



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

Volume MMXXIII, Issue IV

April 2023

Chapter Website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

**Remember the date – June 10, 2023!** Our golf fundraising event will be here in a little more than 70 days and that time will go fast. I call upon each of **YOU** to help make our fundraising efforts a success through individual donations, by working with the Fundraising Team in soliciting donations from businesses and individuals, and/or volunteering to help at the golf tournament.

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, nine members have already donated over \$6,000 to our fundraising effort. If the rest of our regular members donated \$100 each, we would add approximately \$8,000 to this total. This would put us well on our way to exceeding last year's successful effort. Please contact Vince Tobola to donate and for more details on soliciting donations and/or helping at the golf tournament. *Remember, a portion of our Chapter Coin sales go to our fundraising.*

I am firmly dedicated to improving our status as a premier veteran's organization through increased volunteer and financial support for veterans support organizations, veteran dependents, and JROTC/ROTC students. Through our scholarship and grant programs, we help prepare those who will lead in the future. Our donations to local and national veteran support organizations will assist those who are serving, have honorably served our nation and their dependents.

Simply stated, our leadership team's 2023 Chapter/Foundation goals and objectives focus on four areas:

1. Become the recognized leader in supporting uniformed services veterans (active/retired/honorably discharged) and their families, especially in but not limited to Texas
2. Maintain sound financial status

3. Complete website modernization
4. Apply for and receive MOAA Levels of Excellence Award (chapter), Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award (chapter), Leadership Award (member) and Chairman's Award (member)

Last month, our Board of Directors approved a portion of the leadership team's proposed 2023 Foundation (Benevolence) Fund budget. The items remaining for consideration are \$3,500 in donations to local veterans' service organizations (Baylor Vets, James Connally Chapter, Order of Daedalians, Veteran's One Stop, and the Stan Parker Foundation) and \$3,000 to national organizations (Gary Sinise Foundation, Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors [TAPS], Tunnels to Towers Foundation). The main reason we recommended this approach was due to our history of lack of support to veterans' support organizations - from 2007-2022, our Foundation's donations to veteran's organizations averaged only \$553 per year. This year, the leadership team proposes to donate \$3,500 to local veteran's organizations and \$3,000 to national veteran's organizations.

Not everyone on the Board agrees with this approach, but I believe donations to both local and national veterans' service organization will help our chapter be recognized locally, statewide and nationally. However, your Board will make the final decision this April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Remember April 5<sup>th</sup> is Gold Star Wives Day. Lastly, let's not forget the sacrifices made in April, to name a few: Shiloh, Appomattox Court House, Bataan, Apollo 13, Lincoln Assassination, Martin Luther King Assassination, Operation El Dorado Canyon, Lexington, San Jacinto, *Sultana*.

**Duty/Honor/Country---Always Serving**

v/r

Michael Slavens

# Upcoming Events and Information Items

## **THURSDAY LUNCH MEETING APRIL 20, AT MCLANE STADIUM – PRESIDENT’S SUITE, FIFTH FLOOR, HOSTED BY THE BAYLOR CLUB.**

- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side to the end of parking lot past the Baylor Club entrance and Founder’s Club entrance and find the last inset doorway near the column;

- There will be a President’s Suite sign above the inset double door entrance located near the white column. There is usually a sidewalk placard against the column with President’s Suite name on it. Go thru the doorway and take the elevator to the fifth floor.

- The numbered spaces starting with rows 1-001, 1-025, 1-045 or 1-064 and up are across from the door entrance. You can park in any numbered space.

### **LUNCH SCHEDULE**

**\*\* 11:00 A.M. Registration and Social Period**

**\*\* 11:35 A.M. Call to Tables**

**\*\* 11:40 A.M. Intro & Announcements.**

**\*\* 11:50 A.M. Lunch**

**\*\* 12:20 P.M Multiple Drawings for Door Prizes**

**\*\* 12:25 P.M. Guest Speaker, Brad Livingstone, Talk is “What Do You See: The Incredible Stories of History Right in Front of Us”.**

**MENU:** Tossed salad, artisan bread, Salisbury Steak, Chicken Picatta, Red Roasted Potatoes, Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables Fresh Fruit, Artisan Bread and Desserts. Fresh Brewed Iced Tea and water will be on the tables and coffee will be available.

