



Heart of Texas Chapter (TX-07)
Military Officer Association of America
P.O. Box 23964 Waco, TX 76702-3964

Volume MMXXI, Issue VI

June 2021

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

President's Column

Greetings,

Once again our Thursday evening dinner meeting, May 18, 2021 was well attended, with over 40 people, including our newest member, Terry Flood.

We heard an inspiring presentation by member Bill Easley and his wife Bernie about their trip to the Holy Land in Israel and a word about training of Israeli Defense Force recruits at Massad where they are reminded of the potential necessity to sacrifice all for country.

It was reported that Bobby Sammon received a scam/fraudulent mobile phone message requesting immediate anonymous donation of money to the chapter president, similar to an incident a year earlier supposedly requested by the former chapter President. The message sound quite convincing; however, Bobby was correctly suspicious enough to inquire independently of the president and learned of the fraud. Lesson to be learned: be suspicious of unexpected messages asking for money; they can sound convincing and should be verified through independent sources before considering honoring such requests.

It was announced that the chapter will send a certificate of appreciation for the outstanding presentation by cadets from the Parsons Mounted Cavalry of Texas A&M University at the April meeting.

The former chapter president located an MOAA Chapter President's badge and pinned it to the lapel of the current chapter president – thanks Gary!

The chapter Board met on Tuesday May 25, 2021. Consideration was given to ordering MOAA items such as coins, caps and T-shirts; some prototypes will be made for our review. If they look good, these items may help with both recruiting and fundraising.

There will be no dinner meeting in June 2021 as is our tradition because members participate in the golf event, this year's being an abridged version of the usual tournament, a fun-golf outing.

Respectfully,
Bill Milnor

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Ridgewood Country Club (RCC) is at 7301 Fish Pond Road. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday.

- **There will be no dinner meeting in June given the Golf Outing on June 4th.**
- **15 July 2021**, Dinner meeting with entertainment by Ken Ratajczak, performing music by John Denver and friends.
- **19 August 2021**, Dinner meeting with guest speaker, Terry Flood.
- **16 September 2021**, Luncheon, Baylor Club – President's Suite, Speaker to be announced.
- **21 October 2021**, Dinner Meeting, Speaker or Entertainment to be announced.
- **18 November 2021**, Dinner Meeting, Speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **9 December 2021**, Dinner Meeting, Election and Live Entertainment by the band, The Morticians.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 22, 5 p.m., at Uncle Dan's BBQ, 1001 Lake Air Drive, which is located near the intersection with Valley Mills Drive and Lake Air Drive.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

JUNE SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Charles “Doc” Anderson, Stan Brubaker, Dennis DeGraff, Willie DuBose, Mary Gee, Mary Hanes, Ted Lawson, Gerry Milnor, Sarah Preddy, Sally Robinson, Margaret Ross, Renee Swann, Susie Rowe, Billie Sawyer, Don Schreiber, and Kay Sullivan.

Anniversaries: Charles and Patsy Norman Farr, Jim and Kay Gompper, Don and Sally McErlean, Bill and Gerry Milnor, and Bob and Margaret Ross.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

HOT CHAPTER MOAA AWARDS NINE EDUCATIONAL GRANTS FOR 2021

A total of nine educational grants were awarded in May of 2021 to cadets in the Waco area. Recipients were:

Baylor University Air Force ROTC Cadet Jacob Ramirez, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$300;

Baylor University Army ROTC Cadet Mark Patrick, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$300;

Waco High School Army JROTC Cadet Nancy Sarabia, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$150;

Connally High School Air Force JROTC Cadet Amanda Lemanski, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$150;

La Vega High School Navy ROTC Cadet Callista Musgrove, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$150;

Midway High School Marine JROTC Cadet Samantha Huston, receiving a MOAA medal set and \$150;

Heart of Texas Young Marines Cadet, Natalia Acosta, receiving \$150 and

Waco Composite Civil Air Patrol Cadet Samuel R. Gilmer, receiving \$150.

THE NATIONAL WWI MEMORIAL OPENS

The new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. opened April 17. The site honors the 4.7 million Americans who served.

The flag raised at the memorial flew over the U.S. Capitol on April 6, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the day the United States entered WWI. It went on to fly over nine American WWI cemeteries overseas, then over the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, MO., before returning home.

