



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue XI

November 2022

Chapter Web Site: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful fall weather and Baylor football, volleyball, soccer and basketball. Get out of the house and enjoy the best of college sports -- Sic 'em Bears!!!

We have a lot to remember and reflect on this month. To name a few:

- Nov 4, 1979 - Iranian militants took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans, held captive for 444 days
- Nov 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. receiving 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.
- Nov 8, 1942 - Operation Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa, began as 400,000 soldiers landed at Morocco and Algeria
- Nov 11, 1919 - Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) celebrated annually
- Nov 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser USS Juneau off Guadalcanal during World War II
- Nov 17, 1734 - Publisher John Peter Zenger arrested and charged with libeling the New York colonial governor. Truth was successfully used as a defense against libel, an important early step toward freedom of the press
- Nov 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address
- Nov 20, 1943 - The Battle of Tarawa began, over 1,000 Americans killed, 2,311 wounded
- Nov 22, 1963 - President Kennedy assassinated

What does this mean? Our history and the sacrifices our brothers, sisters and citizens made since our founding must not be forgotten!

Last month, Ms. Sophia Young-Malcom gave a very inspirational address on her role in preparing women athletes, mentally and spiritually, for their future. I know all those attending enjoyed her presentation.

November Featured Presentation by the Daughters of the American Revolution. A must see event!

For our 2022 fundraiser, 35% of our active membership donated \$10,275 and the chapter presented a total of \$10,000 to three scholarship winners and \$3,150 in grants to ROTC/JROTC, Young Marines and Civil Air Patrol recipients. Please see our HOT MOAA (<https://hotmoaa.org/>) and the Texas Council of Chapters (<https://www.texas-moaa.org/>) websites for articles on this year's scholarship winners.

Save the Date - 2023 Golf Fundraiser - Our golf tournament fundraising committee is actively planning this event. This is a HOT MOAA team event and volunteers are needed to assist with contacting businesses and at the event! Please be ready to assist us again in making our 2023 fundraiser a huge success. Please contact Vince Tobola to learn how you can help

Save the Date - February 25, 2023 Freedom Ball. We funded a "Bronze Table", 10 seats, to show case our HOT MOAA brand. If you would like a chance to win a pair of tickets, please contact Vince to have your name entered into the December drawing.

Challenge Coins. HOT MOAA challenge coins are available and very reasonably priced at only \$15 per coin. Proceeds go toward our fundraising efforts. Time to pitch in! Pick up one or two at the luncheon registration table.

Finally, let's continue to pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and the United States of America.

Thank you for your good work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our Nov 17<sup>th</sup> luncheon - come out and enjoy!

***Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving***

v/r

Michael Slavens

## **Upcoming Events and Information Items**

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

The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 22, 2022**; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

### **NOVEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays**: Joe Augeri, Lee Harkins, Patricia Herbelin, Lyn Lawson, Raymond Sancton, Don Speed, and Gary Urban.

**Anniversaries**: None.

### **CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

### **2023 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

2023 chapter dues are coming and can be paid early at the November and December meetings or sent in.

Chapter member dues are still \$25 for renewing members. Renewals can be paid at a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702.

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Ken Ratajczak, 254-776-4804 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 with prospect names.

Reminder that our website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org), does have chapter application form and MOAA membership forms.

Dues for the chapter and MOAA are separate from each other.

### **WACO AREA EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS**

For info, go to website, [wacoheartoftexas.com](http://wacoheartoftexas.com).

Also, stop by the Waco Visitor Center and Gift Shop at 106 Texas Ranger Trail, which is adjacent to the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame. It has free maps, visitor guides and numerous brochures.

### **CHANGE CLOCKS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends and Need to set clock back one hour.**

### **FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR VETERANS**

There will be a free veteran's clinic by Baylor Law on **Thursday, Nov. 10, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** at the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop, 2010 La Salle Ave, Waco, TX. This is by **Appointment Only**, phone 254-710-4200, or e-mail: [LegalClinics@baylor.edu](mailto:LegalClinics@baylor.edu). This event is made possible by a grant from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

### **THURSDAY LUNCH MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2022, AT MCLANE STADIUM – PRESIDENT'S SUITE, FIFTH FLOOR, HOSTED BY THE BAYLOR CLUB.**

- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side to the end of parking lot past the Baylor Club entrance and Founder's Club entrance and find the last inset doorway near the column;

- There will be a President's Suite sign above the inset double door entrance located near the white column. There is usually a sidewalk placard against the column with President's Suite name on it. Go thru the doorway and take the elevator to the fifth floor.