**Please note lunch cost is \$35 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, 13 April, 6 p.m. for sign-up.**

Early RSVP’s are welcome and appreciated. After this time, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if plans change to attend and we will work to accommodate you at the lunch meeting. Lunch cost may be charged for missed attendance, depending on total turnout for the meeting date.

**NOTE: Summer dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, collared shirts and pants, coat and/or tie optional and ladies attire as desired.**

## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023**

- **18 May, Thursday, Dinner in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Assistant Police Chief Dennis Kruse of Whitney Police Department talking on self-defense measures. **Registration table opens at 5 p.m.**
- **June 9, Thursday, possible Lunch Meeting in President’s Suite at McLane Stadium.** More information to follow closer to the date on MOAA National tentative attendees.
- **June 10, Saturday morning,** Annual scholarship golf fundraiser tournament will held with registration start 6:45 a.m. and shot-gun start at 8:00 a.m. Location is City of Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, 5200 Bagby Avenue in Waco. Open to the public and all military. More info is on the website at hotmoaa.org.
- **July 20, Thursday, Dinner in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Proposed dinner meeting will be for presentation of scholarship awardees. Registration table will open at 5 p.m.
- **17 August, Thursday, Dinner in Media Room at McLane Stadium,** Guest speaker will be Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian. Registration table will open at 5 p.m.

## **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 25 2023;** 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan’s BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

## **SAVE THE DATE - 2023 GOLF FUNDRAISER**

– This event supports our scholarship and veteran’s support programs. This is a **HOT MOAA team** event and volunteers are needed to assist with contacting businesses and at the event! Please be ready to assist us again in making our 2023 fundraiser a huge success by making a donation, soliciting business support and/or volunteering. Please contact Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795, to learn how you can help.

## **LOCAL EVENT- NEW FARMER’S MARKET**

The Bridge Street Farmers Market in East Waco debuted Wed., Mar. 29. The market is located off of MLK Jr. Blvd and Elm Street. It will return on Wednesdays, 5 – 8 p.m. Vendor tents and food trucks are available. This is in addition to the regular Farmer’s Market in downtown Waco located across from the Courthouse on Washington and N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Baylor University First Gentleman Brad Livingstone has dedicated his professional career to secondary education. Brad and Linda Livingstone met at Oklahoma State University, where both played Division I basketball and were involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

A native of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Mr. Livingstone was a three-year letter winner at Oklahoma State and toured Europe in 1983 as a member of Athletes in Action basketball team, sharing the gospel and building bridges between cultures.

Mr. Livingstone earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in education from Oklahoma State. He currently serves as a history teacher at Vanguard College Preparatory School, where he also taught in the 1990s and early 2000s when the Livingstones first lived in Waco. He previously served at Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village, California, and as the Dean of Students and a history teacher at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Virginia.

Brad Livingstone is an educator, basketball player, World War II expert, and Baylor's inaugural "First Gent." As a high school history teacher, Livingstone has brought hundreds of veterans into his classroom to share their stories with students, and the impact of those moments has become a hallmark of his classes.

## 2023 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter member dues are still \$25 for renewing members. Member renewals can be paid at a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702.

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Bill Porter, 254-495-5601 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 with prospect names.

Reminder that our website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org), does have the 2023 chapter membership application form and plus copies of newsletters. Newsletters are sent to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail. There is a MOAA membership form at the chapter website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org). **Basic membership is free** and the form shows fees for annual and life memberships. Note: MOAA National is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. The web address for MOAA's online legislative Take Action Center is [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction).

