



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

It's time to gear up for our annual golf fundraiser on June 8. Please consider a cash donation and try to get "in kind" donations for the silent auction. We will also need help on Friday, June 7 starting at around 6 p.m. to set up the auction and preparation of gift bags.

Our last dinner meeting was a success with Melinda Brown from Vets One Stop giving an overview of the services available for veterans.

Please remember that we need 40 attendees at our dinner meetings to meet the cost of the meals charged by The Baylor Club. I think we were a little short on Thursday, April 18. Thanks to all that attended. At the meeting, the changes in the bylaws with respect to Emeritus members and president's term were approved. The new Emeritus members are William Bauer, Robert Rochell, Robert Baugh, Stanley Brubaker and John Wells.



Pictured left to right: William Bauer, Stan Brubaker, Robert Rochell and Jimmie Hanes

I distributed certificates of appreciation to donors who gave \$1,000 or more to the golf fundraiser.



Pictured left to right: Laura & Jim Milam, Gary Urban, Vince Tobola, Jimmie Hanes & Bob Rochell

The Chief of Police from Robinson, Danny Smith, will be speaking at our next meeting on May 16.

Lew Arend added 5 new members last month. They are Col Ted Croy and his wife Julie, Lt Col Kenneth Sterling, Lt Col Jeff Bowles and Robert Redding. Good job, Lew!

The scholarship committee is gearing up to evaluate and interview applicants for 2024. Thanks to Harold Rafuse for the work that he does to get the candidates' information to the committee.

With Memorial Day coming up, there are a lot of veterans' day festivities this month. See later in the newsletter.

Happy Mother's Day to our beautiful ladies!

V/R

Ken Ratajczak

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

If our nation is ever taken over, it will be taken over from within. -- James Madison

Oppressors can tyrannize only when they achieve a standing army, an enslaved press, and a disarmed populace. -- James Madison

Crisis is the rallying cry of the tyrant. -- James Madison

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

When the people are afraid of the government, that's tyranny. But when the government is afraid of the people, that's liberty. -- Thomas Jefferson

It is in the interest of tyrants to reduce the people to ignorance and vice. For they cannot live in any country where virtue and knowledge prevail. -- Samuel Adams

Sources:

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 MAY

May 01 - U-2 piloted by Frances Gary Powers shot down (1960)

May 01 – Silver Star Service Banner Day (2010)

May 2 – Osama Bin Laden killed by US Special Operations Forces (2011)

May 04 – Kent State massacre (1970)

May 07 – Lusitania sunk by German submarine – 1,198 killed (1915)

May 08 – VE (Victory In Europe) Day (1945)

May 08 – Battle of Coral Sea began (1942)

May 10 – Military Spouses Day

May 11 – In Viet Nam, the Battle of “Hamburger Hill” began (1969)

May 12 – Soviet Union lifts blockade of Berlin (1949)

May 13 – President Polk declares war on Mexico. Eventually cost lives of 11, 300 US soldiers (1846)

May 14 – An act of Congress allows women to enlist for noncombat duties during WWII (1942)

May 15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day (1961)

May 17 – Brown vs Board of Education ended public school segregation (1954)

May 21 – the Red Cross founded (1881)

May 25 – The Constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia (1781)

May 18 – Armed Forces Day, created on Aug 31, 1949, celebrated on the third Saturday in May

May 27 – Memorial Day (2024)

Sources:

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

<https://www.operationwearehere.com/significantdaysobservations.html>

THIRD THURSDAY DINNER MEETING, MAY 16, MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE STADIUM – 5th FLOOR.

- - Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side and for double door with Media Entrance located above door. This is before the Baylor Club main entrance. Go thru door and take elevator to the fifth floor. There is normally placard sign at 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**

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

**** 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest Speaker,
Danny Smith, Robinson Police Chief**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Grilled Tilapia, Salisbury Steak, Garlic Green Beans, Red Roasted Potatoes, Iced Tea and Water. Coffee will be available at the beverage bar.

A bar will be available and payment will be credit card payment only due to Baylor Club policy.

The dinner cost for 2024 is \$40 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, 9 May Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated.

After the 9th, 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, casual business attire with collared shirts and optional for coat and/or tie and ladies casual business attire.

