



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings All!

Our annual fundraiser golf tournament is just a few short months away on Saturday morning, June 7. I am asking you to please consider making a financial contribution to the fundraiser. I plan to give my normal cash donation of \$300. Only \$150.00 will make you a hole sponsor. Moreover, if you have a favorite restaurant, please consider asking them for a donation, either cash or gift cards. You all have a bank that you deal with; consider asking them for a donation. Sponsor and donation forms and the golf registration form are posted on the website: hotmoaa.org. Exact golf planning meeting dates TBA from Vince Tobola. New ideas are always welcome on how to attain success for 2025!

The Scholarship Committee will be gearing up soon. If you know of a deserving and qualified student in need of assistance, please encourage them to apply for our scholarships. Once again, the application is on the website, hotmoaa.org. Note that the deadline for applications is **Mon Mar 31, 2025**.

Remember the weekly Veterans Lunch at the Veterans 1-Stop, 2010 La Salle Avenue, every Thursday from 11:00 to 1:00. I stopped in for lunch this past Thursday and the food was wonderful! Kudos to Jane Winston and Gary Urban as our servers and all around good people! Donations are always welcome!

Donations Needed: Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive an extra ticket for our nightly drawing. Collection being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop.

Challenge Coins. We still have HOT MOAA challenge coins available. Pick up one or two at the registration table. The proceeds go toward our fundraising efforts. Finally, please continue to pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and to reestablish trust in our institutions with the new Presidential administration. Thank you for your outstanding work and support. A reminder that starting in March, we will be switching over to

summer dress code for our monthly dinners. See more info at the top of p. 4. I look forward to seeing you at our March 20th dinner.

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Bill Porter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

2025 HOT MOAA CHAPTER VISION & OBJECTIVES

The following objectives and vision were presented by the Objectives Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Each of the objectives are aligned to the chapter's Mission Statements in the Bylaws. Mission statements are included for reference and paraphrased for brevity.

VISION: Foster member camaraderie and become the recognized leading veterans' organization (Heart of Texas Chapter Military Officers Association Brand) in supporting uniformed services veterans (active/retired/honorably discharged), their families and dependents in Texas by:

- Becoming a central Texas legislative catalyst, advocating for proposed legislation "affecting the career force, retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services," in accordance with the national organization's purpose.
- Participating in and being represented at all veterans' activities in central Texas

HOT MOAA CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

Mission statements are included for reference and paraphrased for brevity -

Mission Statement 1 - Support U.S. and Texas legislation beneficial to veterans, their spouses and dependents the spouses and orphans of deceased veterans.

- **Objective:** Identify, advocate and promote National MOAA and Texas MOAA legislative priorities.

Mission Statement 2 – Foster camaraderie among all members of the Chapter.

- **Objective:** Venerate shared patriotism and service to the country through programs, speakers, and activities about subjects relevant to military, veterans, and country.
- **Objective:** Conduct a survey of current members to identify more forms of social connecting with each other and other veterans in addition to the monthly dinner and board meetings.

Mission Statement 3 - Support the rights and interests of active duty, retired personnel, reserves, National Guard, and veterans along with their dependents and survivors; to join with veteran and support organizations in the Heart of Texas to assist their spouses, children, and orphans as needed.

- **Objective:** Increase chapter membership in HOT MOAA by 10% by implementing these objectives.
- **Objective:** Increase engagement and/or partner with other local veterans' organizations through membership, volunteering and financial support
- **Objective:** Strengthen the chapter's ability to carry out its vision and objectives by encouraging members to serve on one of the standing committees and/or in one of the positions listed in Article X, Section 2 of the bylaws.

Mission Statement 4 - Support the operations of the Chapter and promote a forum for the exchange of ideas and information supporting veterans, veteran dependents and/or survivors

- **Objective:** Complete web site modernization by end of March 2025

Mission Statement 5 - Faithfully manage the Chapter's Benevolence Fund in accordance with the Chapter's and Fund's Bylaws and the IRS

- **Objective:** Publicize and promote presentations of scholarships and awards by inviting the recipients to the dinner meeting for presentation, when possible.
- **Objective:** Seek member input for other sources of income to increase both chapter and benevolence funds.

