



**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

Greetings All!

Well, 2025 is now officially here! I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and just a happy holiday season all around in visiting friends and family! I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone safety and bountiful prosperity as we together navigate this New Year. I also wanted to thank each and every one of you who was able to attend the December dinner and take part in the festivities with our one and only band, The Morticians. It was a resounding success and I thank you for your support!

A recap from this month:

- On Friday December 20, I answered a request from Si Simonson, Head of the MOAA Texas Council Chapters (TCC), on several items that HOTMOAA could do/is doing to help TCC and national MOAA better serve its chapters, briefly:

1. Contacts that HOTMOAA has with local media to help improve the chapter brand - Done several years ago by our Scholarship Board with the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and KWTX.
2. Active support for Veterans 1-Stop and Baylor Vets - Ongoing via frequent liaison with Baylor Vets, including free resume writing services and food/monetary donations to Veterans 1-Stop.
3. Active support to provide housing for homeless Veterans - In progress, with the Doris Miller VA Medical Center planning to convert some of its facilities into dormitories in the next few years.

- On page 4 is a tentative list of the 2025 dinner speakers and subjects on which they will speak. Our 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Lew Arend, recently assembled this list through September. Way to go, Lew!

- Remember the weekly free Veterans Lunch at the Veterans One Stop, 2010 La Salle Avenue, every Thursday from 11:00 to 1:00. Donations are always welcome!

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.

The initial planning for our June 7, 2025, golf tournament fundraiser will commence shortly after January 1 with the goal of increasing membership and Waco community support for the event. Exact golf planning meeting dates TBA from Vince Tobola. 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 with the new Presidential administration. Thank you for your excellent work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> dinner.

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Bill Porter

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS**

“It will not be denied that power is of an encroaching nature and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it.” James Madison, Federalist 48, 1788

“I own I am not a friend to a very energetic government. It is always oppressive.” Thomas Jefferson, Letter to James Madison, 1787

“An elective despotism was not the government we fought for; but one in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced among the several bodies of magistracy as that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually checked and restrained by the others.” Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia, 1785

“A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.” –James Madison, Federalist 51, 1788

“One of the most essential branches of English liberty is the freedom of one’s house. A man’s house is his castle.” – James Otis, on the Writs of Assistance, 1761

“Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood.” – John Adams, 1765

“In Europe, charters of liberty have been granted by power. America has set the example . . . of charters of power granted by liberty. This revolution in the practice of the world, may, with an honest praise, be pronounced the most triumphant epoch of its history, and the most consoling presage of its happiness.” – James Madison, Essays for the National Gazette, 1792

“The propriety of a law, in a constitutional light, must always be determined by the nature of the powers upon which it is founded.” – Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 33, 1788

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.” – James Madison, *Federalist* 45, 1788

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

## **THINGS TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON IN DECEMBER:**

**JAN 1, 1863** – President Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation

**JAN 3, 1777** – Gen Washington defeated the British at Princeton

**JAN 4, 1790** – President Washington delivered the first State of the Union Address

**JAN 5, 1925** - Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female governor inaugurated in the U.S

**JAN 8, 1798** - The 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, preventing lawsuits against a state by anyone from another state or foreign nation

**JAN 8, 1815** – American troops led by Gen Andrew Jackson defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans

**JAN 10, 1776** – Thomas Paine publishes a 50 page pamphlet *Common Sense* which sold over 500,000 copies in America and Europe

**JAN 12, 1991** - Congress authorized use of force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait

**Jan 13, 1990** - Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the first African American governor in the U.S.

**Jan 16, 1991** – Operation Desert Storm (Iraq war) began

**Jan 18, 1966** - Robert Clifton Weaver was sworn in as the first African American cabinet member in U.S. history

**Jan 20, 1981** – Ronald Reagan became the oldest president to take office

**Jan 21, 1954** – The first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton, CT

**Jan 22, 1973** – Roe v Wade decision

**Jan 23, 1907** - Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first person of Native American ancestry to serve in the U.S Senate. He later served as vice president under President Herbert Hoover from 1929-33.

**Jan 23, 1968** – USS Pueblo seized by North Korea

**Jan 24, 1848** – The California gold rush began

**Jan 27, 1943**- The 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Wilhelmshaven, Germany, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters

**Jan 27, 1967** – Three astronauts killed by fire during Apollo 1 launch simulation

**Jan 28, 1915** - U.S. Coast Guard created

**Jan 29, 1919** - 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment (Prohibition) ratified

**Jan 30, 1968** – Tet Offensive began

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

## **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

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.

