



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

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November 2018

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Thanksgiving!

November provides multiple opportunities to display thankfulness and reaffirm the blessing of being an American citizen. While each day we open our eyes from a night's sleep should fill our hearts with thanksgiving for another opportunity to serve and enjoy our families and friends, November highlights our recognition of all the blessings we may give thanks and praise for. The cool crisp breeze and deep blue sky today after yesterday's storms bring promise and hope. The American blessing of one citizen, one vote will take place on November 6, and the remarkable fact is Americans can change and alter governmental leadership without fear of violence or bloodshed. November 11 brings the nation to remember our veterans and perhaps many citizens will reaffirm the reality that there are men and women who are willing to die to protect this nation and its citizens. On November 18 the central Texas area will participate in the noble retirement of our worn and tattered flags at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, again remembering and expressing thanks for the American flag and all it represents to its citizens. The culmination of thanksgiving for our nation will be celebrated on November 22, our nation's Thanksgiving. Along with the family time and food, we also have many opportunities to serve and share the thanksgiving blessing with those less fortunate. November underscores the blessings and thanksgiving we enjoy as "one nation under God".

In keeping with thanksgiving, we have the responsibility to be good stewards of our government by communicating with our elected representatives. I encourage you to go to MOAA's legislative website and keep updated on legislation impacting our nation and veterans. One highlight this month is to support HR 299, the House bill approved to acknowledge and care for blue water sailors who served during the Vietnam era and were exposed to Agent Orange. The bill was passed with bipartisan support in the House, but has stalled in the Senate. Let me encourage you to go to the MOAA website and submit your support of this bill to

our Senators and encourage them to reach out to their Senate colleagues to garner support of this measure.

With regard to the Christmas for Heroes project, spearheaded by the Stan C. Parker Foundation, our Chapter showed a wonderful outpouring of support to those veterans who are in-patient residents at either the Waco VA or the Temple VA hospitals. Our Chapter provided a full tub of toiletries, personal items, and socks, as well as a \$460 cash donation. Additionally, our Chapter made a \$300 donation to the Veterans One Stop service center for the annual Thanksgiving lunch to be held on November 16. If you would like to assist with the lunch (serving, cutting pies, replenishing trays and pans, etc.), come to the One Stop at 1000 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Lunch is served to the disabled veterans at 10:30 a.m. and open to all veterans at 11:00 a.m. Last year, more than 750 meals were served and your assistance is truly appreciated.

Our November 15 dinner meeting will be a special event and I encourage you to be there. We are presenting three scholarship awards to three Baylor AFROTC cadets. We will place each of the cadets at three tables and you may come early and sit at one of those tables. Listening to the youth and vigor of motivated cadets is simply amazing! Further, our guest speaker will be the Baylor University First Gentleman, Brad Livingstone. Mr. Livingstone has dedicated his professional career to secondary education. He currently serves as a history teacher at Vanguard Preparatory Academy. One of Mr. Livingstone's academic passions is World War II. At each stop in his career in education, he has taught a class on the subject in which veterans visit the classroom to share their stories with students. "I started the course well over 20 years ago at Vanguard, and I've taken it with me to Southern California and to D.C.," he says. "It's an incredible experience when I get to welcome World War II veterans into my classroom. These men are between 90 and 97 years of age, but they were only 17 or 18 — the same age as my students — when they went to war." I am certain you will want to be there and listen to the stories, experiences, and thoughts from Mr. Livingstone. And in closing, "Never Stop Serving!"

Respectfully,  
Dennis DeGraff

## Upcoming Events and Information Items

### **NOVEMBER 15 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD BANQUET ROOM, GUEST SPEAKER, BRAD LIVINGSTONE AND BAYLOR AFROTC**

#### **AWARDS**

**\*\*SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. \*\*, \*\*CALL TO TABLES 6:30 P.M. \*, \*INTRO & ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS, 6:35 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DINNER 6:55 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DRAWING & GUEST SPEAKER 7:55 P.M.**

**MENU:** Garden Salad with crisp romaine hearts and iceberg lettuce, cherry tomatoes, English cucumber, red cabbage, parmesan cheese with ranch and Italian dressing, pork loin, tilapia, Chef's choice of starch, vegetable and two desserts, Fresh Rolls and Butter, Fresh Brewed Iced Tea or Hot Tea and Coffee. \$30 per person, payable at registration table, cash or check made to HOT Chapter MOAA. Please call Vince Tobola, 772-5251 or e-mail vtobola@aol.com, NLT Tuesday 13 November, 6:00 p.m. for sign-ups. After this time, please contact as soon as possible if plans change and desire to attend and we will work to accommodate you at the dinner meeting.

**NOTE: The fall/winter code is effect with gentlemen's attire as coat and tie and ladies' attire as desired.**

### **2018 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter. Please contact Vince Tobola, or call 709-5795 cell if you need an application form or a chapter introduction letter or have questions. Chapter member dues are \$25 and due starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and prorated for new members later in year. These can be paid at the dinner meeting or mailed to the PO Box address on first page of newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

The monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **November 27, 2018**, 5 p.m., at Uncle Dan's BBQ and Rib House, 1001 Lake Air Drive, Waco in the large meeting room.

