



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

This is Bill Porter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President providing this month's column since Ken was not available due to preparation for a serious cardiac medical procedure. We ask for prayers and best wishes for Ken and Anne during this time.

This column is in coordination with Vince Tobola, Golf Committee Chair. Remember the date – Saturday June 8, 2024! Our golf fundraising event will be here in a less than a week and that time will go fast. It is necessary for all 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 at the golf tournament.

We appreciate the members that have solicited or made donations and signed up for golf. As of May 30, 26 members have donated \$15,200 to our fundraising effort. However, we can still use more to contribute to support our programs. We also have 14 local businesses or non-members donated \$4,950 as of May 30. We have a possible 58 players. Our scholarship and grant programs help prepare those who will lead in the future both in the uniformed services and at the community level.

Our donations also are available to help local organizations that provide veterans-related support and services.

We need everyone's help to achieve the level of donations necessary to fund all our service programs. Please contact Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 or [vtobola@aol.com](mailto:vtobola@aol.com) to donate and for more details on soliciting donations and/or helping at the golf tournament. Forms are also available at the chapter website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org).

V/R

Bill Porter

## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

“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.” -- James Madison

“Disarm the people- that is the best and most effective way to enslave them.” -- James Madison

“The purpose of the Constitution is to restrict the majority's ability to harm a minority.” -- James Madison

“A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth.” -- Thomas Jefferson

“The Constitution shall never be construed... to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.”-- Samuel Adams

“How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!” -- Samuel Adams

Sources:

[https://www.azquotes.com/author/9277-James\\_Madison](https://www.azquotes.com/author/9277-James_Madison)

<https://www.americanhistorycentral.com/entries/samuel-adams-quotes/>

<https://www.americanhistorycentral.com/entries/thomas-jefferson-quotes/>

## EVENTS TO REMEMBER IN JUNE

Jun 4, 1944 – Rome liberated by the US 5<sup>th</sup> Army

Jun 6, 1944 – D-Day, Allied forces land at Normandy

Jun 11, 1994 – Soviet occupation of East Germany ends

Jun 13, 1971 – New York Times publishes the Pentagon Papers

Jun 14, 1775 – First US Military Service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies, established by the Second Continental Congress

Jun 17, 1972 – Watergate

Jun 18, 1983 – Dr Sally Ride became the first US woman in space

Jun 19, 1865 – Upon arrival of Union troops in Galveston Tx, Maj Gen Granger read General Order No. 3 –all slaves are free

Jun 23, 1865 – Last formal surrender of Confederate troops occurred in the Oklahoma territory

Jun 25, 1876 – Custer's defeat at Little Bighorn

Jun 25, 1950 – Korean War starts

Jun 28, 1862 – Siege of Vicksburg begins

Sources: <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/april.htm>  
<https://www.operationwearehere.com/significantdaysobservances.html>

### **2024 GOLF FUNDRAISER LUNCH CHANCE**

For those that do not play golf, you can attend the June 8 Saturday event for the BBQ catered lunch at cost of \$12 per person. You will also be able to check the silent auction items out. Lunch starts around 12 noon. Please contact Vince Tobola, by Wed. June 5<sup>th</sup> noon if you are planning to attend so we have a good count. Contact Vince at 254-709-5795 or [vtobola@aol.com](mailto:vtobola@aol.com). You can also contact Vince on any questions on the tournament or if you have donations or players to sign-up for 8th event. Forms are at chapter website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org).

### **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 25, 2024**, 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.

### **2024 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Chapter member dues are still be \$25 for renewing members in 2024. 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 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. Newsletters are sent 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 400 chapters and together we are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers advocating for the military community. We

are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

### **OUR PAST GUEST SPEAKER IN MAY**

Our scheduled May guest speaker, Robinson Police Chief Danny Smith provided information on the police department programs and staffing for the City of Robinson. Though the department is not large in number, they provide all the expected functions for law enforcement. He also discussed his prior law enforcement time with the Texas Department of Public Safety serving in various highway patrol positions and Regional Commander Positions in Dallas and in Waco.



*Robinson Police Chief Danny Smith on left receiving MOAA pen and chapter coin from Ken Ratajczak, President.*

### **JUNE SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

#### **Birthdays:**

“Doc” Anderson, Jeff Bowles, Stan Brubaker, Dennis DeGraff, Ted Lawson, Gerry Milnor, Susie Rowe, Billie Sawyer, Don Schreiber, and Frank Slaby.