VA IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST RECENTLY ADDED AGENT ORANGE CONDITIONS

The VA announced at end of May that it will begin implementing the three presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that were added in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism. It is suggested that affected veterans and survivors to the local veterans’ service officer with any questions or concerns they may have or if they may be interested in filing a claim. The McLennan County Veterans Service Officer is Steve Hernandez, 254-297-7171, Ext. 4118. His office is located at the Veterans One Stop Service Center at 2010 LaSalle, Waco, TX 76706.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Texas Sports Hall of Fame, 1108 S. University Parks Drive, Waco, TX 76706. Open Mon. thru Sat., 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission cost: Adults, \$8.00; Seniors 60+ \$7.00; Military/Veterans with ID, Free; College ID, \$4.00; Students (6 -14) \$4.00, Children under five, Free. Phone number is 254-756-1633. Free Parking. Website at www.tshof.org.
- Brotherwell Brewing, 400 E. Bridge Street, Waco, TX 76704. The location has the brewery, taproom, and beer garden courtyard. Check website, www.brotherwell.com for operating hours or call 254-2301-7152. There is a special free activity on third Sunday afternoon where the courtyard will have local artists, food trucks, local vendors and taproom open. Times are Noon to 7 p.m. Next one will be on June 20th. Free parking on streets around building and the parking lot off of Elm Avenue.

NO IRAQ WITHDRAWAL PLANS YET

As the U.S. progresses to draw down its last 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, the head of Central Command recently told reporters that there are no current plans to begin similar withdrawal of the 2,500 in Iraq. This is due to fact that Operation Inherent Resolve’s efforts against ISIS are not finished. The U.S. plans to continue to be there given NATO partners are staying to finish the ISIS fight.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER – NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT AND UPDATES



Warrant Officer Terry Flood is our newest member. Terry served three tours of duty in Afghanistan during his 16 years in the Army. His is a resident of Belton and works at the Waco VA. He was featured in a Veterans' Voices weekly article in the Waco Tribune. You can read his inspiring story by going to: https://wacotrib.com/news/local/history/veteran-s-voices-terry-flood/article_49260706-5f4b-11eb-bd0e-87090e8228fb.html. If you have difficulties accessing the link, please join us at the August 19 HOT Chapter MOAA dinner/meeting when Terry will be our guest speaker.

With WO Flood joining the Chapter, we now have 79 Regular, 6 Associate, 6 Surviving Spouses, and 1 Honorary Member - for a total of 92 Members. Our goal is to add 12 more Regulars, 15 more Associate and 2 more Honorary Members by the end of 2021. **As we consider ALL of YOU as members of the Membership Committee**, please assist us in: finding and persuading active, reserve and retired Officers to join the Chapter; and encourage spouses of our Regular Members to become Associate Members.

MONTH OF JUNE SPECIAL DAYS

June 6: D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)
June 14: U.S. Army Founded (1775)
June 14: Flag Day
June 20: Father's Day
June 22: Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)
June 22: GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)
June 25: Korean War Began (1950)
June 27: National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day
June 30: Post - 9/11 GI Bill Signed Into Law (2008)

NEW DIALING PROCEDURE FOR TEXAS CUSTOMERS IN THE 254 AREA CODE

Back on April 24, 2021, Texans with phone numbers in the 254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940 area codes started getting in the habit of dialing 10-digits ((area code + telephone number for all local calls.

On July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission issued an Order approving 988 as the three-digit abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The Order requires all telecommunications providers to make any network changes necessary to ensure 988 access by July 16, 2022. Starting on this date, dialing 988 will route calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Several Texas area codes (254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915, and 940) have numbers with the 988 prefix. Therefore, those areas must transition from seven-digit to 10-digit local dialing.

April 24, 2021, marked the beginning of a “permissive dialing period”. When that period expires on October 24, 2021, only calls dialed with ten digits will be connected. After the permissive dialing period, local calls dialed with only seven digits will reach a recording prompting them to hang up and dial again using both the area code with the seven-digit telephone number.

Important safety and security equipment, such as safety and security equipment, such as medical alert devices, and alarm and security systems must be programmed to use the 10-digit dialing. Many systems though operate on 10-digit dialing by default, but some older equipment may still use seven digits. Any needed reprogramming of alarm and home security equipment must be done during the permissive dialing period to avoid interruption of services.

What will remain the same:

- Telephone numbers will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates will not change due to dialing changes.
- What is now a local call will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- Customers will continue to dial 1+the area code + telephone number for all long distance calls.
- Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services). This is same with 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 if available.

MEMORIAM FOR PHILLIP JACK FORD

Phillip Jack Ford, Lt. General USAF (Ret) passed away Friday, May 28, 2021, at Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest, at the age of 77. Visitation was held on Wednesday, June 2, in the Chapel of Grace Gardens Funeral Home, 8220 Woodway Dr. The funeral service was held 10 a.m., Thursday, June 3, at Woodway United Methodist Church with Rev. Bryan Patrick officiating. Interment, with military honors, will be at 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, at Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000, Mt. Creek Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75211, under the direction of Grace Gardens Funeral Home.