- The numbered spaces starting with rows 1-001, 1-025, 1-045 or 1-064 and up are across from the door entrance. You can park in any numbered space.

### **LUNCH SCHEDULE**

**\*\* 11:00 A.M. Registration and Social Period**

**\*\* 11:35 A.M. Call to Tables**

**\*\* 11:40 A.M. Intro & Announcements.**

**\*\* 11:50 A.M. Lunch**

**\*\* 12:20 P.M. Multiple Drawings for Door Prizes & Entertainment, A Group of Daughters of the American Revolution will present skits from letters on military member experiences.**

**MENU**: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad, artisan bread, Chicken Picatta, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Roasted Asparagus, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Desserts, Fresh Brewed Iced Tea and water will be on the tables.

**Please note lunch 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](mailto:vtobola@aol.com), NLT Thursday, 10 November, Noon for sign-ups.**

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After this time, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if plans change to attend and we will work to accommodate you at the lunch meeting. Lunch cost may be charged for missed attendance, depending on total turnout for the meeting date.

**NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, coat and tie and ladies attire as desired.**

## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 & 2023**

- **15 December 2022, DINNER/DANCE** in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium. Proposed to have election for 2023 Officers and Directors plus music by the band, The Morticians.
- **19 Jan, Thursday, Dinner in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be B J Elliot Prior. She was a flight attendant for Continental Air Lines during Vietnam. She wrote a book, "Behind My Wings".
- **Feb 16, Thursday, Lunch in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Mrs. Frank Gentsch, who will talk about her father who was a Medal of Honor recipient.
- **Mar 16, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **Apr 20, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **May 18, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **Save the Date, The** annual scholarship golf fundraiser will be on June 10, Saturday, registration start 6:45 a.m. and shot-gun start at 8:00 a.m. Location is City of Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco.

## **TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD**

The Veterans Land Board is here to serve Texans. For more information on benefits, go to [vlb.texas.gov](http://vlb.texas.gov).

## **LOCAL RESTAURANT UPDATE**

Slow Rise on the Brazos is at 1620 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd on the Lake Brazos. It is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Website is at [www.slowrisewaco.com](http://www.slowrisewaco.com) or phone 254-488-4719. The restaurant serves New York style pizza, by the slice or whole pizza. It also serves salads as house, Caesar, Greek, Cobb or Caprese. Also, included are the slow-rise burger, chicken wings, mozzarella cheese sticks, house made meatballs and crispy ravioli. The restaurant can seat over 400 people with the main area, large covered patio, separate covered patio on the water and open area seating.

## **FEB 25 2023 FREEDOM BALL TICKETS**

The Board approved purchase of a Bronze Table with ten seats at the Feb 25 2023 Freedom Ball to be held in the Waco Convention Center. There will be dinner, open ball, entertainment and a silent auction.

The Board also agreed that there would be a free drawing at the December 15 dinner/dance for the five pairs of tickets, **but actual winners would to be present at the Dec. 15 meeting to win.**

If interested, please submit your name to Vince Tobola, [vtobola@aol.com](mailto:vtobola@aol.com) or call 254-709-5795.