### **SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**November Birthdays:** Joe Augeri, Jerrie Buehrig, Paul Flynn, Patricia Heberlin, Fred Logan, and Steve Robertson.

**November Anniversaries:** Lou and Schelly Storm and Rick and Madeline Sweeney.

**Congratulations & best wishes to all on your**

### **GUEST SPEAKER – BRAD LIVINGSTONE**

Baylor University First Gentleman Brad Livingstone has dedicated his professional career to secondary education. Brad and Linda Livingstone met at Oklahoma State University, where both played Division I basketball and were involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. This year, the Livingstones celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary.

A native of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Mr. Livingstone was a three-year letter winner at Oklahoma State and toured Europe in 1983 as a member of an Athletes in Action basketball team, sharing the gospel and building bridges between cultures.

Mr. Livingstone earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in education from Oklahoma State. He currently serves as a history teacher at Vanguard College Preparatory School, where he also taught in the 1990s and early 2000s when the Livingstones first lived in Waco. He previously served at Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village, California, and as the Dean of Students and a history teacher at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Virginia.

One of Mr. Livingstone's academic passions is World War II. At each stop in his career in education, he has taught a class on the subject in which veterans visit the classroom to share their stories with students. "I started the course well over 20 years ago at Vanguard, and I've taken it with me to Southern California and to D.C.," he says. "It's an incredible experience when I get to welcome World War II veterans into my classroom. These men are between 90 and 97 years of age, but they were only 17 or 18 — the same age as my students — when they went to war."

Mr. Livingstone has been recognized as Teacher of the Year five times by four educational organizations during his teaching career.

### **VETERANS DAY PARADE**

The annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Waco will be held on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Start time is 11:00 a.m. and commences on Austin Avenue around N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, down Austin Avenue and ends at Waco City Hall.

## **NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS DECREASED IN 2018**

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie and the Department of House and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson announced a decrease of 5.4 percent in the number of homeless veterans in the past year. “We’ve made great strides in our efforts to end Veteran homelessness, but we still have a lot of work to do to ensure those who wore our nation’s uniform have access to stable housing,” said HUD Secretary Carson. The annual Point-in-Time report estimates that 37,878 veterans experienced, or will experience homelessness in 2018, compared to 40,020 in 2017. The number of women veterans experiencing homelessness declined by 10 percent over the same time period. The VFW encourages homeless or at-risk veterans who need assistance to call **1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)**.

Also, an additional \$200,000,000 will be provided by the VA in 2019 to support homeless veterans. The funding is expected to support more than 13,000 beds for veterans in need across the country.

## **NINE MISSIONS WILL SOON RETURN TO TYNDALL AFB, FUTURE OF BASE’S F22S UNCERTAIN**

Nine missions will return to Tyndall AFB, Fla., in the near future as the base begins to return to a sense of normalcy following the catastrophic damage of Hurricane Michael. These missions include the 601st Air Operations Center and non-flying portions of F-22 training, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson announced Friday. All but 500 airmen from Tyndall will return to the Florida Panhandle within about three months, though the 95th Fighter Squadron—the only operational F-22 “Raptor” squadron assigned to the base—will be dispersed to other F-22 bases.

The airmen tasked with rebuilding Tyndall AFB, Fla., are pulling from the training they received at that base to help their own community. The 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, from Hurlburt Field, Fla., was one of the first to respond after Hurricane Michael destroyed about 95 percent of the base. The base was covered with sheet metal, insulation, furniture, and shattered trees. At first the job seemed too big, but the squadron immediately got to work clearing routes and assessing the damage. Temporary facilities were set-up to support personnel as recovery efforts continue.

## **ELDER ABUSE**

Elder abuse is a very concerning problem and can occur in many different forms. It might be physical, psychological, financial, sexual, or even neglect. Any of these forms being perpetrated against an elderly person needs to be identified and stopped. The victim might need help to recover from the effects of the abuse and assurance the abuse will stop and not occur again.

Abuse can happen in many places, including the older person's home, a family member's house, an assisted-living facility, or a nursing home. Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, and pushing. Emotional abuse includes saying unkind things to the person, yelling, speaking negatively, and criticizing the elderly person. With sons and daughters, financial abuse seems to be most common. It is justified by a belief that it is nothing more than the “advance inheritance” of property, valuables, and money.

The health consequences of abuse of an older person are serious. Abuse can destroy a person’s quality of life and can result in depression and dementia, increased stress, psychological decline, malnutrition, and increased dependency. Research has shown the risk of death for elder abuse victims is three times higher than for non-victims.

Abuse comes in many guises, but the net effect is the same. Abuse creates potentially dangerous situations and feelings of worthlessness, and it isolates the older person from people who can help.

