



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

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Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

I hope each of you had a blessed Memorial Day and remembered the sacrifices made by our soldiers past and present for this great nation. The sacrifices our brothers and sisters must not be forgotten!

Let us not forget that June 6th marks the 78th anniversary of D-Day. The D-Day National Memorial, dedicated on June 6, 2001, is located in Bedford, Virginia. Of the over 4400 fatalities that during Operation Overlord, 19 soldiers from Bedford were killed on the first day with four more dying later during Operation Overlord. Bedford was chosen as the memorial's site because Bedford suffered proportionately greater losses than any other town during the Normandy invasion. I recommend a visit to the National D-Day Memorial be on your bucket list.

Marsha and I have traveled more than 6000 miles this past month and experienced some of the wonders and educational venues the United States has to offer, i.e. the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Great Salt Lake, Mt Rushmore, the Devil's Tower, and the Little Big Horn battlefield to name a few. America is blessed with so much to see and cherish – thank you to the all those who have served and protected this great nation.

We had 41 attendees at our May dinner luncheon in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium who treated to a powerful and informative presentation from our guest speaker, Captain Kahlil El-Halabi of the Woodway Public Safety.

Department. He explained the training requirement to become dual qualified in law enforcement and as firefighter and emphasized the advantages of having dual-qualified officers. I hope each of you had a chance to meet and speak with Captain El-Halabi.

On our current awards programs, I am happy to report that in April and May of this year we presented a total of \$2,550 in awards to the following:

- Six individual ROTC and JROTC awards valued at \$1350. (Note: not included in this total is the \$600 award to be presented to the AFROTC cadet at a chapter meeting in early fall)
- Cash awards of \$150 each to Heart of Texas Young Marines and Civil Air Patrol.
- Cash awards of \$300 each to HOT Young Marines, La Vega High School, and Midway High School JROTC to support summer leadership training for cadets in those units.

Save the Date! June 10th is **rapidly** approaching and our fundraiser team still needs your support as we strive to exceed our previous fundraising efforts. I hope you will volunteer and/or contribute to the program's success. Currently, our member donation percentage increased from 17% to just over 30%, but we still have some work to do to exceed our 2019 member donation percentage of 34%. Currently you have donated \$9,975 and businesses have contributed \$ 1,350 for a total of \$11,325. Please continue to your fine efforts.

Special thanks to Harold Rafuse for getting our June 10 fundraiser publicized in the May 26 edition of the Waco Times Herald. Well done!

(Continue to next page)

Upcoming Events and Information Items

As of this printing, we have 31 player participants and working on hosting up to 12 veterans to compete in this year's fundraiser tournament. Come out and cheer for your favorites. Plus you can sign up for a delicious BBQ lunch. See Vince for more information.

Competition for our 2022 scholarship program has already begun. To date, we have received four **scholarship** applications. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at our July 21 chapter dinner meeting in the Baylor Club Media Room. Be sure to attend and meet outstanding future leaders and see the fruits of our fundraising efforts.

Our HOT MOAA Challenge Coins make excellent gifts and are very reasonably priced at only \$15 per coin. Proceeds go toward our fundraising efforts. Time to pitch in! Contact Vince to pick up one but better yet get two or more.

P.S. As former military members, you should never go to the bar without one – could be costly.

Finally, let's pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and the United States of America. They need our support reestablish the trust in our institutions and to restore civility.

Thank you for your good work and support. See you at our June 10th fundraiser--come out and enjoy!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Lake Shore Funeral Home and Crematory, 5201 Steinbeck Bend Drive, Waco, will provide a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, June 14th, 4:00 p.m. at their location. The public is invited. Flags may be dropped off in their lobby prior to the ceremony. A box is available in the lobby to the left after entering the flags.

WWII PILOT FROM WEST ACCOUNTED FOR-- 1ST LT LOUIS GIRARD

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Louis V. Girard, 20, of West, Texas, was assigned to 68th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On August 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Girard was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. This was the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, north of Bucharest, Romania. His remains were not identified after following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section of the Civilian and Military Cemetery of Bolovan, Ploiesti, Prahova, Romania.

In 2017, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted-for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE losses. After detailed dental, anthropological and DNA analysis, DPAA announced recently that he was accounted officially accounted for as of March 28, 2022.

Graveside services will be held on June 4th, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, 1402 Cemetery Road, West, TX 76691

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

- **21 July, Thursday, DINNER meeting in Media Room** at McLane Stadium. Presentation of 2022 educational scholarships and "Sing Along Patriotic Songs".
- **18 August, Thursday, LUNCH meeting in President's Suite** at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker is Dr. T. Michael Parrish, PhD, Baylor University History talking on Doris Miller.
- **22 September, Thursday, DINNER meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker is being finalized.

JUNE HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 21, 2022; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ and located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

2022 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter member dues are \$25 for renewing members and were due starting January 1. Dues will be prorated for new members joining depending on the date in the year. Renewals can be paid at a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. Please contact Ken Ratajczak, 254-776-4804 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 with any new prospect names.