## **PROPOSED 2023 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AND ELECTION**

### **Officers**

President: Michael Slavens  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Ken Ratajczak  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Bill Porter  
Treasurer: Vince Tobola  
Immediate Past President: Bill Milnor  
Secretary: George Littell (Appointed)

### **Directors**

Joe Augeri  
Jim Milam  
Barbara Purselley  
Don Speed  
Norma Thronburg  
Bill Easley  
Beau Crosby  
Bill Hulsey  
Ennis Sullivan  
Jon Ker  
Carol McHaney  
Gary Urban

### **Directors Emeritus**

Jimmie Hanes (Appointed)  
Harold Rafuse (Appointed)



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## **LOCAL AREA EVENTS**

- **Nov. 5, Saturday, Battle of the Military Branches Flag Football Competition at McLane Stadium, 2 p.m.** This is hosted by Veterans Baylor (Baylor University student organization led by and for Baylor's student veterans). Purpose is to connect the local student veterans and their families with a larger supportive community, healthy activity and a time of celebration as Veterans Day approaches. Best likely to park on the east side of the stadium and to walk to enter thru the south end zone entrance. Events will be on the field and various fan areas.
- **Nov. 6, Sunday, First Ever Waco Rowing Regatta, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Boats rowing from McLane Stadium to Brazos Park East.** There will be over 300 boat entries of one, four or eight rowers competing on time over the river course during this period. At Brazos Park East, there will be food trucks, beverages for sale and national and local vendors. There is no entrance fee.
- **Nov. 11, Friday, annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Waco, starts at 11 a.m. on Austin Avenue around 13<sup>th</sup> Street and continues down Austin Avenue and ending at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.**
- **Nov. 13, Sunday, 2 p.m., Flag Retirement and Disposal Ceremony at the Carleen Bright Arboretum Pavilion, 1 Pavilion Way, Woodway, TX 76712.** This street is off of Bosque. The following locations will accept flags for the ceremony: VFW Post 6008, 725 Sun Valley Blvd, Hewitt, TX; the Carleen Bright Arboretum, 1 Pavilion Way, and the three Community Bank & Trust locations.
- **Nov. 16, Wed., Waco Veterans One-Stop will sponsor Thanksgiving Lunch at Lee Lockwood Museum, 2801 West Waco Drive, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free, no ticket is required.**
- **Nov. 25 – 27, Homestead Fair, 608 Dry Creek Road, Waco, TX 76705.** Go to [homesteadfair.com](http://homesteadfair.com) for admission pricing, schedules and directions. There will be craft demonstrations, music and food.

## **COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE PAY RAISE 8.7%**

Military retirees, VA beneficiaries, Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants, and Social Security recipients are on track to receive the highest cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in over 40 years. The 8.7% increase means the average monthly Social Security check will increase by about \$144 in 2023, and a military retiree or annuitant will see an extra \$87 per \$1000 of pay each month.

The adjustment is designed to keep your benefit strong against inflation, and for many, the money will be necessary to stave off debt and keep up with rising costs. However, for those facing less-immediate financial needs, there are ways to make the money work toward your financial goals.

Some ways to consider use of the extra funds is to pay down on debt or may simply increase your savings rate. Of course, the reason for the increase is to account for the ongoing inflation rate and higher daily expenses so options may not be available.

## **NEW VA BILLS SIGNED**

President Signs Veterans Legislation into Law: President Biden signed into law two bills. The Solid Start Act requires the VA to reach out to newly separated veterans three times within their first year of separation to check in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits. It is open to all newly separated veterans regardless the type or characterization of service. Finally, Supporting Families of the Fallen Act will increase the automatic maximum coverage under Service members' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance from \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00.

## **HOW TO EASE SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD)**

Anyone can experience SAD that is brought on with the nights drawing in and the heat needs to be turned up. Some symptoms are difficulty concentrating, low energy levels, and sudden mood changes and reduced motivation resulting in social and relationship problems.

Some ways to combat the condition are eat nutritious food and drink plenty of water; exercise outdoors especially when the sun is shining, just take a walk or biking; open your blinds and curtains during the day to get more sunlight as possible and ask for support as needed.



## **NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

With a lame-duck session for Congress on the horizon, MOAA is closely tracking progress in two areas: full funding of the government and the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

It's been 26 years since Congress managed to pass a full budget before Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year. Another failure to do so this year means federal operations – to include DOD, the VA, and other programs affecting those in the uniformed services – continue at current spending levels. On Sept. 30, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through Dec. 16.

While the passage of a CR is better than a government shutdown, it doesn't provide funding needed for the annual pay raises, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life or new programs to enhance the lives of service members and their families.