## JANUARY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

**Birthdays:** Charles Farr, Hope Hacker, Joe Herbelin, Gene Lednicky, Linda Pitzer, Harold Rafuse, Susie Rowe, Mauve Sawyer, and Doris Strain.

**Anniversaries:** Jimmie and Mary Hanes, and Jon and Terri Ker.

## Congratulations to All

## **RECAP OF OUR DECEMBER 2024 DINNER DANCE**

After voting on our 2025 slate of officers and board members, over 45 members enjoyed a festive evening dinner dance with music by the Morticians. The montage below highlights some of the festivities.



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.

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

## **SECOND THURSDAY DINNER MEETING, JANUARY 16, 2025 IN THE MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE STADIUM – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 – Installation of 2025 Officers and Directors**

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

**\*\* 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest Speaker – Chaplain Richard Campbell–**

**MENU:** Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Chicken Fried Steak, Grilled Tilapia, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, and Desserts. Fresh Brewed Iced Tea, water and coffee.

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, 9 January, Noon for sign-ups.**

**Early RSVPs are welcome and appreciated.** After the 9th, 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 optional for tie and ladies' casual business attire.

## **JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER – CHAPLAIN RICHARD B CAMPBELL, CAPTAIN, USAF**



Chaplain Richard Campbell is a native Texan, graduate of Baylor University, and is endorsed as a chaplain by the Texas Baptists.

He entered the Air Force in 2010 as a Chaplain candidate and received his Master of Divinity from the George W Truett Theology Seminary in 2011. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2015 and served Air Force as well as Army Special Operation Force's 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Groups at various combat outposts and operating bases. Captain Campbell is currently the Chaplain, 27<sup>th</sup>

Special Operations Wing at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. He is married and has four children.

Chaplain Campbell will provide us unique Air Force perspectives along with military housing needs.

### **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**

**2025 dues are due as of January and are still \$25 for renewal.** They may be paid at the chapter meetings or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. We appreciate your continued support of the chapter.

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](http://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.

### **2025 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **16 January 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Installation of 2025 officers and directors. Chaplain (Captain) Richard B Campbell – Chaplain Stories
- **20 February 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Dr Charles Weaver – How we remember/forget.
- **20 March 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Elmer Speith – Veterans One Stop Special Program.
- **17 April 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Dr Cynthia Little – Paranormal is Real.
- **15 May 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Dr Daniel Pack – Engineering Defense Contracts
- **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday, June 7, 2025, for the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf

Tournament at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. No dinner meeting.

- **17 July 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** HOT Chapter scholarship awards.
- **21 August 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker proposed Congressman Pete Sessions, but not confirmed.
- **18 September 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker Felecia Mulkey – Tumbling National Champions Coach.
- **16 October 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker or entertainment to be determined.
- **20 November 2025, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker or entertainment to be determined.
- **11 December 2025, Thursday dinner meeting and dance in the Media Room at McLane Stadium**

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive a free drawing ticket. The collection is being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collecting each month in 2025.

### **2025 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR INSTALLATION AT JANUARY DINNER MEETING**

#### **Officers**

President: Bill Porter  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Lew Arend  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Michael Slavens  
Treasurer: Vince Tobola (Appointed)  
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	



## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – WILLIAM “BILL” PERDUE, CAPT, USN (RET)**



Bill Perdue is an ordained Texas Baptist Minister who retired as a Chaplain in the United States Navy in 2008. Born in Corsicana and a graduate of Sweetwater High School, he was called to preach at age 17 and attended Baylor University graduating in 1973.

Upon graduation he took a commission in the Navy as a Naval Flight Officer and participated in Carrier operations for four years. In 1978, he entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft Worth, graduating with a Master of Divinity Degree in 1981. Upon graduation he was called as Pastor of Baptist Temple Church, Uvalde, Texas, where he served for four years. His love for Sailors and Marines was strong, though, and in 1985 the Lord called him back into the Navy as a chaplain to provide pastoral ministry to the men and women of the Sea Services.

His tours of duty include Naval Air Stations Key West, Fl and Lemoore, Ca, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Ca, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Ca, the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Il, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Tx, USS Blue Ridge, Yokosuka, Japan, the United States Seventh Fleet, the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton and the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), where he served as Force Chaplain for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 in Al Anbar Province, Iraq for 13 months in 2006-2007.