GUEST SPEAKER INFO

Danny W. Smith is the Police Chief of Robinson, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969, which included 1½ years in Vietnam. He has mainly worked for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He served in various highway patrol positions and ranks and was a Regional Commander in Dallas and a Regional Commander in Waco; this involved directing and supervising Traffic Law Enforcement Activities for 46 counties of Central Texas, Hill County, East Texas and West Texas. Duties involved supervision of over 460 employees, both Commissioned and civilian plus budgetary management and oversight, personnel issues and setting policies. He was commissioned Special Ranger for TX DPS. He served as interim Police Chief for Bellmead, Texas in 2019. He most recently served as interim Police Chief for Robinson and was appointed permanent Police Chief of Robinson in January 2023.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 21, 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, 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. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

OUR PAST GUEST SPEAKER IN APRIL

Our scheduled April guest speaker, Melinda Bonds provided information on the varied programs and services that the Veterans One Stop Center at 2010 La Salle Avenue provides for veterans and their families. Some of the services are veteran benefits and claims assistance, counseling, monthly legal services clinics, career services counseling, community services as a food pantry, clothing closet and more. More info can be found at veteransonestop.org or call 254-297-7171.

MAY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays:

Sandy Corwin, Bob Corwin, Rick Swann, Samuel Wright and Jane Winston.

Anniversaries:

Tim and Nancy Pfanner and Doug and Pat Young.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

2024 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

8 June 2024, Saturday morning, Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Scramble at Waco

Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. Registration opens 6:45 a.m. and golf starts 8:00 a.m. More info on the chapter website, hotmoaa.org.

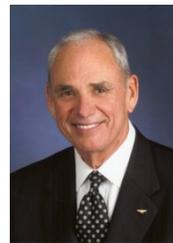
18 July 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Proposed for scholarship educational awards and guest speaker is pending.

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

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

DONATIONS NEEDED: Please bring a non-perishable food item to our 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 – WILLIAM BAUER, --FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Colonel William D. (Bill) Bauer, USMC, was born in Pensacola, FL, on March 3, 1936, where his father completed flight training. His father, Lieutenant Colonel Harold W. Bauer, USMC was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions in the South Pacific during WWII. Bill spent his early years in Quantico, VA; Coronado, CA and Waco, TX. He graduated from Waco High School in 1954.

Following in his father's footsteps, Bill received a Presidential appointment to the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the class of 1958. He then embarked on a remarkable military career, becoming a Marine fighter pilot, and earning his wings in 1960. Bill served in Vietnam, flying 110 missions in the F-4 and also served with the infantry as the Air Liaison Officer to the 1st Marine Regiment at the Battle of Hue during the 1968 Tet Offensive and later at Khe Sanh.

Bill graduated from the U. S. Navy Test Pilot School in 1970, receiving the "Empire Test Pilot School" award for the top final exercise. He participated in the first and second Navy Preliminary Evaluations of the F-14 Tomcat, being the third Naval Aviator to fly the F-14, and has

flown over 40 types of aircraft. He was selected as a Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots for his participation in experimental and developmental flight testing. He graduated from the Navy War College in 1980, winning the Navy League's "Steven B. Luce" award for outstanding performance.

Bill's commands included Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 in Yuma, AZ; Marine Aircraft Group 15 in Iwakuni, Japan; and the Marine Aviation Detachment at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with "V," Air Medal (8th award), and Navy Commendation Medal.

Bill's personal life was equally fulfilling. His crowning achievement was marrying Judy, a girl he met while having breakfast at an Officer's Club in Tokyo in 1962. Judy, a former Kansas State Homecoming Queen, and runner-up Miss Kansas, caught Bill's eye with her dazzling smile. Their love story, which began in a chance encounter, is a testament to the unexpected joys life can bring. They were married at the Clearwater, KS Methodist Church on July 6, 1963.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 1985, Bill began a new chapter in his life. He joined Merrill Lynch in Waco, TX, as a Financial Advisor, where he excelled and eventually became a First Vice President. He also served as the Branch Manager for several years before retiring in 2014. Bill remained active in his community, being involved in the Episcopal and Methodist Churches. He was also a past President of his Rotary Club and Military Officer Association of America chapter.

MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

LOCAL MAY REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

- **May 24, Friday**, VVA Chapter 1012 will conduct the Annual Sunset Ceremony at the Waco Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in downtown Waco 18:00 hours (6 p.m.). This is located on University Parks Drive next to the intersection with Washington Avenue near the

Waco Convention Center. Address is 203 N. University Parks Drive.

- **May 27, Monday**, Memorial Day Ceremony at the Waco Doris Miller VA Hospital starting at 9:00 a.m. It will be held on the Avenue of Flags at the campus entrance. The address is 4800 Memorial Drive.

SERTOMA KITE FESTIVAL

- The 16th annual Heart of Sertoma Kit Festival will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 4 Saturday at the Heart of Texas Miniature Aircraft Field, 3400 Over Flow Road, near Twin Bridges Park.
- The festival is a family event with live music, a giveaway with 100 free kits, miniature aircraft demonstrations, games, glider workshop and more. Admission and parking are free.