JUNE SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Charles “Doc” Anderson, Stan Brubaker, Dennis DeGraff, Willie DuBose, Mary Gee, Mary Hanes, Ted Lawson, Gerry Milnor, Sarah Preddy, Sally Robinson, Margaret Ross, Renee Swann, Susie Rowe, Billie Sawyer, Don Schreiber, and Kay Sullivan.

Anniversaries: Charles and Patsy Norman Farr, Jim and Kay Gompper, Don and Sally McErlean, Bill and Gerry Milnor, and Bob and Margaret Ross.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN JUNE

- June 6 – Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.
- June 12 – Women’s Armed Service Integration Act (1948)
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 14 – Army Birthday (established 1775)
- June 22 – Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)
- June 22 – GI Bill Signed Into Law (1944)
- June 23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 25 – Korean War Began (1950)
- June 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day
- June 30 – Post 9/11 GI Bill Signed Into Law (2008)

FRAUD AND SENIORS

Fraud is always a possibility and people need to stay vigilant. Here are phone numbers below in TX for reporting.

To report suspected financial fraud, contact the Texas State Securities Board. Phone: 512-305-8301.

Dallas Branch Office: 214-630-8681.

Houston Branch Office: 13-426-0336.

Corpus Christi Branch Office: 361-884-7820.

LOCAL EVENTS

- **Sundays, June 5 and June 19**, Brotherwell Brewing, 400 E. Bridge Street, Waco. Phone number 254-301-7152. The Eastside Market is hosted by Brotherwell Brewing in their courtyard area. It is free to attend and park in the vicinity. There will be various craft vendors and food trucks on site.
- Early notice for **4th of July in Waco**. The annual Fourth of July celebration takes place at Touchdown Alley next to Baylor’s McLane Stadium. Gates open at 6 p.m. Free. The H-E-B Fireworks Extravaganza begins at 9:15 p.m. with fireworks shot above the river between Touchdown Alley and the Ferrell Center.
- Remember the website, **wacoheartoftexas.com** is offered by Waco Convention Center and Waco Visitor’s Center to provide information on local attractions and schedules of local activities. The Waco Visitors Center next to the Texas Ranger Museum has large free information on local attractions, free maps, free coupon book and sells variety of Waco related items.

SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 10TH

. The golf fundraiser will be held on **Friday, June 10th** at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, 5200 Bagby Ave, Waco. Registration starts at 11 a.m., lunch is available starting at 11:30 a.m. and players will tee-off at 1 p.m.

The golf fee is \$125 per player and includes golf fee, cart, range balls, lunch and a gift bag. There will be various team and hole prizes plus four hole-in-one prizes. More information can be found at the website, hotmoaa.org.

The **June 10, 2022** golf fundraiser information has been placed on the chapter web site, hotmoaa.org. This includes golf player registration form, donation form and list of donation levels available.

The last golf committee meeting before the fundraiser will be held on June 8, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at Summer Palace on Hewitt Drive.

Volunteers that want to help in preparation and supporting the fundraiser can contact Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 for questions and to sign-up if you have not already talked to Vince earlier. Morning preparation starts Friday at 8:00 a.m. and support will be needed in the afternoon during and at the end of the fundraiser.

TOXIC EXPOSURE LEGISLATION

In Mid-May, U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) Jon Tester (D-Mont.) – Ranking Member and Chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee (SVAC) announced a bipartisan agreement on comprehensive legislations to deliver all generations of Toxic-exposed veteran their earned health care and benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the first time in the nation’s history.

For more than a year, Sens. Moran and Tester led negotiations between Democrats, Republicans, House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, Ranking Member Mike Bost, the Biden administration and Veterans Service Organizations that resulted in the agreement – the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard. He died in 2020 from toxic exposure as a result of his military service.

Among its many priorities, the act will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA’s list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure; this includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA’s resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans; and
- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in VA claims processing, VA’s workforce and VA health care facilities.

Once bill text has been finalized, it will be put on the floor for a vote – with senators expressing urgency that a Senate floor vote takes place as soon as possible. After Senate passage, the legislation must be passed by the House before being signed into law by the President.

HIGHLIGHT OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR IN WORLD WAR II AND D-DAY

Like many Americans, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. returns to duty during WWII. He re-enters the Army as a Colonel, soon promoted to Brigadier General. After front-line combat leadership in North Africa, he is transferred to England and prepares for the Allied invasion of Normandy. Maj. Gen. Raymond “Tubby” Barton initially rejects Roosevelt’s request to come ashore in the first wave. The son of the 26th U.S. President argues that his combat experience and presence on the beachhead “will steady” the men. Barton reluctantly agrees.

On D-Day, Roosevelt’s Higgins boat veers off course by a mile. His famous response, “We’ll start the war from right here!”

Armed only with a pistol, and using a cane, he keeps the men moving across the beach, amid enemy fire. At 56, he is the oldest American and only general to come ashore in the first wave. Once inland, his jeep is painted with the words “Rough Riders”, honoring his father’s famous Spanish-American war unit.

