



**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

Greetings All!

Our annual fundraiser golf tournament is just a few short months away on Saturday morning, June 7. I am asking you to please consider making a financial contribution to the fundraiser. I plan to give my normal cash donation of \$300. Only \$150.00 will make you a hole sponsor. Moreover, if you have a favorite restaurant, please consider asking them for a donation, either cash or gift cards. You all have a bank that you deal with; consider asking them for a donation. Sponsor and donation forms are posted on the website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org) and the golf registration form. Exact golf planning meeting dates TBA from Vince Tobola. New ideas are always welcome on how to attain success for 2025!

The Scholarship Committee will be gearing up soon. If you know of a deserving and qualified student in need of assistance, please encourage them to apply for our scholarships. Once again, the application is on the website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org).

The annual Freedom Ball will be held on Saturday March 1 from 6:00 to 11:00. More information, including ticket pricing, can be found at <https://wacochamber.com/freedom-ball/>

Remember the weekly Veterans Lunch at the Veterans 1-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.

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 with the new Presidential administration. Thank you for your excellent work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> dinner.

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Bill Porter

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS**

“You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make a good use of it.” **-John Adams**

“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.” **-Thomas Jefferson**

“To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them...” **-Richard Henry Lee**

“It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be tomorrow.” **-James Madison**

“The Constitution is the guide which I will never abandon.” **-George Washington**

“It is the duty of the patriot to protect his country from its government.” **-Thomas Paine**

“A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government.” **-Thomas Jefferson**

“They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security.” **-Benjamin Franklin**

“There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.” **-Alexander Hamilton**

Source: <https://insearchofliberty.com/founding-fathers-on-freedom-liberty-and-american-exceptionalism/>

**THINGS TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON IN FEBRUARY:**

**Feb 1, 2003** –the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart of west Texas killing all seven on board

**Feb 2, 1848** - The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed

**Feb 3, 1985** – An unsuccessful four-hour peace conference to end the civil war between President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens at Hampton Roads, Virginia

**Feb 3, 1870** – The 15<sup>th</sup> amendment was ratified guaranteeing the right to vote

**Feb 3, 1913** – The 16<sup>th</sup> amendment was ratified granting government to collect income taxes

**Feb 6, 1933** – The 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment was adopted setting January 20<sup>th</sup> as the inauguration date

**February 7, 1795** - The 11th Amendment was ratified, limiting the powers of the Federal Judiciary over the states by prohibiting Federal lawsuits against individual states

**February 8, 1910** - The Boy Scouts of America was founded

**February 9, 1943** – US troops captured Guadalcanal with 2,000 Americans killed

**February 10, 1967** – The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified clarifying procedures for presidential succession

**February 12, 1999** – The impeachment trial of President Clinton ended

**February 13, 1945** – The Allied bombing of Dresden resulted in a four day firestorm that killed an estimated 135,000 German civilians

**Feb 15, 1898** – The Battleship Maine explodes killing 260 crew members

**Feb 15, 1933** – An assassination attempt on President Roosevelt occurred in Miami

**Feb 19, 1942** – President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order requiring Japanese Americans living on the Pacific coast to report for relocation (internment)

**Feb 20, 1943** – Battle of Kasserine Pass, 1,000 Americans killed

**Feb 20, 1962** – John Glenn became the first American launched into space

**Feb 23, 1942** –The first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage

**Feb 23, 1991** –Desert Storm – the Allied ground offensive began

**Feb 27, 1991** –Desert Storm – the 100 hour ground war ended

**Feb 27, 1950** – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was ratified setting presidential term limits

**Feb 28, 1994** – NATO’s first combat action in its 45 year history as American fighters shot down four Bosnian Serb jets in a no-fly zone

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

## RECAP OF OUR JANUARY 2025 DINNER MEETING



Our guest speaker, Chaplain Campbell provided us unique Air Force Chaplain perspectives along with military housing needs and success stories 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 and is currently the Chaplain, 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing ant Cannon AFB, New Mexico. He is married and has four children.

The January meeting was one of our largest to date with over 50 attendees. Well Done! We thank all who came and encourage others to join us for fellowship and a chance to get acquainted with new and current members.

## JANUARY 2025 - ATTENDEES PICTURES RECAP





**FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER – DR. CHARLES WEAVER**

Charles A. Weaver III serves as Associate Dean for Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at Baylor University. He is a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and served as chair of the department for eight years before joining the Dean’s Office. He has published dozens of scientific articles, two books and delivered hundreds of professional and scientific presentations, primarily in the areas of memory, cognition, and eyewitness identification. He has served as a forensic expert in more than 30 states. He was elected “Fellow” by both the Association for Psychological Science and the Psychonomic Society. In 2020, he was named “Master Teacher” by Baylor University, one of only 29 individuals so honored in the 175 year history of the university. His presentation will be on how we remember and forget.