## PASSING OF SALLY MCERLEAN

Sally McErlean, 77, of McGregor, spouse of member Don McErlean, passed away Friday, March 24, 2023 at Providence Hospice Place in Waco. In accordance with her wishes, she will be cremated. No services are planned.

Sally was born August 7, 1945, in Newark, NJ, to Charles B. Shindell and Ruth M. Shindell. Sally was educated at Mountainside Hospital School of Nursing in Montclair, NJ. She worked as a Registered Nurse in hospitals in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and as a Prenatal Care Instructor for the US Department of the Navy.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles B. Shindell; her mother, Ruth M. Shindell; and her son, Michael C. McErlean.

She is survived by her husband, Donald P. McErlean of McGregor; her son, Timothy D. McErlean and partner, Angel Bethke of Austin; brother, Charles B. Shindell and wife, Valerie of Rhode Island; sister, Ruth M. MacKay and husband, Doug of Georgia; brother, Joseph E. Shindell and wife, Cilla of Georgia; daughter-in-law, Cris A. McErlean of McGregor; granddaughter, Isabel A. McErlean; grandson, Michael A. McErlean both of McGregor; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorials may be made in Sally's memory to Ascension Providence Hospice Place, 6901 Medical Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712.

## APRIL SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

**Birthdays:** Judy Bauer, Gaye Baugh, Mort Bowman, Lori Brubaker, Voncyle Burns, Wally Burns, Kathy Endres, Patsy Norman Farr, Jimmie Hanes, Gay Mays, Susan Perdue, Lyn Powers, and Dee Rogers.

**Anniversaries:** Ted and Lyn Lawson, Bill and Susan Perdue, and Don and Ann Speed.

## CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL



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at every stage.

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## **MARCH 16 LUNCHEON**

Photo shows guest speaker, Robert Gager of Shepherd's Heart receiving MOAA pen and chapter coin from 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Bill Porter.



## **CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Information on the 2023 Chapter Scholarship Program is now available on the chapter website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org). Submittals are due by April 28.

## **FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR VETERANS**

There will be a free veteran's clinic by Baylor Law on Friday, April 14, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop, 2010 La Salle Ave, Waco, TX.

This is by **Appointment Only**, phone 254-710-4244, or e-mail: [LegalClinics@baylor.edu](mailto:LegalClinics@baylor.edu). Contact for the program is Joshua Borderud.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS AREA OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET**

The budget requests \$325 billion for the VA, a 5% increase over the previous year. The proposal includes over \$142 billion in discretionary funding, much of which goes toward veterans' health care, and over \$182 billion in mandatory funding to cover compensation and pensions, readjustment benefits, and insurance and indemnities accounts. As required by law, the administration is also requesting advance appropriations of \$134 billion for medical care and \$193 billion for benefits programs for FY 2025.

A few key priorities in VA's budget proposal: **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson**

## **Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.**

Focuses on implementing the historic measure signed into law last year to provide more than 5 million eligible veterans' health care and disability compensation benefits.

- **Medical Care.** Fully funds inpatient, outpatient, mental health, and long-term care services and enhancements to improve health care quality and delivery. The proposal once again includes the administration's desire to establish a third budget category for veterans' medical care. Currently, discretionary funding in the federal budget is categorized as either defense or non-defense or domestic spending. The proposed third category would prevent growing VA medical care costs from competing with other non-defense federal program spending.
- **Veteran Suicide.** Expands suicide prevention and mental health programs and services to include free emergency health care to veterans in crisis and grant funding to local communities to provide suicide prevention services to eligible veterans and their families.
- **Women Veterans Health Care.** Prioritizes support to the more than 627,000 women veterans using VA services. The budget expands health care to include reproductive services, gender-specific care, support for full-time women veteran program managers at 172 VA medical centers, and expanded child care programs.
- **Homeless Veterans.** Provides more than 40,000 homeless and at-risk veterans with permanent housing and access to health care and support services.
- **Medical Facilities.** Invests in construction and expansion of critical medical infrastructure and facilities including non-recurring maintenance and construction grants for state extended care facilities to deliver health care and benefit services for veterans. The median age of a VA hospital is nearly 60 years old compared to 13 years in the private sector.
- **Memorial Benefits.** Supports the maintenance of the 158 VA-managed cemeteries and the operations and activation of three new national cemeteries.

