



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

What a great year with more to follow! At last month's dinner you met five of our 2023 scholarship winners—**impressive**. In September, you will meet our final scholarship winner. Congratulations to all!

We are off to a good start but there is more to do. Our planning for our June 8, 2024 fundraiser has begun with the goal of increasing membership and Waco community support for the event. This year, 30% of our membership contributed \$14,900 while businesses and non-members contributed \$5,820. Our goals for next year should be to increase membership support to 50% and to double business/other support. Our fundraising team has already planning for 2024.

Achieving these goals will allow HOT MOAA to increase all our grant, scholarships and donations to local veterans' organizations. However, this requires a full team effort. New ideas are always welcome on how to attain success and to make 2024 the best year yet!

Our Board Nominating Committee has begun the selection process to replace Board Directors whose terms of service will expire at the end of this year. I encourage those interested serving on our Board of Directors to contact Bill Milnor. New Board members are needed to bring fresh and innovative ideas to keep our organization dynamic and viable.

Some food for thought

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." – George Washington

Stay in touch with news and information via the MOAA Newsletter/Website.

Be sure and read "MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress". In case you missed it, if you visit moaa.org you can read "VietNam

Unchronicled: MOAA presents stories of service and sacrifice. There is also an excellent read on the MOAA President and CEO Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) advocating key priorities for the US House of Representatives Quality of Life Panel.

Things to Remember in August

Aug 2, 1990 – Iraq invaded Kuwait
Aug 6, 1945 – Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima
Aug 7, 1990 – Operation Desert Shield began
Aug 9, 1945 – Atomic bomb on Nagasaki
Aug 12, 1676 – King Philip's War ended
Aug 14, 1945 – V-J Day
Aug 16, 1777 – Battle of Bennington
Aug 16, 1780 – Battle of Camden
Aug 18, 1920 – 19th Amendment ratified
Aug 24, 1814 – Washington invaded by British
Aug 28, 1963 – The March on Washington
Aug 31, 1786 – Shay's Rebellion started

As a reminder, the Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the Stan Parker Foundation, will be held August 9th at the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum. A chance for good BBQ, fellowship and to hear from a Medal of Honor winner. RSVPs required.

Duty/Honor/Country---Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

AUGUST SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Joan Alexander, Karen Augeri, Ann Mortman, Ron Dampier, Bill Hulsey, Pete Patrick, Bill Porter, RoseMary Rafuse, Russell Rowe, Pam Schreiber, and Mike Strain,

Anniversaries: Ron and Jody Benson, Stan and Lori Brubaker, Beau Crosby and Kathy Endres, Henry and Hope Hacker, TJ and Christi Huntinghorse, John and Dawn Jacques, Bob and Penny Lull, Jim and Laura Milam, Robert and Lyn Powers, Ken and Anne Ratajczak, and Mike and Doris Strain,

Congratulations to All

THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AUGUST 17, 2023 AT MCLANE STADIUM – 4TH FLOOR, NORTH END.

- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side to the Baylor Club main entrance, three sets of double doors. Proceed to entrance, go right to the elevators, and go to the 4th floor. Proceed left at the 4th floor.

As before, 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 Table.**

**** 5:40 P.M. Intro & Announcements.**

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

**** 6:50 P.M Drawings & Guest Speaker, Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian.**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Chicken Fried Steak, Grilled Tilapia, Red Roasted Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans, Desserts with Fresh Brewed Iced Tea, water and coffee. Bar will be available with credit card payment only.

Dinner 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, 10 August Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After the 10th, 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, collared shirts and pants, coat and/or tie optional and ladies attire as desired.

GUEST SPEAKER, WACO POLICE CHIEF SHERYL VICTORIAN

Sheryl Victorian is a native Texan and a 30-year law enforcement professional. She was sworn in as the City of Waco's Chief of Police on March 15, 2021, after serving with the Houston Police Department for 28 years. Chief Victorian retired from the Houston Police Department as an Assistant Chief of the Patrol Region 2 Command, where she

was responsible for the Clear Lake, Southeast, South Central, Eastside, and Downtown Patrol Divisions, as well as the Vehicular Crimes Division. Her law enforcement experience includes assignments in the Major Offenders, Homicide, Special Victims, Internal Affairs, Training and the South Central and Southeast Patrol Divisions.

2023 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

*** 21 September, Thursday dinner meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Scholarship award presentation and the guest speaker will be Dr. Moshinske on end of life preparation.

*** 19 October, Thursday dinner meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be David Bonner, who is a military historian.

***16 November, Thursday dinner meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Ashley Millerd, Waco Solid Waste Administrator talking on recycling.

***14 December, Thursday dinner meeting in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be MOAA Rep. Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (ret) followed by live entertainment by the band, the Morticians.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 22, 2023**, 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

MOAA ONLINE EVENT

Preparing a Spouse or Family Member for Survivorship MOAA Webinar Aug 8, 2023 from 2-3pm EDT. Register online at:



<https://www.moaainsurance.com/plans>
<https://www.moaainsurance.com/plans/content/events/>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – ROBERT N ROCHELL, PAST PRESIDENT, HOT CHAPTER, MOAA

In his distinguished United States Army career, Robert N Rochell had over 21 years of non-commissioned and commissioned service. Born in Marlin, Texas, Robert dropped out of high school and enlisted in the United States Army on his 17th birthday. After basic training and a brief assignment at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he was stationed at Dachau, Germany (site of a WWII Nazi concentration camp).