#### **Anniversaries:**

Mike and Patsy Farr and Bill and Gerry Milnor.

### **CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

### **2024 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

**June 2024, there will be no lunch or dinner meeting in June due to the Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament on June 8, Saturday morning at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. More info on this event at [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org).**

**18 July 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker will be Henry Hernandez, Marine Corps aide to Father Vincent Capodanno, a Navy Chaplain awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in September 1967. Will also plan for educational scholarship awards.

**15 August 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Our proposed guest speaker is Congressman Pete Sessions.

**19 September 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Date is open for guest speaker or entertainments.

**17 October 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Date is open for guest speaker or entertainments.

**21 November 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Date is open for guest speaker or entertainments.

**12 December 2024**, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Date is open for guest speaker and entertainment will be by the Morticians for the dance.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** Please bring a non-perishable food item to our July 18 dinner meeting and receive a free drawing ticket. Collection is being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collections each month in 2024.

### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – RAY SANCTON**



Major Ray Sancton was born and reared in Long Island, New York. Ray played minor league baseball before entering the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1950. After basic training, Ray completed Airborne Radio Mechanic's School at Scott Air Force Base (AFB), Illinois and was assigned to Olmstead AFB, Pennsylvania.

In 1952, he applied for and was accepted into the Aviation Cadet Program. He flew P.A.18's and T-6's at Mauden AFB, Missouri and T-28s and B-25s at Vance AFB, Oklahoma. After graduating in 1954, he entered helicopter training at Gary AFB, Texas where he flew Bell H-13's and H-19's.

In 1954, Ray was assigned to Stewart AFB, Tennessee. Then in 1955, Ray went on temporary duty (TDY) to Yucca Flats to support atomic testing. Ray witnessed the first underground nuclear test and flew a Radiological Survey Team to near ground zero to record radiological data.

In 1956, while TDY to Eniwetok Island, Ray continued to participate in atomic testing witnessing 18 nuclear detonations. He again flew Radiological Teams to ground zero twenty minutes after detonation to record radiation levels and other data. At the end of the tests, his radiation level was 550 REM. Ray later flew H-21's

In 1957, he flew C-121's for three years. Then in 1960, he trained and certified in C-130A aircraft. His next assignment to Dyess AFB, Texas in February 1961. That May, he survived and unusual event when a propeller from number 1 engine fell off the plane in flight! The propeller knocked a hole in the wing, dislodging the tip tank. The propeller landed on Highway 277 just south of Abilene and the tip tank landed in a field. Ray successfully landed the cripple plane with no injuries to crew or civilians. While at Dyess, Ray flew ski model C-130D's on the ice cap in Sondrestrom, Greenland to resupply Distant Early Warning (DEW) sites.

In 1963, Ray was assigned to Rhein Main Air Base (AB), near Frankfurt, Germany where he flew RC-130 reconnaissance missions over the Baltic Sea, Italy, Turkey, and Iran. In 1967, Ray rotated to Yokota AB, Japan for a six month TDY to fly reconnaissance missions in the Pacific area. Returning in July, he received his next assignment to Nakhom Phanom (NKP), Thailand.

In preparation for this assignment, Ray received helicopter refresher training in UH-1s and CH-3s at Sheppard AFB and Combat Crew Training in HH-3E Jolly Green helicopters at England AFB, Florida. Ray arrived at NKP in May 1968 to fly rescue helicopters during the Viet Nam War. While there, Ray was involved in six rescue mission, one of which involve the daring rescue of a downed F-4 pilot for which Ray receive the Silver Star.

Ray's last assignment was back to Homestead AFB to fly RC-130's. He retired as a Major on October 1, 1970 and settled in Center, Texas. Afterwards, Ray enrolled in Stephen F Austin University and earned both a Bachelor's of Science and Master's Degree

in Education. He then taught world history and citizenship for eight years at Center High School.

In 1980, he came to Waco, Texas where he taught pilot training at Texas State Technical Institute (TSTI). Later Ray worked with Dr. Max Shauk at Baylor University to establish an Aviation Science Program for both schools. Ray taught for three semesters with the Baylor program and was promoted to Department Chair and Associate Dean. Ray retired on January 31, 1995.

In spite of a demanding career, Ray was a devoted family man. He and his “beloved” wife Rosie raised three children who blessed them with six grandchildren, two great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. Ray was widowed in 2020 after 66<sup>1/2</sup> years with Rosie. Ray has an apartment in Waco’s Ridgcrest and Healthcare Community. Ray soon completed his goal of playing thousands of rounds of golf. He stays active by still playing golf three days a week as well as being in demand for various domino challenges. Ray is an active member of the James Connally Order of Daedalians and the Heart of Texas Chapter, MOAA.