2025 BENEVOLENCE FUND OBJECTIVES

- Increase fundraising efforts from corporate and external donors for the Benevolence Fund by 25%
- Maintain financial support for HOT MOAA scholarship awards at no less than the 2024 contributions.
- Review and prioritize potential recipient categories of the funds to maximize the impact of the donation financially for the recipient as well as for the furtherance of the chapter's vision based on the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

"We may define a republic to be ... a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people, and is administered by persons holding their offices during pleasure for a limited period, or during good behavior." – James Madison, *Federalist* 39, 1788

"The principle of the Constitution is that of a separation of Legislative, Executive and Judiciary functions, except in cases specified. If this principle be not expressed in direct terms, it is clearly the spirit of the Constitution ... " – Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, 1797

"The propriety of a law, in a constitutional light, must always be determined by the nature of the powers upon which it is founded." – Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist* 33, 1788

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/founders-quotes>

"It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising their sovereignty." – James Monroe

"Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper, truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle." – Thomas Jefferson

"In Republics, the great danger is, that the majority may not sufficiently respect the rights of the minority" – James Madison

"Republics demanded virtue. Monarchies could rely on coercion and "dazzling splendor" to suppress self-interest or factions; republics relied on the goodness of the people to put aside private interest for the public good. The imperatives of virtue attached all sorts of desiderata to the republican citizen:

simplicity, frugality, sobriety, simple manners, Christian benevolence, and duty to the polity. Republics called on other virtues—spiritedness, courage—to protect the polity from external threats. Tyrants kept standing armies; republics relied on free yeomen, defending their own land.” – James Monroe
 “Human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net.” – John Adams

“Of the liberty of conscience in matters of religious faith, of speech and of the press; of the trial by jury of the vicinage in civil and criminal cases; of the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus; of the right to keep and bear arms... If these rights are well defined and secured against encroachment, it is impossible that government should ever degenerate into tyranny.” – James Monroe

“I agree with you that it is the duty of every good citizen to use all the opportunities, which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country.” – Thomas Jefferson

<https://quotecommentary.com/founding-fathers-quotes/>

THINGS TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON IN MARCH:

Mar 1, 1961 – Peace Corps established

Mar 2, 1943 – The Battle of the Bismarck Sea began

Mar 4, 1913 – A new Congress met for the first time under the new Constitution

Mar 5, 1770 – The Boston Massacre occurred killing five and injuring six

Mar 6, 1836 – The Alamo fell to Mexican forces led by General Santa Anna

Mar 9, 1864 – Ulysses S. Grant commissioned as Lt General assumes command of all Union armies

Mar 16, 1968 - The My Lai Massacre occurred

Mar 17, 1776 – British troops complete their evacuation of Boston following a successful patriot siege

Mar 19, 2003 – The US attacked Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein

Mar 23, 1775 – Patrick Henry ignites the revolution –“I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”

Mar 26, 1979 – The Camp David Accords, fostered by President Carter, was signed

Mar 30, 1981 – President Reagan shot outside a Washington hotel

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



FEBRUARY 2025 DINNER MEETING - ATTENDEE PICTURES

FEBRUARY 2025 DINNER MEETING RECAP



Charles A. Weaver III serves as Associate Dean for Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at Baylor University. He is a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and served as

chair of the department for eight years before joining the Dean’s Office. He has published dozens of scientific articles, two books and delivered hundreds of professional and scientific presentations, primarily in the areas of memory, cognition, and eyewitness identification. He has served as a forensic expert in more than 30 states. He was elected “Fellow” by both the Association for Psychological Science and the Psychonomic Society. In 2020, he was named “Master Teacher” by Baylor University, one of only 29 individuals so honored in the 175 year history of the university. His presentation was on how we remember and forget and was well received by the Chapter.

THURSDAY DINNER MEETING MARCH 20, 2025, IN THE MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE STADIUM – 5th FLOOR.

Enter the stadium parking lot through gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue onto stadium I-35 side and look for double door with Media Entrance located above door. This is well before the Baylor Club six door main entrance. Go through the double door and take the elevator to the fifth floor. There is normally a placard sign next to 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 - Chapter election for 2025**

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

**** 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest Speaker – Elmer Speights – Veterans One Stop Special Programs.**

MENU:

Fresh fruit salad tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, Artisan Bread, Swedish Meatballs, Peruvian Chicken with Jalapeno Lime Crema, Red Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, Desserts, Iced Tea and Water.
Coffee will be available at the beverage bar.

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

The dinner cost is \$40 per person, payable at the 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 March, Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVPs are welcome and appreciated. After the 13th, 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 coat and/or tie optional and ladies' casual business attire.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**, 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.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Michael Slavens, or Vince Tobola, with prospective names. Remember every member can help in recruiting more members.

Reminder that our website, hotmoaa.org, does have the chapter membership application form plus copies of newsletters. There is also a national MOAA membership form; basic membership is free. Newsletters are provided 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 four hundred chapters and together we are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, political nonpartisan organization.

2025 dues are now due. Dues are \$25 for current members and can be paid at the regular dinner meetings or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter on your renewal.

MARCH SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Liz Arend, Doug Baldwin, Bill Bauer, Linda Beu, Roland Duty, Mike Flynn, George Holmes, John Jacques, Will Rogers, Al West and James Wilson.