The annual funding bill is a magnet for other priorities such as continued pandemic response and further aid for Ukraine, so the process will likely be contentious. However, there is support for wrapping it up before another CR is required: "I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House and Senate appropriations committees and passing a final 2023 spending package by the December 16<sup>th</sup> deadline," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

The House passed its version of the NDAA in July, and the Senate is still working on its version. The NDAA is considered must-pass legislation and has been signed into law for 61 years in a row. With just 25 days left when the 117th Congress is in session, there's a lot of work remaining.

The Senate hopes to take up its version of the NDAA after the November elections. Over 900 amendments were submitted, but just 75 have been included in a manager's package so far. Committee staffs will "pre-conference" the bill with a goal of achieving an 80% to 90% solution by the midterms and resolving any outstanding disagreements among the chairs and ranking members of the Armed Services committees. The SASC adopted the HASC's version of the NDAA and then added to the bill as an indicator of the intent for rapid passage.

DOD is facing a recruiting crisis, and improving the quality of life for service members and their families through better pay and benefits, and investment in living conditions, is sorely needed. When it comes to personnel, there are no shortcuts. Budgeting for fewer service members today will lead to expensive retention bonuses tomorrow. The decline in the propensity to serve is a threat to the all-volunteer force that recruiters and bonuses will not easily correct.

Both versions of the NDAA include a 4.6% pay raise for military service members. The combination of inflation and high rates of military spouse unemployment has left military families struggling to secure basic needs. MOAA supports the provision of inflation bonus pay to service members making less than \$45,000 a year.

Missing from the pre-conference NDAA is any language dealing with concurrent receipt, and notably the Major Richard Star Act, which focuses on supporting combat-injured veterans. In the year after our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Star Act grew significant support, with over two-thirds of Congress - 31 House members and 67 senators, as of Oct. 25 – signed on as co-sponsors. Continuing to grow co-sponsors will set the stage for a showdown over this popular legislation in 2023. The bill corrects an unjust offset – the reduction of DoD-provided retirement pay (for years of service) for every dollar of VA disability compensation (for lifelong injury). These are two different pays for two different purposes, and combat-injured retirees are entitled to both.

## **ANNUAL DOD SUICIDE REPORT RELEASED**

The Department of Defense (DOD) released the *DOD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military: Calendar Year 2021*. In 2021, 519 service members died by suicide, marking a decrease compared to 2020. Although rates decreased this past year, there is still an upward trend. Young, enlisted males exhibited the highest suicide risk. Military family suicide data from 2020 also included in the report indicates 202 dependents died by suicide, and male spouses exhibited a higher rate than their civilian peers.

## **NEW AIRCRAFT UNVEILING**

The Air Force and Northrop Grumman will roll out the B-21 Raider from Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif., on Dec. 2, the company announced via Twitter. The rollout is the first for a new Air Force bomber since 1988, when the B-2 Spirit emerged from the same facility.



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

Address label

#### 2022 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator John Cornyn	Chase Tower
517 Hart Senate Office Building	221 West Sixth St, Suite 1530
Washington, DC 20510	Austin, TX 78701
Website: <a href="http://www.Cornyn.senate.gov">www.Cornyn.senate.gov</a>	512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020
202-228-2856	

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz	300 E. 8 <sup>th</sup> , Ste 961
127A Russell Senate Office Building	Austin, TX 78701
Washington, D.C. 20510	
202-224-5922	

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions	400 Austin Ave,
2204 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515	Suite 302
202-225-6105.	Waco, TX 76702

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MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622

MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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#### ***INSIDE THIS ISSUE:***

#### ***PRESIDENT'S COLUMN***

***NOV. 17 LUNCH MEETING IN PRESIDENT'S  
SUITE ON FIFTH FLOOR AT MCLANE STADIUM  
ENTERTAINMENT BY GROUP FROM DAR  
CHAPTER WITH SKITS ON MILITARY  
EXPERIENCES FROM LETTERS  
VARIED LOCAL NOVEMBER EVENTS  
BUDGET UPDATE AND COLA INCREASE  
PROPOSED 2023 SLATE OFFICERS & DIRECTORS***