



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

Approximately one week ago, our President, Ken Ratajczak, regrettably submitted his resignation due to medical issues. As 1st Vice-President, I've been called upon to assume Ken's duties for the remainder of the year in addition to my own, and I am extremely humbled and honored to accept this new responsibility. Lew Arend remains as the 2nd Vice-President, and he will be advising and assisting. Our thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes continue to be with Ken and Anne as they continue to navigate through this challenging period of their lives.

Our chapter looks forward to increasing our support for Veterans, Veteran dependents, and JROTC/ROTC students and a Civil Air Patrol cadet. We need to prepare those who will lead in the future and remember those who are serving and have honorably served our nation. Moreover, within the next 65 days, we will be going to the polls to elect a new President and Vice President to lead our Nation.

The cornerstone of our assistance programs is our annual golf fundraiser that provides resources necessary to support our scholarship program and veterans related organizations supporting veterans and their families, such as the Veterans One Stop, Stan Parker Foundation, and Baylor Vets. This year we have provided over \$16,300 to support our scholarship and Veteran's assistance programs and have \$2,000 pending in approved donations.

The month of September will have several noteworthy events: • The entire month of September has been dedicated as POW/MIA Month in remembrance of our Brothers and Sisters whose fate is known but to God. • Labor Day is on Monday September 2. • September 11 – 9/11 Remembrance – We should never forget that most terrible day in American history and reflect on how far we have come since then.

Our September speaker is slated to be Mr. Phil Crawford, who will be representing the Waco Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Many of us, including myself, are unfamiliar with the mission and history of the CAP, so this will be a prime opportunity to come and learn!

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 and to restore civility. Thank you for your good work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our September 19th dinner - come out and enjoy!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r
 Bill Porter

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

"Ambition must be made to counteract ambition." - *James Madison*

"The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." - *James Madison*

"The people are the only legitimate fountain of power." - *James Madison*

"Truth will ultimately prevail where there are pains to bring it to light." - *George Washington*

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." - *Benjamin Franklin*

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."

- *Thomas Jefferson*

"Distrust naturally creates distrust, and by nothing is good will and kind conduct more speedily changed." - *John Jay*

"It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one." - *George Washington*

Source: <https://www.inc.com/partners-in-leadership/23-quotes-from-our-founding-fathers-to-inspire-greatness-in-life-in-work.html>

THINGS TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

Sep 2, 1864 – Atlanta captured by Sherman’s Army

Sep 3, 1783 – The Treaty of Paris signed formally ending the American Revolutionary War

Sep 3, 1838 – Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor

Sep 4, 1886 – The last major US-Indian war ended with the capture of Geronimo

Sep 7, 1994 – The US Army closed its Berlin headquarters, ending American military presence in the once divided city after nearly 50 years

Sep 9, 1943 – The invasion of Salerno began when Allied forces under Gen Mark Clark made amphibious landings near Naples, Italy

Sep 11, 2001 – Mid-East terrorists attacked the United States killing nearly 3,000 innocent Americans

Sep 13, 1778 – The US Congress chose New York as the Federal capital

Sep 13, 1814 – The Battle of Fort McHenry began

Sep 17, 1862 – The bloodiest day in US military history occurred at the Battle of Antietam with over 22,000 killed, wounded or missing

Sep 17, 1908 – The first fatality involving powered flight occurred when a biplane piloted by Orville Wright crashed seriously injuring Orville and killing his passenger Lt Thomas Selfridge

Sep 18, 1947 – The US Air Force established as a separate service

Sep 19, 1994 – US troops invaded Haiti to restore democracy

Sep 22, 1776 – Patriot Nathan Hale executed as a spy without trial

Sep 24, 1957 – President Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce integration of schools in Little Rock

Sep 26, 1918 – The Meuse - Argonne Offensive begins. It was the deadliest campaign in American military history with over 26 000 soldiers killed in action (KIA) and over 120,000 total casualties

Sep 29, 1789 – Congress created the United States Army consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers

Sep 30, 1949 – The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277, 264 flight carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin

Sources: <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/september.htm>
<https://www.archives.gov/> (search for Meuse-Argonne Offensive)

THIRD THURSDAY DINNER MEETING, SEPTEMBER 19 IN THE MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE STADIUM – 5th FLOOR.

-- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side and look for double door with Media Entrance located above door. This is before the Baylor Club main entrance. Go through 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**

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

**** 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest speaker will be Phil Crawford, Waco Civil Air Patrol.**

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

A bar will be available, and payment will be credit card payment 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, 12 September, Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVPs are welcome and appreciated. After the 12th, 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: Summer dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, casual business attire with collared shirts

and optional for coat and/or tie and ladies casual business attire.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024**, 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. Newsletters are sent 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 400 chapters and together we are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Jim Buehrig, Debby DeGraff, Mary Duty, Elizabeth Garcia, Christi Hunting Horse, Bill Perdue, Randy Ramey, Ken Sterling,

Anniversaries: "Doc" and Lyn Anderson, Lew and Liz Arend, Pete and Susan Patrick, Billie and Mauve Sawyer, and Matt and Savanna Urban.

Congratulations to All

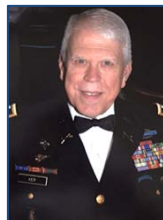
2024 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

- **17 October 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Lt Col Ken Sterling, Baylor University Air Force and Space Force Detachment Commander.
- **21 November 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Date is pending for guest speaker.
- **12 December 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Chapter election for 2025 and entertainment will be by the band, the Morticians for music and dance.

- **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. Collection is being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collections each month in 2024.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – PAST PRESIDENT – JON R. KER



Jon R. Ker is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel having served in combat with the 5th Special Forces Group (Green Berets) in Vietnam (1969) and Iraq (2003-2004). While in service he earned among other awards, the Combat Infantryman's Badge 2d Award, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2xOak Leaf Clusters, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm device and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Jon received his Bachelors of Business Administration (with Honors) in 1973 and his J.D. degree in 1976 both from Texas Tech University. He also received a Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2004 while serving in Iraq, and a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from the Baylor Truett Seminary in 2017.

Jon is a sole practitioner attorney whose areas of practice include civil litigation that for several years has had a heavy emphasis in employment discrimination litigation. He was lead counsel in a case before the United States Supreme Court, involving age discrimination in federal employment. Jon is a member of the Federal Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, The College of the State Bar of Texas, Abner V. McCall American Inns of Court, and Waco-McLennan County Bar Association. Jon is also a member of the Special Forces Association Chapter 93 located in Waco, Texas.

Jon currently serves as the Senatorial District 22 Committeeman on the Texas State Republican Party Executive Committee where he is the Chairman of the Abolish Abortion Subcommittee of the Legislative Priorities Committee.

Jon met his future wife Terri Elaine Anderson in Waco, and they were married on January 10, 1985. They are active members in the Searsville County

Church in Valley Mills, Texas where Jon is an Elder and music leader.

Jon has been a member of Heart of Texas chapter for several years has served as President, Chaplain and Board Member. Jon also provides legal advice to the Chapter concerning non-profit status and Chapter Bylaw change reviews.

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.

DONATION PRESENTATION

On August 14 at the Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, a donation of \$500 was presented to the Stan Park Foundation by the HOT Chapter MOAA.



In the photo, on the left is Ken Ratajczak, HOT Chapter MOAA President and on the right is Stan Parker of the Stan Parker Foundation.

LOCAL EVENT

Homestead Heritage has its 30th Annual Sorghum Festival, Monday, September 2, 10 am to 4 pm. Activities will include items as Sorghum Pressing and Cook-off, Horse Drawn Hayrides, Demonstrations of Fine Handcrafts and Activities for Children. Food includes BBQ, Brick Oven Pizza and Ice Cream.

The location is 650 Halbert Lane. Phone number for info is 254-754-9600. The website is homesteadheritage.com.

PS Try the Waco Waffle House at Homestead Heritage for breakfast/brunch. The food is Excellent!!

MOAA NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS

Here's Why the NDAA Will Strengthen the Next-Gen TRICARE Network

By: Karen Ruedisueli

AUGUST 28, 2024

MOAA's work to ensure TRICARE beneficiaries will see greater access to high-quality care under the new provider contract is set to take a major step forward, with congressional oversight of the process included in both House and Senate committee reports on the must-pass defense authorization bill.

Both the Senate and House Armed Services committee (SASC and HASC) reports on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) require assessments of the so-called "T-5" contract and how it will enhance access to network care.