Anniversaries: George and Christine Brinegar, Randy and Diana Ramey, Ken and Christyn Sterling and James and Shirley Wilson.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

Congratulations to All

2025 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

- **20 March 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Elmer Speith – One Stop Special Program.
- **17 April 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Bill Porter – Artificial Intelligence (AI) 101.

- **15 May 2025. Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Dir. Daniel Pack – Engineering Defense Contracts
- **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday, June 7, 2025, for the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

DONATIONS NEEDED: Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive a free drawing ticket. The collection is being made for donation to Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collecting each month in 2025.

WACO AREA EVENTS FOR MARCH 2025

- Jan 25-May 11, 2025 - Mayborn Museum – The Pigeon Comes to Waco, TX
- Mar 1, 2025 - 2025 FIRST in Texas Robotics Competition, -8am-5:30pm, Extraco Center, <https://firstintexas.org/event/frc-waco-district-event/>
- Mar 2, 2025 Baylor Men's Choir special concert 2-3:30pm, Jones Hall in the Glennis McCreary Music Bldg, Baylor University, <https://music.baylor.edu/event/2025/1533748>
- Mar 3, 2025 – Baylor Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 – 9pm,, Jones Hall in the Glennis McCreary Music Bldg., Baylor University <https://music.baylor.edu/event/2025/1533749>
- Mar 5, 2025 – Baylor Piano Trio, 7:30-9pm, Waco Hall, Baylor University. <https://music.baylor.edu/event/2025/1534014>
- Mar 7, 2025 - "Warrior Words Interview Program" sponsored by Baylor VETS. Warrior Words: War Depicted in Letters Home! We are honored to help share your story and preserve it for future generations. Contact: Cinthia Diaz, cinthia_diaz1@baylor.edu for more information and interview times.
- Mar 11, 2025 – Books & Brews discussion of William Shatner's Boldly Go, 6:30-8pm, Maria Mezcaleria, 724 Austin Ave, Waco, TX <https://calendar.wacolibrary.org/event/13428281>
- Mar 22, 2025 – JD Johnson Redneck Rock Star Memorial, 1-6pm, McDaddy's Pub, 101 E Long St, Elm Mott, TX <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=2030779430721815&set=gm.920864003571336&id=761655509492187>

MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

If needed, there is a MOAA national membership form at the chapter website: hotmoaa.org. You can join National MOAA for **free** with **Basic level MOAA membership** and a form is attached. For more membership amenities, the form also shows fees for the annual and life MOAA memberships. This is separate from the chapter membership fee.

HOT MOAA LEGISLATIVE CONCERN

"The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has once again targeted TRICARE For Life (TFL) in its biennial report outlining options for reducing the deficit. The December 2024 report highlights savings that could be achieved by introducing a TFL enrollment fee or minimum out-of-pocket cost requirement. Similar concepts have been presented in past CBO reports, which are issued every two years to provide information to lawmakers confronting budgetary challenges." See last month's newsletter for more information.

Be sure and contact your senators and congressmen and tell them NOT to support the CBO's recommendation to increase TRICARE FOR LIFE fees, deductibles and coverage

MOAA NEWS

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD DOWNLOAD YOUR MILITARY HEALTH RECORDS BEFORE APRIL 1

**By: Kevin Lilley
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

TRICARE users have less than two months to download their medical records via the TRICARE Online Patient Portal, which will decommission April 1 as part of DoD's move to the MHS GENESIS electronic health record.

These records include lab results, immunizations, medication lists, allergies, and a range of other medical data. Your military treatment facility providers will continue to have access to your complete health records.

"If you moved from one duty station to another, and one military hospital or clinic used [the TRICARE Online Patient Portal] and the other used MHS GENESIS, your records in MHS GENESIS may have gaps," according to a Jan. 22 Defense Health Agency (DHA) statement on the record transition.

Beneficiaries should download their records before the changeover to ensure they have a complete digital copy of their legacy health records for personal use.

“When it comes to medical care, you are your own best advocate – and there’s no way to predict what records you’ll need to make your case,” said Lila Quintiliani, MOAA’s program director for financial and benefits education and counseling.

“Get copies of what’s available for you and your family and store them somewhere safe – one digital version on one old laptop may not be the best solution.”

Downloading Your Records

TRICARE Online Patient Portal users can download step-by-step instructions, with visual aids, [at this link \(PDF\)](#). Begin by [logging in at TRICAREOnline.com](#) – those without a Common Access Card (CAC) or DS Logon credentials can access their materials by following instructions at the “Create New Account” prompt.