Born in Fort Worth, TX, General Ford was active in his youth with sports and the church. A 1961 graduate of Birdville High School of Haltom City, TX, he was inducted into The Birdville Alumni Hall of Fame in 1988. He went on to graduate from Arlington State College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management. He was also named a Little All American in football while attending. He also received a Master of Science Degree in Counseling and Human Development, Troy State University, in 1978. The General completed Squadron Officer School in 1973, Air Command and Staff College in 1978, and the National War College in 1984. In 1993, he attended the National and International Security Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

General Ford enlisted in the Air Force in 1966 and was commissioned through Officer Training School in 1967. Following graduation, he was assigned as a training officer at the Basic Military Training School, Lackland AFB, TX. In June 1969, he departed for Vance AFB, OK as a student pilot. After graduation from undergraduate pilot training and Combat Crew training at Castle AFB, CA, the General was assigned to the 343rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, Offutt AFB, NE, in September 1970.

He later served at the Reconnaissance Division at March AFB, CA and in 1974; the General volunteered and was selected for transition in to the bomber community. After training as Castle AFB in California, he became a B-52 aircraft commander and instructor at the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, ND, in September 1974. Later, he was assigned as a staff officer and Executive Officer to the Commander, Headquarters Air Force Military Personnel Center,

Randolph Force Base, TX, from June 1978 to September 1981. General Ford followed with his first command, the 524th Bomb Squadron at Wurtsmith AFB, MI, from May 1981 to June 1983. Following War College, he transitioned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force as the Chief of the Strategic Offensive Forces Division, until January 1986. He returned to bombers after his headquarters assignment to serve as the Vice Commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, LA. In June of 1987 he became the commander of the 384th Bomb Wing, McConnell AFB, KA, until January 1989 when he assumed the duties of Inspector General and Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations for Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, NE until May 1990.

He returned to Maxwell AFB as Commandant of the Air Command and Staff College until June 1991, when he was assigned to Headquarters, United States Strategic Command to assume the responsibilities of Deputy Chief of Staff for Operation. In January 1992 the General transitioned to Headquarters Military Airlift Command, Scott AFB, IL, where he was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs. He continued at Scott AFB, serving as the Director Plans and Programs during the airlift community's transition to Air Mobility Command.

In February 1994, the General returned to U.S. Strategic Command as the Director for Operations and Logistics until March 1996, when he was assigned as the Commander of Eighth Air Force, Barksdale AFB, LA. He assumed his final position as the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB, NE in August of 1998. General Ford retired as a Lt. General in June of 2000.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

General Ford was a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours. Aircraft flown: KC-135R, RC-135, B-52G/H, B-1 Bomber, T/CT-39, KC-10 and the B-2 Bomber., Eric, of Keller, TX.

Upon retirement, he assumed the duties of the General Manager/CEO of the Brazos River Authority from April 2001 to 2018.

NEW NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR AND EDUCATION CENTER TO BE IN TEXAS

The new National Medal of Honor Museum and Education Center will be located in Arlington, Texas (north of the Texas Ranger's former home, Globe Life Park). It will be a state-of-the-art museum where all Medal of Honor recipients will be honored.

The award was created in 1861 and the president, in the name of Congress, has award more than 3,500 Medal of Honor (more than 600 posthumously) to our nation's bravest service members and combat veterans.

Scheduled to open in 2024, the museum, according to its website will "offer an experience that draws personal and emotional connections to Medal of Honor recipients and their stories, while shedding light on the wars win which they fought and the ideals that the Medal of Honor represents."

The Museum's Education Center, designed by teachers with the help of Medal of Honor Society, will "provide students with opportunities to explore the concepts of courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity and commitment, and how these values can be exemplified in daily life."

In addition to the museum and education center, the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is also working to build a national monument in the nation's capital honoring Medal of Honor recipients. A history note is that of the 70 Medals of Honor awarded to service members accredited with the state of Texas, only three are living: Clarence Sasser (Vietnam), Jose Rodela (Vietnam) and Mathew Williams (Afghanistan).

MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED 70 YEARS AFTER EVENT

Retired Army Col. Ralph Puckett waited more than 70 years to receive the nation's highest award for combat valor. And when he got word that he'd be presented with the Medal of Honor, he questioned why the White House would go to all the trouble of presenting it to him.

"I understand that your first response to us hosting this event was to ask 'why all the fuss ... can't they just mail it to me?'" President Joe Biden quipped at Friday's presentation ceremony. "I'm incredibly proud to give Col. Ralph Puckett's acts of valor the full recognition they have always deserved."