VINCE'S DINING OPTION NOTES

- **Terry Black's Barbeque** is now open. It is at 228 S Eighth Street, through the entrance is at the rear from 7th Street next to Mary Street. It has an outdoor patio and varied indoor seating. Once thru the entry door, go to your right to enter the serving line which starts with sides and desert and then moves on the meat serving counter and drinks. Pricing is more than local places with sliced brisket at \$31/lb. as an example but no shortage of customers when I was there.
- **The Butcher's Cellar** is estimated to be opening in late May. The address is 13701 Woodway Drive, Bldg. #5 in Woodway. It is located across from Oak and Ivy Wine Bar and Bistro and off of HWY 84 service road after Richie Road overpass.

SCARBOROUGH RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL IN WAXAHACHIE

This outdoor festival spans 35 acres where ticket-holders step into 16-century village celebrating a visit by King Henry VII and his royal court. Stroll thru the grounds to see performers in Renaissance costumes; vendors hawking goods as flower crowns and period weapons; knights on horseback jousting three time a day; stalls selling fair foods like giant turkey legs and pastries and for those 21 and older, pubs with cold beer and mead. Other attractions include rides and games, acrobatics, and feats such as sword-swallowing and fire whip tricks. It

continues every May weekend including Memorial Day. It is open from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and is located at 2511 FM 66. Regular admission is \$38 at the gate and \$32 in advance for adults and teens 13 and up. For children 5 – 12, regular admission is \$18 at gate and \$14 in advance. Children 4 and under are free. For more information on advance and same day ticket costs and event schedules, go to website srfestival.com.

MOAA AND TRICARE FOR LIFE SUPPORT

A top advocacy group for service members and military retirees is spending time this spring on Capitol Hill seeking to ward off any discussion of changes to Tricare for Life, to include enrollment fees for the program, which serves as a backstop to Medicare for senior retired personnel. The Military Officers Association of America, or MOAA, has targeted Tricare for Life, the program used by retirees and military spouses 65 and older, as one of its top focus points this year in response to a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report that included program fees among the options for trimming the federal budget deficit.

The Biden administration's proposed fiscal 2025 budget does not include any changes to Tricare for Life. But the Alexandria, Virginia-based group believes this budget cycle was the right time to educate congressional offices on the importance of Tricare for Life for its users, even though it is not yet facing any changes.

"Absolutely, this is an unconventional issue because there are no current legislative or administration proposals to cut Tricare for Life. However, we wanted to counter the messaging that CBO put out there through their report on ideas for reducing the deficit," said Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's director of government relations for health affairs.

Tricare for Life, or TFL, was created in 2001 by Congress to serve as a second payee to Medicare for older military retirees and dependent family members. Before then, retirees were able to be seen on a space-available basis at military treatment facilities, but base realignment and closure decisions, as well as military health-care system downsizing, left many without a military health-care option. Under Tricare for Life, retirees are required to sign up for and use Medicare Part B, which requires enrollment fees based on income.

TFL, which requires no fees, picks up any remaining deductibles and copayment costs.

In its Options for Reducing the Deficit 2023 to 2032 published in late 2022, CBO noted that adding enrollment fees of \$575 for an individual or \$1,150 for a family could reduce the deficit by \$15.6 billion over the decade. CBO also noted that introducing out-of-pocket requirements for using TFL would cut the deficit by \$32.6 billion during that time period.

The TFL line items are among several hundred suggestions explored by CBO in the report to reduce the federal deficit, which exceeded \$1.7 trillion in fiscal 2023. But in the report, CBO analysts stressed that the report does not make any recommendations -- it just simply states options. "Inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply an endorsement or rejection by CBO," the report stated.

Nonetheless, MOAA wanted to focus on TFL because the concepts put forth in the report are not "unprecedented," Ruedisueli said. "From fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2017, the budget request included five consecutive proposals for Tricare for Life enrollment fees, and the conditions that lead to those recommendations, I think, are out there to a certain extent right now," Ruedisueli said. "There's pressure on the [Defense Department] budget. There are rising military health system costs."

Roughly 200 MOAA members spent April 27 in congressional offices speaking to staff about Tricare for Life and two legislative proposals the organization would like to see passed this year. Those proposals include a change to troops' Basic Allowance for Housing that would cover 100% of the national average for housing costs rather than 95%, the rate determined in 2015; and passage of the Major Richard Star Act.

The administration's fiscal 2025 budget request of \$7.3 trillion includes \$850 billion for the DoD. The budget calls for a 5.2% pay raise for troops and other incentives to bolster junior service members' pay and improve quality of life.

MOAA will continue to educate members of Congress and their staffs on the issues important to their members, especially those that affect all military retirees and career service members.

Source: MOAA Newsletter, April 25, 2024

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