



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

Volume MMXVIII, Issue VIII

AUGUST 2018

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A taste of Autumn...

The past couple of mornings have been unseasonably cool, with a slight northerly breeze carrying a hint of the scent of fall...but alas, none of the hoped for rain. As we progress toward the end of summer and the start of school over the next two weeks, please keep cool and hydrated in all your outdoor activities. Also, do not forget to apply extra water toward the trees in your landscape since lawn sprinklers often do not supply enough moisture.

We had a great July dinner, recognizing our four special scholarship winners: Emmaline Guillory, Anna Sweeney, Macey Malcik, and Jackson Justus. The excitement and promise of focused youth are refreshing and inspiring to each of us. You are all important team participants in the future of our community and nation through your support of our scholarship fundraising and program. A big salute to each of you!

You'll also note the Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act and sent the bill to the President for signature. Key components of the bill include a 2.6% pay raise for our military members, no decrease in the Basic Allowance for Housing, and no increase in TRICARE fees. Each of these provisions was not possible without the continued advocacy of MOAA and its members...specifically you. Another provision in this act is an increase in service end strength...each of the Services will be growing to meet the continued high operations tempo across the globe. Thank you for sending notes and postcards to our Congressman and Senators.

Our Chapter continues to be active in the community, and I want to encourage you to attend the 8th Annual Veterans Luncheon at the Lee Lockwood Library on August 8. We have two MOAA tables reserved, and doors open at 1030, with lunch beginning at 1100. This year's guest speaker will be Major General James L. Williams, USMC (retired). Come join us and enjoy a tasty barbeque lunch and the opportunity to fellowship with veterans from around the community.

As you go about your activities in the community, be cognizant of those former officers you may meet. Our MOAA Chapter has a place for each of these former officers, and provides an opportunity to serve our community and nation. The camaraderie we know from serving is a powerful unifier and gives us a unique perspective on the special blessings of our nation. 99% of the nation's citizens have not served in any branch of the Service, and we have a powerful message of commitment to share.

I look forward to Gail Joyce as our guest speaker for our 16 August dinner. Gail is the Chair of the National MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee. Her perspectives on the Surviving Spouse program are important to each of us, and she has an inspiring message through her personal life experiences. Please join us for our August dinner. And as always, "Never Stop Serving!"

Respectfully,
Dennis DeGraff