**THURSDAY DINNER MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 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 - Chapter election for 2025**
- \*\* 5:50 P.M. Dinner**
- \*\* 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest Speaker – Charles Weaver who will discuss how we remember/forget.**

**MENU:**

Fresh fruit salad tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, Artisan Bread, Chicken Marsala, Dr. Pepper Pork Loin, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans, 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 the 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, 13 February, Noon for sign-ups.**

**Early RSVPs are welcome and appreciated.** After the 13th, 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.

**HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 25, 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 Michael Slavens, or Vince Tobola, with prospective 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, political nonpartisan organization.

2025 dues are now due. Dues are \$25 for current members and can be paid at the regular dinner meetings or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter on your renewal.

### **FEBRUARY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** James Battle, Norm Beu, Bill Bewley, Pam Holmes, Terri Ker, Bob Lull, Jim Milam, Nancy Pfanner, Diana Ramey, Claire Raineri, Anne Ratajczak, Bob Rochell, Ennis Sullivan, and Vince Tobola.

**Anniversaries:** Joe and Karen Augeri, Jim and Jerrie Buehrig and George and Helen Littell.

### **Congratulations to All**

### **2025 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **20 March 2025.** Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Elmer Speith – 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.

**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 Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collecting each month in 2025.

### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JAMES ANTHONY BATTLE, LTC (RET)**



LTC James (JB) Battle enlisted in March 1994, attended Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) in September 1997 and received his commission through Officer Candidate School (OCS) in May 2003. He is a graduate of the Aviation Basic and Advance Course as well as the Command and General Staff College.

LTC Battle served as the 25th Infantry Division, Chief of Training for the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 Operations. His previous field grade assignments include Senior Aviation Advisor to the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Corps, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Director of Aviation Operations, III Corps, Ft. Hood, Texas; US Forces Korea Transformation Plans Officer, G5 Aviation Plans Officer for 2nd ID, Camp Red Cloud, Republic of South Korea; Brigade Operations Officer for 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and the Executive Officer for 2-291st Aviation Battalion, 166th Aviation Brigade, Ft. Hood, Texas.

LTC Battle's deployments include Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo and three combat deployments: two to Iraq with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, CJTF/SOTF, III Corps and one combat deployment to Saudi Arabia and surrounding CENTCOM Theater.

As the former Professor of Military Science of Northern Arizona University and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Army ROTC programs, JB served 26 years as an Army Aviator, rated in the TH-67, OH 58 A/C and the AH-64 A/C/D/E model aircraft.

LTC James (JB) Battle retired from Service, 31 JUL 2024 with over 30 years of service to this great nation. His military Battle's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Master Aviator Badge.

### **WACO AREA EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025**

- Baylor Lifelong Learning begins
- The People's Law School at Baylor Law, Saturday Feb 15, 2025. Register online at <https://law.baylor.edu/why-baylor-law/pro-bono/peoples-law-school>
- Mayborn Museum – The Pigeon Comes to Waco, TX Jan 25-May 11, 2025
- Mayborn Museum, Feb 12, Documentary Screening: Rising: The Hall of Negro Life

### **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**

### **TRICARE For Life Enrollment Fees, Cost Shares Part of New Budget Report**

**By: Karen Ruedisueli**

**January 15, 2025**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has once again targeted TRICARE For Life (TFL) in its biennial report outlining options for reducing the deficit.

The December 2024 report highlights savings that could be achieved by introducing a TFL enrollment fee or minimum out-of-pocket cost requirement. Similar concepts have been presented in past CBO reports, which are issued every two years to provide information to lawmakers confronting budgetary challenges.

Last year, nearly 200 MOAA members and staff took this issue to Capitol Hill as part of our Advocacy in Action campaign, ensuring elected officials understand the intense opposition to TFL fees. Retirees already have fulfilled all the requirements to earn their health care benefit, and MOAA will fight any attempts to cut it, including fee increases designed to shift costs from DoD to seniors who rely on TFL.

While no current legislation proposes TRICARE fee increases, MOAA takes these threats seriously given pressures on the DoD budget and precedent for such proposals. From FY 2013 to FY 2017, MOAA's efforts helped to block five consecutive administration budget request proposals for TFL enrollment fees.

Some details on the options included in the CBO report:

#### **TFL Enrollment Fee**

TFL enrollment is automatic once a beneficiary starts paying Medicare Part B premiums. There is no enrollment fee or monthly premium for TFL coverage.