"The committee is concerned about the ability of the TRICARE purchased care network to meet the health care needs of TRICARE beneficiaries," the SASC report notes. "In a November 2023 Management Advisory, the Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General reported that, in some locations, the TRICARE network is not robust or adequate enough to meet beneficiaries' needs."

The SASC report also notes that military health system reforms in the FY 2017 NDAA established TRICARE Select and required DoD to develop an implementation plan to improve access to care for TRICARE beneficiaries.

SASC FY 2025 NDAA report language directs the Comptroller General to submit a review of DoD's oversight and enforcement of contractors' network adequacy requirements in T-5, including an assessment of the reliability of the contractors' data used in the metrics, as well as T-5 network adequacy requirements related to pediatric primary care and obstetrics care.

While MOAA understands the COVID-19 pandemic led to workforce volatility and capacity constraints across the U.S. health care system, military family feedback suggests some access problems are due to providers leaving the TRICARE network – not overall capacity shortages.

Preventing an 'Undue Burden'

The HASC also addressed TRICARE network concerns in its report accompanying its version of the FY 2025 NDAA.

"The committee believes that our service members and their families should have access to medical care

that does not cause an undue burden,” the HASC report states. “Recent reports of provider shortages on bases around the country are of particular concern to the committee as service members and their families are traveling greater distances to access the care they need without a sufficient TRICARE network.”

The HASC report directs DoD to provide a congressional briefing on T-5 by Dec. 1 to include how T-5 will ensure access to pediatric primary care and obstetrics care within the direct care system or as part of the managed care support contracts.

An evaluation of T-5 requirements by the Comptroller General’s Government Accountability Office (GAO) will help determine whether T-5 will address network adequacy issues or if further action will be necessary to ensure beneficiary access to care for service members, retirees, their families and survivors.

MOAA looks forward to leveraging report findings in future TRICARE advocacy efforts. Keep up with the latest on T-5 and other health care news at MOAA.org.

Advocacy in Action: Why Playing the Long Game Matters

By: **Jen Goodale** August 28, 2024

At first glance, it might seem puzzling that MOAA dedicates time and resources to bills that appear to have little chance of passing. However, this approach reflects a deep understanding of advocacy as a long-term effort requiring persistence, education, and established relationships.

The long battle to repeal the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, better known as the “widows tax,” is a recent example of legislation that passed as a result of such an effort.

A new Congress arrives every two years with new members, fresh priorities, and evolving dynamics. This constant turnover means the legislative landscape is perpetually shifting. What might be a low-priority issue in one Congress can gain traction in the next as new voices and perspectives come into play. By continuously advocating for important military-related legislation, MOAA ensures these issues remain on the radar, ready to be seized upon when the timing is right.

A significant number of elected officials and their staffers lack personal military or uniformed service experience. This gap in understanding makes it even more critical for MOAA to engage in ongoing education efforts. By persistently bringing our concerns to the forefront, MOAA helps inform and shape the perspectives of those in power. This education isn’t a one-time effort; it’s a continuous process, necessary for ensuring the unique challenges faced by service members and their families are fully understood and addressed.

Advocacy is not just about pushing bills through: It’s about finding and nurturing bipartisan champions who will carry these causes forward. This doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time to build relationships, demonstrate the importance of an issue, and convince legislators to take up the mantle. MOAA’s consistent efforts lay the groundwork for these champions to emerge, ensuring that when the political climate is right, there are committed leaders ready to drive change.

MOAA’s advocacy efforts are amplified when supported by the voices of constituents. Elected officials are more likely to take notice when they hear directly from the people they represent. That’s why it’s vital for members and supporters to get involved through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. Your input not only reinforces MOAA’s message but also helps to build the momentum needed to turn these long-term efforts into legislative wins.

By staying engaged, persistent, and proactive, MOAA continues to work tirelessly on behalf of our uniformed services community, knowing that today’s efforts lay the foundation for tomorrow’s successes.



Source: Reprinted from MOAA Newsletter, Aug 29, 2024

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, SEPTEMBER 19, THURSDAY DINNER MEETING IN THE MEDIA ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, MCLANE STADIUM, GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE PHIL CRAWFORD, WACO CIVIL AIR PATROL**
- **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JON KER**
- **MOAA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS**
- **HOMESTEAD HERITAGE INFO**