In 2008 CAPT Perdue finished his 29 year Navy career, retired from the Navy and was called as Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lott, TX where he served until his retirement in 2012. Concurrently, he also served as a Chaplaincy consultant to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Bill is married to the former Susan McHorse of Coleman, Texas, currently residing in Hewitt, TX. They are members of Dayspring Baptist in Waco and have four children and 11 grandchildren.

### **WACO AREA EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2025**

- Dec 31 – Jan 1 - Grab your tickets for Lucky #7 Anniversary celebration, where elegance meets

high-stakes fun in true 007 style. 712 Austin Ave, Waco, TX. Doors open at 9:30 pm

- Jan 3 – 5 – Frosty the Snowman at the Waco Civic Theater, show times at 2:00pm and 6:00pm
- Jan 4 – Ragbag Run at Cameron Park in Waco, TX from 8:00am – 11:00am, featuring distances from a 5 dollar 5K to a 50K, plus a fun 1-mile kids’ run—all for just \$1 per kilometer! Finishers can choose a unique, random medal from our past races, making this a fun & competitive trail race.
- Jan 7-8 – MidTex Farm and Ranch Show, at the EXTRACO Event Center. Show starts at 8:00am. Admission-FREE
- Jan 11 – Waco District Cleanup. Place bulky waste or yard waste at your curb on the designated date
- Jan 16 – The groundbreaking ceremony for the exciting transformation of the Bledsoe-Miller Community Center into a state-of-the-art STEAM Center for Excellence at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 300 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
- The ceremony will feature a brief program outlining the City of Waco's vision for the STEAM Center and light refreshments.
- Jan 16 – International Honey Tasting 6:30pm-8:30pm, McLennan Community College. Need to register online or call 254-299-8888, Cost \$39
- Jan 17 - McLennan Steinway Series 7:30 pm at the Ball Performing Arts Center Cost \$10-15.
- Jan 18 - Mosaic Classes in Waco. 2:00pm-4:30pm. Location- City of Waco Multi-Purpose Facility, 1020 Elm Ave, Waco, TX 76704. Cost from \$99-\$159
- Baylor Lifelong Learning available for sign-up now

### **MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

If needed, there is a MOAA national membership form at the chapter website: [hotmoaa.org](http://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 - NDAA CLEARS CONGRESS WITH HOURS TO SPARE**

**December 18, 2024**

*By MOAA Staff*

The FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is on its way to the president's desk following Senate passage Dec. 18, marking a significant step toward long-overdue quality of life reforms for service members and their families. The bill also introduces historic changes to the military pay table to better compensate junior enlisted service members.

MOAA's involvement in the FY 2025 NDAA process took many forms, but a key step came in 2023 with the association's early work with the new House Armed Services Quality of Life Panel. This bipartisan group, chaired by MOAA member Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.), compiled an April 2024 report that became the foundation for the initial House NDAA bill. While some of the report's proposals did not make it to the final legislation, many did, and will make a tangible difference for service members and their families now and far into the future.

"This bipartisan bill shows what legislators and stakeholders can accomplish when the needs of those who serve, and their families, steer the types of meaningful reforms needed to strengthen our all-volunteer force," MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said after the bill's passage. "I'm thankful to the committee leaders and Quality of Life Panel members who shaped these discussions, to the countless other legislators and staffers and advocates who provided extra support, and to the thousands of MOAA members who shared these critical priorities with their lawmakers throughout the 118th Congress."

The 1,800-plus-page legislation passed the Senate 85-14 on Dec. 18 after clearing the House 281-140 on Dec. 11. Here are just some of the quality of life provisions included in the bill:

### **Pay and Benefits**

- **Pay Raise:** A 4.5% raise for most service members keeps pace with the Employment Cost Index (ECI), an important metric MOAA has used to ensure fair compensation for those in uniform.

- **Targeted Pay Table Changes:** A 14.5% raise for junior enlisted members (E-1 to E-4) means meaningful reform to the military pay table. As Kelly put it in an October commentary at Military Times, "Our junior enlisted personnel play a critical role in safeguarding our nation's security, and their strategic importance in maintaining a strong, capable and ready force must remain a top priority."
- **Basic Needs Allowance (BNA):** The Quality of Life Panel report noted that while BNA eligibility has been expanded in previous years, only 0.8% of military families reporting food insecurity are eligible for the program. The NDAA increase in the threshold from 150% to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, making BNA available to more families in need.