After 11 years of excellent enlisted service, the demand of field artillery officers grew with the Vietnam build up and he was accepted into the United States Field Artillery Officer Candidate

School one day before the maximum cut-off age of twenty-eight. Here he selected the option of being guaranteed ten years commissioned service. He graduated 13th of 125 in his class (Class 8-65) and then went to Airborne School with a short assignment at Ft Bragg, North Carolina. Six months later he was serving his first Viet Nam tour as a forward observer and air observer in the Vietnamese central highlands. During the last six months of this tour, he served as Executive Officer of the first 155mm howitzer battery airlifted into combat - A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery. The 30th Field Artillery was the 2nd most decorated Artillery Battalion in the Viet Nam War.

After this tour, he was assigned to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma as an instructor at the Officer Candidate School. Later, after attending the Officer Advanced Course, he received orders for a second tour in Vietnam with the 5th Infantry Division where he served as Commanding Officer of Service, Headquarters, and Alpha Batteries.

By this time, Captain Rochell had received his high school GED and two years of college equivalence and was recommended and accepted for degree completion program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Robert retired from active duty on 1 September, 1975.

His decorations include the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/palm, Good Conduct Medal w/clasp bronze with four loops, Army Occupation Medal (Germany), National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Vietnam Service with 1 silver star and 1 bronze star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal Meritorious Unit Citation, Meritorious Service Medal, and Parachute Badge.

Following military service and after receiving an Associate in Arts degree, he became a dealer for an east coast hydraulic manufacturing company. Later, he became a distributor for Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana under the name of Red Arrow of Texas (Hydraulics) and Rolib, Inc.

Robert served as national president of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division, and president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of The Retired Officer's Association (TROA) predecessor the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Robert is a life member of the 1st Battalion, the 30th Field Artillery Association Hard Chargers (served on the board as 1st vice president), a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a life member of the Fifth Division, and a life member of the US Field Artillery Association, life member of the Disabled Veterans Association (permanent 100% service connected disability).

Robert was married to the late Elizabeth “Libby” Leggitt for over 40 years and they enjoyed traveling together to over 100 countries, doing a little ball room dancing and attending military reunions. Today, Robert dabbles in real estate, golf, attending over 22 consecutive reunions, and is an active member of the Heart of Texas Chapter, MOAA

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Veterans Appreciation Luncheon will be held August 9th from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum, 2801 West Waco Drive, Waco Texas. The guest speaker will be Donald “Doc” Bollard, US Navy Hospital Corpsman and Medal of Honor recipient. No cost full smoked brisket lunch provided. RSVP required – stancparkerfoundation@gmail.com

**2023 “FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”
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Uncle Dan’s BBQ,
Salty Dog Sports Bar & Grill,
McAlister’s Deli – Hewitt,
Jack of All Trades

**THANKS TO ALL FUNDRAISER
SUPPORTERS**

We want to thank again all that contributed to the fundraiser in many ways to make it a success. We appreciate the volunteers that assisted in preparation Friday and during the morning golf scramble and the lunch awards ceremony. Again, thanks to all and we hope for another success on June 8, 2024.

**2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES AT THE
JULY 20, 2023 LUNCH MEETING**



In the photo from left to right - Alexandria Dworaczyk-Fuentes, Eden Sauley, Kaylee Smith, Kaylee Blackledge and Hannah Vicars.

Alexandria Dworaczyk-Fuentes received a “Freedom Is Not Free” award for \$2,000 and will be attending Texas A&M University.

Eden Sauley received a “Freedom Is Not Free” award for \$3,000 and will be attending Baylor University.

Kaylee Smith received a “Freedom Is Not Free” award for \$2,000 and is will be attending Baylor University.

Hannah Vicars received the “General Goodall” award for \$4,000 and will be attending Baylor University.

Kaylee Blackledge received “Freedom Is Not Free” award for \$3,000 and will be attending Texas Tech University.

Not shown is Madison Kirkwood, who will be receiving her Freedom Is Not Free award for \$2,000 at the September 21 dinner meeting. Madison will be attending Baylor University.

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.

We are 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, does have the 2023 chapter membership application form plus

copies of newsletters. Newsletters are sent to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail.

**JULY 20, 2023 LUNCHEON GUEST
SPEAKER, STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHARLES “DOC” ANDERSON**



A graduate of the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine, Doc Anderson has served as a small animal veterinarian in Waco since 1981. Representative Anderson is married to Lyn Sullivan and they have a son Thomas.

After over 20 years of advocacy for small business through statewide committees on the Texas Association of Business and the National Federation of Independent Business, as well as appointment by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Small Business Advisory Council, Doc was elected to represent District 56 (Waco & McLennan County) in 2004. He has been re-elected and continues to serve.

At the luncheon, Doc Anderson discussed all the various highlights and bills passed during the recently concluded sessions of the Texas Legislature and the possible session in September on education.

IN MEMORIUM

Sally B. Robinson passed away on Saturday, July 1, 2023 and services were held on Saturday, July 8, 2023 at the Seventh and James Baptist Church. Sally married MG Ken Robinson in 2010 and both were active in our Heart of Texas Chapter.

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

Address label

2023 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary)254)-717-8112

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Website: www.Cornyn.senate.gov
202-228-2856

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Austin, TX 78701
512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
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Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-5922

300 E. 8th, Ste 961
Austin, TX 78701

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions
2204 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6105.

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