### **MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

If needed, there is a MOAA national membership form at the chapter website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org). **Basic membership is free** and fees are shown for annual and life MOAA memberships. This is separate from the chapter membership fee.

### **80th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY**

June 6, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day — the largest amphibious military operation of modern times when 156,000 Allied troops landed by sea and air on five beachheads in Normandy, France. We honor all those who fought and died defending freedom on that historic day.

### **HOME FORECLOSURE PAUSE EXTENDED THRU VA**

Due to loss of income and financial constraints during the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of veterans were unable to pay the mortgages on their homes. VA worked with mortgage servicers of VA-guaranteed home loans to pause foreclosures through the end of the pandemic. While many of those veterans are back on track paying their mortgages, some still struggle to make missed

payments. For these veterans, VA has extended the foreclosure pause through Dec. 31, 2024

### **VA GRANTS ONE MILLIONTH PACT ACT CLAIM**

VA has granted its one millionth claim attributed to the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-168). This law streamlined the claim process for millions of toxic-exposed veterans, culminating in the delivery of more than \$5.7 billion in earned benefits.

### **ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SATISFACTION RESULTS**

Results from DOD’s 2023 annual user satisfaction survey reflect lower satisfaction with the new electronic health record in comparison to legacy and private sector systems. The survey sought information concerning patient-centered care, efficiency, downtime, response time, and quality of care. As of March 2024, DOD and VA have reached some milestones and completed critical tasks to jointly implement the new system, and are continuing with further integration.

### **HOUSE PASSES FOUR VETERANS BILLS**

The House passed four VFW-supported veterans bills — H.R. 5914, Veterans Education Transparency and Training Act; H.R. 3738, Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act; H.R. 1767, Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act; and H.R. 4016, Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act. This legislation would provide veterans protection against education or fiduciary fraud, reduce red tape related to education benefits, and create a fourth administration within VA solely for economic opportunity benefits and transition assistance. These bills are now headed to the Senate

### **COMPREHENSIVE VA HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS BILL FINALLY INTRODUCED IN HOUSE**

A bipartisan package of veterans legislation introduced May 14 the House will expand VA assisted living programs, improve caregiver support, remove unfair penalties from surviving spouses, and address a host of other MOAA legislative priorities.



The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) is the result of months of negotiations and engagement with House and Senate Veterans' Committee leadership and staff by MOAA and other veterans' organizations, which have worked nonstop to keep pressure on lawmakers to ensure the package becomes law.

The bill "will improve VA's ability to deliver critical benefits and services more expeditiously and effectively," MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said. "We appreciate the leadership and engagement of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to get this important legislation on a path to becoming law, and MOAA urges House and Senate leaders to expedite passage. Doing so conveys a strong message of support and solidarity to our veterans, retirees, surviving family members and caregivers in and out of uniform."

Both House and Senate lawmakers have been part of the negotiations which are continuing; MOAA recognizes the difficulty inherent in a bipartisan, bicameral agreement. This legislation reflects congressional intent to represent in the broadest way possible the interests of the entire veteran community.

Among the MOAA-supported provisions in the omnibus bill:

- **The Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act** (H.R. 1815/S. 495) would allow the VA to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services to eligible veterans.
- **The Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act** (H.R. 542/S. 141) would improve VA home- and community-based services for veterans, as well as support to family caregivers.
- **The Veteran Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform (CARE) Act** (H.R. 4518/S. 1792) would modify the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to improve transparency and access to services for caregivers of veterans, and aid in navigating Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

health care programs and services.

- **The Improving Whole Health for Veterans with Chronic Conditions Act** (H.R. 4150/S. 1954) would improve health care services, including dental care for veterans with heart disease.
- **The Love Lives On Act** (H.R. 3651/S. 1266) would reverse penalties faced by surviving military spouses who remarry prior to age 55.

\*Information from the May 14, 2024 MOAA newsletter.

### **COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE WATCH**

The April 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released May 15, was 307.811, **2.2%** above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. May 2024 figures will be announced June 12.

The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2024) will be compared to the FY 2024 COLA baseline to calculate the 2025 COLA.

### **SPRING CADET AWARD**



*Gary Urban on left presenting MOAA certificate along with MOAA medal set and \$150 cash grant to Cadet Aiyahna L. O'Neal from Connally High School Air Force JROTC program.*

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