### **Housing**

- **Unaccompanied Housing Reforms:** Poor conditions in unaccompanied housing made headlines in 2024. The NDAA addresses many of these concerns, requiring DoD to develop a public-private partnership strategy for new barracks, improving the inspection process, and authorizing the provision of free wireless Internet access.
- **Family Housing Improvements:** The NDAA builds on previous work to support military families facing housing problems by expanding congressional oversight of housing accounts, requiring new methods to track maintenance requests, and authorizing more than \$560 million in spending for new family housing units.

### **Medical Care**

- **Better Access to Care:** The bill allows DoD to employ more mental health providers and waives some TRICARE referral requirements for specialty care for service members.
- **More Accountability:** NDAA-required reports would provide Congress with data on military care standards (to improve oversight) and ensure DoD offers recommendations to solve staffing shortages in military treatment facilities serving rural areas.

### **Spouse and Family Support**

- **Child Care Improvements:** The bill improves compensation and benefits for DoD childcare

providers – a critical step to making more care options available to more military families.

- **Spouse Employment:** The NDAA moves many existing MOAA priorities forward in this area, to include easier professional license transfers and better child care access for spouses seeking employment.

These are far from the only improvements included in the legislation – MOAA will offer a more detailed breakdown of the full NDAA in the coming weeks, along with a look at some of the provisions left out of the final bill that will become top priorities for the association in the new legislative session. Stay involved by registering at our Legislative Action Center and by keeping up with the latest at our Advocacy News page.

Source : <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/nda-clears-congress-with-hours-to-spare/>

### REMINDER FOR VA SIGN-IN UPDATE

VA has issued changes for signing into your VA.gov or My HealtheVet accounts. Currently, there are four ways to sign in to your VA accounts: LOGIN.GOV, ID.ME, My HealtheVet, and DS Logon. Both My HealtheVet and DS Logon will be discontinued for accessing VA accounts. My HealtheVet sign in will be available until Jan. 31, 2025. Veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors with VA accounts are encouraged to transition how they sign in to access these accounts prior to that date.

Source: December 23, 2024, VFW Action Corps Weekly

### SPACE CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

United States Space Force (USSF) was established on Dec. 20, 2019, as the sixth branch of the armed forces, marking the first new service in 72 years. Created to address growing importance and threats in the space domain, it focuses on building a specialized force by integrating expertise from various military sectors, including space operations, cyber, intelligence, and engineering. U.S. space capabilities are crucial for national security and influence critical capabilities such as GPS and communications.

Source: December 16, 2024, VFW Action Corps Weekly

### 2025 RETIREE PAY DATES

<u>Entitlement Month</u>	<u>Retiree Pay Date</u>
December 2024	December 31, 2024
January 2025	January 31, 2025
February 2025	February 28, 2025
March 2025	April 1, 2025
April 2025	May 1, 2025
May 2025	May 30, 2025
June 2025	July 1, 2025
July 2025	August 1, 2025
August 2025	August 29, 2025
September 2025	October 1, 2025
October 2025	October 31, 2025
November 2025	December 1, 2025
December 2025	December 31, 2025

Source: U.S. Air Force Afterburner, Issue 2, 2024

### VINCE'S DINING OPTIONS

#### OLIVE BRANCH BAKERY & CAFÉ

Situated in the heart of downtown Waco, The Olive Branch is a comfortable place for fellowship: a meal with friends or co-workers, a power breakfast meeting, or a dessert-and-coffee date.

215 S 2nd St, Waco, TX 76701.

(254) 757-0885 [www.olivebranchwaco.com](http://www.olivebranchwaco.com)

#### TONY DEMARIO'S BAR-B-QUE

Tony DeMaria's BBQ is a Family owned and operated Bar-B-Que restaurant in Waco Texas since 1946! 4th generation owner, Blake DeMaria, operates the restaurant which is open for business Monday – Friday from 9am to 2pm and on Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Don't let the hours fool you, barbecue is cooked fresh daily and served until there's nothing left and is typically sold out before closing time. The restaurant has both indoor and outdoor seating. It is located at 1000 Elm Street in East Waco. The phone number is 254-755-888.



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

Address label

**2024 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**1st Vice President**

**2nd Vice President**

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Vacant

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