is being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collecting each month in 2024.

YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION – VETERANS ONE STOP.

On October 17, the chapter presented our quarterly non-perishable donations to Veterans One Stop

along with \$1000 in gift cards for their use.



Pictured left to right: Mr. Elmer Speights, Military Veteran Peer Network Peer Service Coordinator Supervisor and HOT MOAA Chapter President Bill Porter

Other chapter members present were Gary Urban, Vince Tobola and Michael Slavens.

YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION - BAYLOR VETERAN EDUCATIONAL AND TRANSITION SERVICES (VETS) PROGRAM.

On November 6, your Heart of Texas Chapter MOAA presented our donation of \$1000 to the Baylor Vets at their weekly warrior luncheon.



Left to right, Bill Porter, HOT Chapter MOAA President, Kevin Davis, Veterans Education and Transitions Services (VETS) Program Manager, and Cinthia Diaz, Veterans of Baylor Treasurer.

The Baylor VETS program at Baylor University is dedicated to supporting the successful transition of military-connected students to their new life chapters in new careers, different leadership roles and community involvement.

Other chapter members present were Lew Arend, Vince Tobola and Michael Slavens.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT LEW AREND



Lew Arend, current board member of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officer’s Association of America, earned a BS in Chemical Engineering and an MBA from Michigan State University. As a Distinguished Military ROTC

graduate,

Lew was commissioned as a 2LT. in Corp of Engineers and served two years in the US Army as a Systems Analyst for the North American Air Defense Command, the original and current Space Force. Stationed at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO for his entire military career, Lew was part of a team working in a top secret secured vault on Garden of the God’s Road to decommission the Nike Hercules missile sites surrounding major cities throughout continental United States. As a 1LT, Lew was honored with the Outstanding Meritorious Service medal.

Lew met his wife Elizabeth while attending Michigan State and married in 1966. They have two sons, both Baylor University graduates and leaders in the software business. In addition, we have five grandchildren; one granddaughter was graduated from Baylor in 2023 and two granddaughters currently attending Baylor; one grandson is a graduate of St. Edward’s University, and another grandson is currently enrolled at Texas A&M.

After Lew’s military service, he had a successful career with two Fortune 500 Companies, Dow Corning Corporation and Armco. He attained senior management positions in sales, product marketing, and human resources, all of which included responsibility for evaluating and selecting key personnel.

Utilizing all his past experience, Lew co-founded and became the Managing Director of McKinley Arend International, an Executive Search practice, and recently retired after 40 years. He built a loyal clientele serving organizations in the United States and foreign countries. Client’s retained Mr. Arend to identify, evaluate, and recruit key personnel for assignments for all functional positions requiring successful experience in Engineering and Construction, Environmental, Oil & Gas, Alternative Energy, Consumer Packaged Goods, Manufacturing, Biotech, Petrochemicals, Refining, Nano Technology, and Scientific organizations.

Mr. Arend was past President of The Dunes of West Beach Galveston Board of Directors and was an elected Director for the Municipal Utilities District Board in his Houston community. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Houston Technology Center, a 501(c)3 organization accelerating the commercialization of new technology and conducted the search for the CEO.

Currently, Lew is on the board of Baylor Lifelong Learning and attends St. Alban's Episcopal Church. In addition, Lew enjoys Waco golf and is a member of the Waco Senior tennis team, having won two national doubles team titles.

PROPOSED 2025 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE DECEMBER 12TH MEETING AND CHAPTER ELECTION

Officers

- President: Bill Porter
- 1st VP: Lew Arend
- 2nd VP: Michael Slavens
- Treasurer: Vince Tobola
- Immediate Past President: Bill Milnor
- Secretary: George Littell (Appointed)

Directors

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Don Speed | Jack Rochelle |
| John Jacques | Gene Lednický |
| Patricia Herbelin | Barbara Purselley |
| Gary Urban | Mike Strain |
| Ennis Sullivan | Norma Thronburg |
| Jane Winston | |

DECEMBER DANCE ENTERTAINMENT – THE MORTICIANS

The Waco-based Morticians have been a mainstay of the Central Texas music scene since the band was formed by five high school students in 1965.

Devoted to classic rock from the '50s, '60s and '70s, the group earned "Best Oldies Band" for 2006, 2007 and 2008 from the Music Association of Central Texas and has been voted "Best Band" in Central Texas in the Waco-Tribune Herald's Annual Reader's Poll several times.