A CBO proposal would require Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay an

**annual enrollment fee of \$610 for individual coverage or \$1,220 for family coverage.**

The enrollment fees would be indexed to grow at the same rate as average Medicare costs in later years.

#### **TFL Cost Sharing**

The other CBO measure affecting TFL would introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirements, including an \$850 deductible – TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost-sharing. For the first \$4,250 in total medical expenses each year, Medicare would pay its 80% (or \$3,400) while the TFL beneficiary would be responsible for the full \$850 not covered by Medicare.

After the deductible was satisfied, TFL would cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost-sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face *up to \$4,675 in cost-sharing per year*. Similar to the enrollment fee proposal, cost-sharing requirements would increase annually at the rate of Medicare cost increases.

#### **Protecting Your Earned Benefit**

The options outlined in the CBO report come from various sources including past proposed legislation or budget proposals, congressional offices, federal agencies, and the private sector. "As a collection, the options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities, not a ranking of priorities or an exhaustive list," the report states. "Inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply approval or disapproval by CBO, and the report makes no recommendations."

MOAA appreciates the importance of addressing the deficit, but our nation must fulfill obligations to those who serve a full career in uniform. We will fight any proposal that increases costs to seniors who rely on TFL for their health care. The TFL benefit was a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war – MOAA will also protect the future of TFL for current working-age retirees and career service members who are counting on TFL as a critical part of their future retirement plans.

We will be monitoring for any signs that CBO's concepts have gotten traction. The administration budget request, due in February but sometimes

delayed during the first year of a new administration, will likely give us our first glimpse at any potential proposals to increase TRICARE fees. Look for updates on these and other legislative issues in *The MOAA Newsletter* and at MOAA.org, and register at our Legislative Action Center so you can take part in upcoming grassroots efforts designed to preserve service-earned benefits.

*Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-for-life-enrollment-fees,-cost-shares-part-of-new-budget-report/>*

## **VA ANNOUNCES FURTHER PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTIONS**

As of Jan. 10, 2025, VA has established presumptive service connections from exposure to particulate matter 2.5 for leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, and myelofibrosis. Eligible veterans must have served on active military, naval, air, or space service in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after Aug. 2, 1990; or in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, or Yemen on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This interim final rule will ease the evidentiary burden for VA disability compensation claimants with these conditions. The public may submit comments until March 11, 2025.

*Source: From VFW Action Corps Weekly, Jan. 27, 2025*

## **CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

With a new Congress comes new committee assignments. Congressman Sessions was pleased to announce that he will continue in his role as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Also on the Oversight Committee, he will sit on the Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services. He will also remain on the Financial Services Committee as a senior member. There, he was selected to serve on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, and the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions. He is looking forward to getting to work in each of these roles.

*Source: Congressman Pete Sessions Fireside Sessions, Jan. 24, 2025*

## **WWI REENACTMENT AT CAMP MABRY IN AUSTIN**

There will be a World War I Battle Reenactment on March 1 and 2. Showtimes are 1 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Free admission and free parking. Camp Mabry is located via 35<sup>th</sup> Street, half a mile west of MoPac. Photo ID is required.

There will be an original WWI tank moving and firing as well as original World War I artillery, equipment, uniforms and weapons. This commemorates the role of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in WWI. More information can be found at [www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org). The address for Camp Mabry is 2200 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Bldg. 6, Autin, TX. The phone number is 512-782-5659.

## **VINCE'S DINING NOTES**

Fresh seafood Cajun style can be found at the Te'jun the Texas Cajun. Serving Louisiana crawfish, Alaskan snow crab, Maine lobster, Atlantic white shrimp, fried fish, fried shrimp, gumbo and more. It is located at 711 North Robinson Drive, Robinson. The phone number is 254-235-3100. More information at the website [tejunthetexascajun.com](http://tejunthetexascajun.com).

Slow Rise Slice House's two locations each serve delicious New York-style pizza in an atmosphere perfect for a family night out. At the Woodway location, kids can enjoy the outdoor playground while parents savor the slice of the day. Or, families can enjoy the scenic riverside views at the Brazos location. Slow Rise on the Brazos looks out at the Brazos and the cliffs of Cameron Park. With appetizers, wings, salads and both classic and specialty pies. Slow Rise is sure to satisfy any appetite. The locations are 7608 Woodway Drive and phone number 254-235-0785 and 1620 N MLK Blvd. and phone number 254-488-4719. Website is [slowrisewaco.com](http://slowrisewaco.com).



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