On Nov. 25, 1950, then-1st Lt. Ralph Puckett Jr. exposed himself to enemy machine

fire, effectively using himself as bait to enable his Army Rangers to spot their locations. That evening, he led his 51-man company in defending against hundreds of Chinese soldiers who attacked their position for hours. Puckett repeatedly left the safety of his foxhole to spot the enemy and direct artillery fire, sometimes calling in "danger close" attacks, meaning he was ordering them to drop bombs close to his own position to keep the Chinese assault at bay. In doing so, he was wounded several times and eventually was unable to move. Fearing their position was about to be overrun, Puckett ordered his men to fall back and leave him behind so as not to slow them down. Two privates, Billy G. Walls and David L. Pollock, ignored his order and carried him to safety.

Puckett's Medal of Honor ceremony was unique in that it was the first to be attended by a foreign world leader, according to the White House. Biden welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in to highlight the alliance between the two nations and discuss a wide variety of topics and to hold a joint press conference.

Puckett was pushed in a wheelchair to a stage at the East Room at the White House to receive the medal. Two young Army officers initially stood beside him, supporting him as he stood for Biden's remarks. But when the citation was read, he stood up on his own. A soldier quickly retrieved a walker for him to hold onto, but he pushed it away. Puckett wore the Army's new Green Service Uniform, sporting his other awards, including five Purple Hearts.

Puckett, 94, was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions leading the 8th Army Ranger Company on Hill 205, just 60 miles from the Chinese border. He received a call from Biden last month, informing him that his DSC would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

"It was quite a shock," Puckett said in a call with reporters Thursday. "I was surprised I received a call from the president. I never thought he'd be calling to speak to me. I was surprised by how humble and ordinary he sounded." Puckett noted the huge gravity of earning the Medal of Honor. Some previous recipients have called the award a burden or felt undeserving of the prestige.

Puckett had a 22-year career that included a second Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars in Vietnam. He earned five Purple Hearts across the two wars, as well as two Bronze Stars with "V" device for valor. He retired as a colonel in 1971.



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

Address label

2021 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Bill Milnor, COL, USA (ret) (Gerry) 972-533-7874
oldognew@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Michael Slavens, LtCol, USAF (ret) (Marsha) 703-898-9173
msslavens@aol.com

2nd Vice President

Jim Milam, Col, USAF (ret) (Laura) 817-909-3588
jimmilam@aol.com

Secretary

Paul Thronburg, 1LT, USA (Norma) (254) 876-3303 (home)
tmartmgb@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Vince Tobola, LtCol, USAF (ret) (254) 709-5795
vtobola@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Urban, Gary, Maj, USAF (ret) 254-715-6560
garyurban1@inbox.com

Chaplain

John Wells, COL, USA (ret) (Su) coljtw@yahoo.com
 254-776-1143

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Carol McHaney (254) 716-6376

Legislative Liaison

Jon Ker, COL, USA (RET) (Terri) (254) 934-2018
jon@jonker.com

Directors

Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary) 254-717-8112
 Jimmie Hanes, COL, USAF, (ret) (Mary) 254-848-5493
 Bob Lull, COL, USA (ret) (Penny) 254-751-7824
 Don Speed, CAPT, USAF (Ann) 254-366-5528
 Joe Augeri, Maj, USAF (ret) (Karen) 254-366-2544
 Carol McHaney 254-716-6376
 Ennis Sullivan (Kay) 214-797-1464
 Beau Crosby, Col, USAF (ret) (Kathy Endres) 254-709-9588
 Barbara Purselley 254-716-4572
 Ken Ratajczak, COL, USA (ret) (Anne) 254-776-4804
 George Littell, 1LT, USA (Helen) 713-254-0972
 Norma Thronburg (Paul) 254-749-0957

ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator John Cornyn Chase Tower
 517 Hart Senate Office Building 221 West Sixth St, Suite 1530
 Washington, DC 20510 Austin, TX 78701
 Website: www.Cornyn.senate.gov 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020
 202-228-2856

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
 404 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions Office of Congressman Pete
 2204 Rayburn Building Sessions – 17th District of TX
 Washington, D.C. 20515 400 Austin Avenue Suite 32
 202-225-6105 Waco, TX 76701
 254-633-4500

USEFUL NUMBERS

MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622
 MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

Free Weekly E-mail Legislative Updates

Subscribe to MOAA's Free Weekly E-mail Legislative Updates:
[\(https://www.moaa.org/\)](https://www.moaa.org/) click on Legislative Action Center or call (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) to get the information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

NO DINNER MEETING IN JUNE

MEMORIAM – PHILLIP FORD, LTGEN, USAF (Ret)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER – TERRY FLOOD

VA BILL UPDATES AND CHAPTER AWARDS

TX NEW NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD 70 YEARS LATER

TELEPHONE NEED COMING ON MANDATORY

USE OF AREA CODE