## **PRESIDENT'S BUDGET RELEASED**

The president's budget request for FY 2024 comes in at \$6.8 trillion. It will take several months to assess the support from both parties and chambers. In the mix will be strong debates about the budget's impact on Medicare, taxes on the wealthy, and the nation's growing deficit. The focus here is to break down key provisions for the Departments of Defense. Veterans Affairs was addressed on the previous page.

### **DEFENSE**

The requests total \$880 billion for defense programs (an increase of 3.3% over last year). From those programs, DOD garners \$842 billion (\$26 billion more than FY 2023) and nearly \$100 billion more than FY 2022. The remaining portion of that overall budget includes \$38 billion to DOD to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent. This budget includes a 5.2% pay raise for uniformed service members – consistent with the statutory requirement to keep pace with the Employment Cost Index. Although some news outlets are reporting this increase as "the largest military pay raise in 20 years," our service members' pay is still 2.6% behind ECI after falling short of the index from 2014 to 2016. The budget also includes a 5.2% pay increase for federal civilians, an area where competition for talent has struggled with the private sector.

Per budget documents, one of the administration's focus points is to ensure the budget "Fulfills America's Commitment to Military Families." Noted is the continued support for families, which are the key to readiness and the well-being of the all-volunteer force. The proposed budget acknowledges program increases for things like expansion of community-based child care fee assistance, and efforts to address the challenges of child care capacity. MOAA will follow this closely to understand the actual amounts committed and the effectiveness of these concerted efforts.

Overall military end strength, both the active and reserve components, increases by 12,355. This includes a reduction in the Army Reserve by 2,200, and plus-ups for the Marines (683), Navy (6,247) and Air and Space Force (7,625).

The budget includes \$1.45 billion to subsidize commissary operations, \$27 million more than last year.

Under the Department of Labor, impacting military spouses is a provision to expand anti-discrimination and reemployment protections to spouses of all active duty and reserve members. MOAA will review the finer details when they become available and assert the need for these provisions to apply to all eight of our uniformed services.

### **WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BUDGET?**

Like other federal program proposals in the budget, more information on the specific departments will become known in the coming weeks. The president's budget serves as a starting point for lawmakers' negotiations now.

## **MOAA CAREER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

### **MOAA Webinar: Financial Concerns Facing the Military Community Tuesday, April 11th, 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern Daylight time, One hour**

As a service member, veteran, retiree, or military spouse? Struggling with debt, or sorting out student loans? Under fire from potential scammers? **MOAA can help.**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Service member Affairs (OSA) was created to help service members, veterans, and military families address unexpected financial challenges. Join MOAA and special guest Nelson Akeredolu, Consumer Response Specialist in the OSA, as he:

- Discusses the latest trends the agency is seeing in financial complaints and scams.
- Reviews the tools and resources the agency provides to the military community.
- Outlines your protections under the Military Lending Act, Service members Civil Relief Act, and other military-specific financial regulations.

Can't make it at the scheduled time? No problem. [Register now](#) and MOAA will send you a link to the recording within 5 business days. MOAA Premium and Life Members have access to recorded MOAA webinars at any time via MOAA's Webinar Archive.

## **TOTAL SOLAR EXCLIPSE COMING IN 2024 ON MONDAY, APRIL 8**

There will be a total eclipse of the sun that will be visible across Texas and includes Waco. It will start at 12:20 p.m., totality 1:38 to 1:42 p.m. and ends 3:00 p.m. More information including a map showing the area covered in Texas can be found at [eclipseovertexas2024.com](http://eclipseovertexas2024.com).

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

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