Band members have come and gone over the years, but The Morticians' distinct sound has always remained.

The Morticians have performed for HOT MOAA for several years and are always well received. Be sure

and wear your dancing shoes as a dance area will be set up in the Media Suite for our December Dinner Meeting.

WACO AREA EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024

- Nov 29-Dec 31 – Christmas at the Silos
- Dec 1-24 – Holiday shows at the Waco Hippodrome
- Dec 6 -City of Waco Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks
- Dec 6-8 – Waco Wonderland Festival
- Dec 7 – Waco Wonderland parade
- Dec 13-15 & Dec 20-22 – Baylor Mayborn Museum Christmas Lights in the Village
- Dec 14 & 15 – Waco Symphony Orchestra – The Nutcracker

MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

If needed, there is a MOAA national membership form at the chapter website: hotmoaa.org. **Basic MOAA membership is free**, and fees are shown for annual and life MOAA memberships. This is separate from the chapter membership fee.

MOAA NEWS

MILITARY PAY, TRICARE UPGRADES ON TAP WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS TO WORK

By: April Vogel

October 29, 2024

A busy agenda awaits members of Congress when they return to Washington, D.C., after the election, with the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) taking center stage.

This year's NDAA has faced significant delays as lawmakers negotiate disagreements on a multitude of military policies. As they navigate a challenging political and legislative landscape, MOAA remains closely involved with several initiatives that could have an impact on the well-being and support of the military community.

Here's a look at some of the provisions in the House and Senate NDAA versions, which include key MOAA priorities:

Military Pay Raise and Junior Enlisted Pay Increase: The House version of the NDAA calls for

a significant 15% increase for junior enlisted service members (E-1 to E-4) in addition to a standard 4.5% raise for all ranks. This proposal faces strong opposition from the White House and some in the Pentagon, and lacks corresponding provisions in the Senate's version, which only suggests a 1% additional raise for fewer junior enlisted members (E-1 to E-3).

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): Another critical element of the House NDAA is the effort to restore BAH to cover 100% of housing costs, a measure vital for supporting service members and their families. This initiative lacks Senate support and was not funded by the House Appropriations Committee, highlighting the challenges of securing adequate resources for military families.

Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS): The House NDAA mandates a comprehensive review of BAS rates by DoD. This review would consider various factors such as family size, food accessibility, and local costs, ensuring allowances accurately reflect the needs of service members and their dependents. Furthermore, the legislation proposes raising Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) eligibility to 200% of federal poverty guidelines, a move that could significantly expand support for those in need.

Military Family Support: The House version of the NDAA includes several important provisions aimed at enhancing support for military families and improving the welfare of service members:

- *Expanded In-Home Child Care Pilot:* The proposed expansion would include installations such as New York's Fort Drum, New Mexico's Holloman Air Force Base, and Naval Air Station Lemoore and Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in California. The move would increase access to essential childcare services for military families.
- *Incentives for Child Care Providers:* Last year, DoD mandated that services implement policies to encourage more individuals to become childcare providers, offering a 50% discount on care for their first child. The Air Force has set a higher standard by providing a 100% discount for the first child and additional

- discounts for subsequent children. The House version of the NDAA aims to establish this 100% discount across all services, ensure competitive pay for childcare personnel, and facilitate easier transfers between installations.
- *Flexibility for Federally Employed Military Spouses:* The House version of the NDAA requires federal agencies to offer flexibility for military spouses upon receipt of PCS orders. Options include remote work, reassignment within the commuting area of the new duty station, authorization to perform duties in an equal position, or leave without pay for up to six months, allowing agencies to backfill positions.

Transition Assistance Program for Guard and Reserve: The House NDAA includes a tailored transition assistance program for Guard and Reserve members, better aligning support with their unique needs. It also would establish parental leave parity for the Coast Guard Reserve, bringing the service's policies in line with DoD procedures.

Military Unaccompanied Housing: The House NDAA calls for increased funding and visibility of Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) funds to address decades of deferred maintenance, estimated at \$137 billion. The proposal also includes provisions allowing junior enlisted Navy personnel on sea duty to receive BAH in response to extended ship maintenance periods.