For his actions on June 6, 1944, Roosevelt Jr. receives the Medal of Honor. But it is presented posthumously on September 21 that year. On July 12, 1944, he dies of a heart attack and is soon buried at a temporary cemetery in Ste. Mere-Eglise.

Gens George Patton and Omar Bradley are honorary pallbearers at his funeral. He is later moved to the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-Sur-Mer, where his is one of the most frequently visited graves today.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024

A total eclipse will take place in two years, on April 8, 2024. Lowell Observatory is teaming with the City of Waco, Baylor University and Discovery for an Eclipse Over Texas: Live from Waco, a public event at Baylor University’s McLane Stadium.

City of Waco Mayor Meek said a few words at a press conference announcement in April exactly two years from the time it will happen in the future. It will be exciting to see how the world celebrates the event and ready to welcome visitors to enjoy! Waco was chosen as the place to celebrate because it sits very close to the path of totality, meaning you can get a great view of the eclipse from right here!

About the eclipse: The partial phase of the solar eclipse will begin at 12:20 p.m. as seen from Waco and will last for four minutes and 13 seconds. The Sun’s surface will gradually be covered until totality begins at 1:38 p.m. Then, the sun will begin its gradual move out of the moon’s shadow, ending at 2 p.m.

ROTC AND JROTC CADET AWARDS AND PRESENTERS

Awards and cash grants were presented by HOT Chapter MOAA members for ROTC and JROTC cadets.

The Baylor University Army ROTC award package of a MOAA medal set, MOAA certificate and \$600 cash grant was presented on April 21 to Cadet Micah Warwick by Michael Slavens.

The Baylor University Air Force ROTC award will be presented in early fall per the unit's request; it is proposed for a chapter meeting.

The five JROTC units each received a MOAA medal set, MOAA certificate and a cash grant of \$150. The high school units follow:

The University HS JROTC ceremony was on April 27 and the presenter was Jim Milam for Cadet Lenly Collazo.

The La Vega HS JROTC ceremony was on May 2nd and the presenter was Bill Hulsey for Cadet Consuelo Espita.

The Connally HS JROTC award was on May 3rd and the presenter was Gary Urban for Ray"Neisha Davis.

The Midway HS JROTC award was done on May 5th and the presenter was Bill Hulsey for Savannah Daniel.

The Waco HS JROTC award was on May 5th and the presenter was Bill Porter for Cadet Gabriel Fields.

For the Heart of Texas Young Marines, a cash grant of \$150 was sent to Henry Gonzales, who will make the presentation for their selected cadet.

For the Civil Air Patrol, a cash grant of \$150 will be provided. Norma Thronburg will be coordinating the presentation to the selected cadet.

POWER OF WALKING

Adding walking to your routine improves our physical and mental health, experts say. Regular walking supports the healthy immune system, boosts our metabolism, and strengthens your joints, muscles and bones. It also relieves stress.

Walking outdoors has several benefits too. Exposure to the sun's natural vitamin D helps protect the brain's neurons and reduces inflammation. Breathing natural air, rather than recycled air indoors, improves brain function. And the stimulation caused by the activity and nature produce endorphins that regulate your mood.

MEMORIAM – DONALD EDWARDS

Dr. Don Edwards, 85, passed away at Wesley Woods Care and Rehab Center after a long battle with dementia. He was born in Columbia, Missouri to Hope and Harold Edwards on September 7, 1936. His younger sister, Sharon Drake, currently lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Don is survived by his wife of sixty-three years, Mary Aileen Faurot Edwards; his sons, Jeffrey and wife, Lori, of Laguna Hills, California and Charles and wife, Melissa, of Canton, Georgia. His grandchildren are Alec and Sara Edwards and Amelia Boddy.

Don will be memorialized as a great father, coach, mentor, and role model to his sons. Don will be missed by his many friends in Waco and other family members and friends across the country, who we thank for their love and support in recent days.

In 1954, at age 17, Don obtained an appointment to the West Point Military Academy. After graduating, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in 1958. His pilot hopes didn't work out when he measured too tall for the cockpit at that time. He served as a navigator in the Strategic Air Command from 1960 to 1964, during the height of the Cold War. He obtained a master's degree in engineering management from Rensselaer Polytech Institute in Troy, New York, in 1965 and then served two tours in a combat zone in Vietnam in a C-130 (1966-67) and in a C-13 gunship (1972-73). He developed flight plans to avoid anti-aircraft weapons and all his many missions arrived home safely. He retired as a colonel in 1981.

From 1973 to 1976, he obtained a Ph.D. in systems management from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 1976, he rejoined the faculty at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

His career as a Baylor professor and chair of the Management Department in the business school spanned twenty years. He chaired the committee that guided the regulations for Baylor to enter the Big XII Conference. He was on the Athletic Committee and won the Moon Mullins Award for contributions to the Athletic Department. He volunteered at Parkdale Elementary School, Waco ISD, the Historic Waco Foundation, St. Catherine's, and the VA. He was both a Baptist and Methodist.

The visitation was on Saturday, May 21. The Burial Service will be at the Nashville Baptist Church Cemetery outside Columbia, Missouri, on July 22. He will be buried beside his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.



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