After clicking the “Health Record” option on the homepage, choose “Download My Data” and select the relevant dates, categories, and individuals. Materials dating back 30 years are available to beneficiaries, according to the DHA statement, and include full records for children up to age 12 and limited records from ages 12 to 17. You can request printed results for adolescents from your child’s clinic or provider.

Note that medical record downloads can take up to several hours.

Other Options

Beneficiaries may also request physical copies of their records from the records management office of their military medical facility. Forms must be filled out in person, and beneficiaries will need to return to the facility at a designated time to retrieve the records. Beginning April 1, if you want your legacy health records, you’ll have to request a physical copy from your [military hospital or clinic](#)’s records management office.

For questions about the record retrieval process, contact TRICARE Online Patient Portal customer service at (800) 600-9332.

Source: [https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/heres-why-you-should-download-your-military-health-records-before-april-1/)

[earned-benefits/heres-why-you-should-download-your-military-health-records-before-april-1/](#)

HOT CHAPTER MOAA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN

Applications are due March 31 for educational scholarships. The Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America annually awards deserving students pursuing or planning to pursue undergraduate studies at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Application information is available at hotmoaa.org. An applicant’s permanent residence must be in the chapter’s Central Texas service area, which includes McLennan, Falls, Limestone, Navarro, Hill, Bosque, Hamilton, Mills, Lampasas, Coryell and Bell counties.

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. Consideration is given to an applicant’s GPA, academic major, financial need, the “whole person” as reflected by participation in other endeavors at school, in the community, and religious affiliation and educational pursuits and future goals. A short essay is required.

Awards are available to graduating high school seniors and to students already in college. A total of \$12,000 was awarded last year to four recipients.

VINCE ‘S DINING NOTES

Logan’s Roadhouse in Central Texas Marketplace has turned Cajun, at least through spring. A press release mentions fare that includes cedar plank salmon, shrimp stacked trout, lemon pepper trout, coconut shrimp, blackened shrimp and sausage gumbo and Cajun seafood dip.

The address is 2806 W loop 340, Waco. It is open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The phone number is 254-662-2036, and the website at logansroadhouse.com.

The Brazos Landing is located at 100 N. Interstate 35 Frontage Road, Waco on Lake Brazo in downtown Waco. The phone number is 254-753-2778 and the website is buzzardbillysbrazos.com. It is closed Monday and open Tuesday – Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 pm. The menu includes a variety of appetizers, food items and desserts plus the menu also includes Cajun dishes. The river views are great with covered dining areas sitting above the water across from the Baylor University Foster Pavillion.

NEW VA SECRETARY APPOINTED

Collins Confirmed as Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Following a confirmation vote of 77–23 in the Senate, Douglas A. Collins has been sworn in as the 12th secretary of Veterans Affairs. He is the first post 9/11 veteran to serve in this Cabinet position. He served in the Navy and is currently a colonel and chaplain in the Air Force Reserve. Collins is also a former U.S representative from Georgia.

In a message to veterans and VA employees, he outlined his approach to include delivering timely access to care and benefits for every eligible individual, focusing on customer service and convenience, challenging the status quo, and celebrating great performance by VA employees but holding accountable those who fall short of the mission. *From Feb 10, 2025, VFW Action Corps Weekly issue.*

HOUSE PASSES VETERAN HOMELESSNESS BILL

The House passed VFW-supported H.R. 965, Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act. This bill would exclude VA disability compensation from income calculations for housing programs supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Veterans with injuries or illnesses resulting from military service may have significant barriers to employment and be at a higher risk for homelessness. The risks may also increase for those with higher disability ratings. Excluding this earned compensation would facilitate greater veteran eligibility for supported housing programs. The Senate will now need to consider for action. *From Feb 17, 2025, VFW Action Corps Weekly issue.*

2025 HOT CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN TO 31 MARCH

Applications are due March 31 for chapter educational scholarships. The Heart of Texas of the Military Officers Association of America annually awards to deserving students pursuing or planning to pursue undergraduate studies at an accredited institution of higher learning.

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MOAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Your advocacy ensures that MOAA and the broader community of military and veteran service organizations (MSOs/VSOs) maintain momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, [which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans](#).

We also need your help to build support for new objectives and emerging issues, often via immediate action, to respond to the sporadic nature of the legislative process.

First step: Register as an advocate in [our Legislative Action Center](#). Review and participate in sending letters through this section to our elected representatives.

MOAA members have access. Earlier in this newsletter, it explains how you can join MOAA national for free with a Basic membership giving you electronic access. The same form also has costs for annual and lifetime membership fees.



Heart of Texas Chapter TX07, MOAA
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USEFUL NUMBERS

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MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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(<https://www.moaa.org/>) click on Legislative Action Center or call (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) to get the information.

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