TRICARE: Both the House and Senate NDAA versions include key provisions that would improve the military health care benefit by:

- *Eliminating Contraception Copays to Align TRICARE With Affordable Care Act Requirements:* To avoid direct spending barriers, the House version limits this change to one year while the Senate version delays implementation until 2034.
- *Expanding TRICARE Coverage of Assisted Reproductive Technology, Including IVF:* Both versions exclude certain beneficiaries, including retirees, to avoid mandatory spending increases. MOAA has urged Congress to include all beneficiaries in this parity fix.
- *Including Pregnancy as a Qualifying Life Event (QLE):* The House version includes a pilot that

would make this change as part of a five-year program. Greater flexibility in switching between TRICARE Prime and Select will help ensure access to vital prenatal care.

- *Offering More Mental Health Options:* A provision in the Senate version would allow active duty service members and their families to use TRICARE network mental health providers licensed in another state. This would help address mental health access and continuity of care challenges for mobile military families.

These provisions underscore the commitment to supporting military families and ensuring the well-being of service members. As lawmakers consider the NDAA, it is essential they include critical measures in the final legislation to strengthen and support the military community.

About the Author: Maj Gen April Vogel, USAF (Ret) is MOAA's Vice President of Government Relations

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/military-pay,-tricare-upgrades-on-tap-when-congress-returns-to-work>

LOCAL DINING NOTE

- Te'Jun the Texas Cajun serves fresh seafood Cajun Style. It opened in 2017 and serves Louisiana crawfish, Alaskan snow crab, Maine lobster, Atlantic white shrimp, fried fish, fried shrimp, gumbo and more. Diners enjoy a fun, friendly and pleasant atmosphere indoors and especially outside on an enormous patio deck overlooking the water. It serves lunch and dinner and is open Monday – Saturday. The website is tejunthetexascajun.com. The restaurant is located at 711 North Robinson Drive, Robinson, TX. Phone number is 254-335-3100.

HOUSE PASSES DOLE ACT

The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, H.R. 8371 passed in the House with a bipartisan vote of 389-9. This legislative, known as the Dole Act, is being slated for a vote in the Senate. If signed into law, it would fund a range of enhancements vital to critical health care services for veterans and

caregivers who need help now and cannot wait any longer.

Source : VFW Action Corps, November 25, 2024, VFW.org..

HOLIDAY OVERSEAS MAIL DEADLINES APPROACHING

The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. To ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: Dec. 9 for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and Dec. 16 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express. Actual delivery dates may vary.

Source : VFW Action Corps, November 25, 2024, VFW.org.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT RISES DESPITE ONGOING CHALLENGES

The Department of Defense (DOD) has reported it successfully recruited 12.5% more personnel in fiscal year 2024 than the previous year, increasing the number of recruits from 200,000 to 225,000. The armed services saw a rise in written contracts and a larger pool of candidates entering the delayed entry program. However, despite these gains recruitment remains challenging due to low interest among youth, a competitive job market, and a decline in eligibility of young adults. Many people who are 17-24 years of age have little to no connection to military service, and the majority would need waivers to serve. To improve awareness and understanding, DOD is launching campaigns on military service value and opportunities.

Source : VFW Action Corps, November 18, 2024, VFW.org.



Heart of Texas Chapter TX07, MOAA
P.O. Box 23964
Waco, TX 76702-3964

Address label

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1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Arend, Lew, 1LT, USA (Liz) 713-254-1334

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George Littell, 1LT, USA (Helen) 713-254-0972

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Jane Winston, Lt, USAF 979-777-8076

Ennis Sullivan, Capt., USAF (Kay) 214-797-1464

Barbara Purselley 254-716-4572

Beau Crosby, Col, USAF (ret) (Kathy Endres) 254-709-9588

Norma Thronburg 254-749-2146

Gary Urban, Maj, USAF (ret) 254-715-6560

John Jacques, MAJ, USA (Dawn) 254-394-2373

Bill Milnor, COL, USA (ret) (Gerry) 972-533-7874

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Mike Strain, Capt., USAF (Doris) 281-565-3110

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William Bauer, COL, USMC (ret.) (Judy) 254-772-7111

Robert Rochell, CAPT, USA (ret.) 254-723-3280

Robert Baugh, MAJ, USA (ret.) (Gayle) 254-772-4651

Stanley Brubaker, Col, USAF (ret.) (Lori) 254-772-7405

ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator John Cornyn

517 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Website: www.Cornyn.senate.gov

202-224-2934

221 West Sixth St, Suite 1530

Austin, TX 78701

512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz

167 Russell

Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-5922

300 E. 8th, Ste 961

Austin, TX 78701

512-916-5834

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions

2204 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-6105.

400 Austin Ave,
Suite 302

Waco, TX 76701

254-633-4500

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MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622

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