Because of the possibility of abuse in the case of elderly persons, it is important for the family members, caregivers, neighbors, and others to be aware and alert to see evidence of abuse should it occur. Fear of meddling in someone else's business should not stop one from reporting their suspicions. The reporting agencies in each state are different, but every state has a service designated to receive and investigate allegations of elder abuse and neglect. Many professionals, including psychologists and other mental health specialists who work closely with older individuals, are “mandatory reporters” according to state statute, which varies from state to state.

Sometimes older adults harm themselves through self-neglect (e.g., not eating or not going to the doctor for needed care), compulsive hoarding, or alcohol or drug abuse. However, one of the most difficult problems family members face is achieving a balance between respecting an older adult's autonomy and intervening before self-neglect becomes dangerous.

With the aging of today’s population, there is the potential that elder abuse will increase unless it is comprehensively recognized and addressed.

## **FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY, NOV. 18**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual flag retirement and disposal ceremony will be held Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Whitehall Center, Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 W. Bosque Blvd, Woodway, TX. It is hosted by Elizabeth Gordon Bradley Chapter NSDAR, McLennan County Veterans Association, City of Woodway and assisted by other local organizations. Unserviceable flags may be taken to: Community Bank & Trust (all three locations), Carleen Bright Arboretum, VFW Post 6008 (Hewitt), McGregor Mirror, Coffee Stop (McGregor) and Read's Food Store (Mart). Flags may also be brought to the ceremony.

## **2019 FEDVIP DENTAL AND VISION PLANS**

Starting in 2019, dental and vision insurance plans for military retirees and their families will be available through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). If you're eligible, the first opportunity to enroll in a plan is during the Federal Benefits open season, which will take place from **Nov. 12 to Dec. 10**. To compare FEDVIP plans and rates before open season begins, go to <https://tricare.benefeds.com>.

## **PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2018 - 2019**

**13 December**, Thursday Dinner Meeting, RCC, 2019 Election of officers and directors, Spirit of America Medal presentation ceremony and live entertainment by the band, The Morticians.

**17 January 2019**, Thursday Dinner Meeting, RCC, guest speaker, Dr. Bill Milnor talking on his perspectives on the medication crisis.

**10 May 2019**, Friday Afternoon, Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

## **WWI END – 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

World War I's armistice became effective on Nov. 11, 1918. U.S. casualties were hostile deaths 53,513; non-hostile deaths 63,195 and wounded 204,092. Most of the non-hostile deaths were due to an influenza epidemic that swept through stateside Army camps in 1918. More than 2 million U.S. troops served in Europe during WWI. Perhaps the most famous was U.S. President Harry S. Truman, who as a captain, commanded D Btry., 129<sup>th</sup> FA, 60<sup>th</sup> FA Bde., 35<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Side note was that American women (who were granted the chance to enlist in the military for the first time) gained the right to vote in 1919.

## **VA PRIORITIZING PENDING APPEALS FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS**

VA announced recently that they are prioritizing pending appeals claims for benefits of veterans impacted by recent hurricanes Florence, Michael, Maria and Super Typhoon Yutu. VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals determined that the effects of these natural disasters were sufficient enough to advance the appeals for veterans who live in areas determined to be disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "Accelerating the decision process on pending appeals claims for those Veterans and their families affected by hurricanes Florence and Michael is the right thing to do," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. The advancement on docket (AOD) for these storms is expected to last for six months from the date of the events.

## **NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH**

President Trump declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month to "salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and ... celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world." More than 300 national, regional, and local events are planned at VA hospitals, benefits offices, and cemeteries across the country.

## **NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH**

VA is honoring the estimated 5.5 million family members and friends who provide much-needed care for chronically ill, injured, or disabled veterans during National Family Caregivers Month.

"Caregivers make tremendous sacrifices to address the daily needs of veterans who served our nation," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement.

"These mothers, wives, fathers, husbands and other loved ones deserve our recognition and support for all they do to care for veterans." The recent passage of the VFW-championed VA Mission Act of 2018 will expand eligibility for VA's program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of all eras of service. The expansion will occur in two phases, starting with eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, with further expansion to follow.

## WACO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The HOT Chapter is a member of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce so chapter members can attend chamber events and not pay non-member costs. The Chamber is located in downtown Waco at 101 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (254 757-5600).

- **Thursday, Nov. 8, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Small Business Power Hour: Solid Waste and Recycling: the Future is around the Corner at the Waco Chamber. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to the Chamber web site.
- **Thursday, Nov. 15, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.,**  
Hour Economy with TxDOT Waco engineer to discuss I-35 construction project, which extends from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to N. Loop 340 and anticipated to start in early 2019. Lunch cost is \$10.00. Please RSVP at web site, WacoChamber.com.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.,** 1000 Friends of Waco at Greater Waco Chamber. Roundtable discussion focusing on Greater Downtown Waco and various updates from agencies working in the downtown area.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 28** luncheon, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Waco Hippodrome, State of the State, a panel discussion with special guests, Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell, Texas State Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson, and Texas State Representative Kyle Kacal. Learn of the Greater Waco Chamber’s State Legislative Agenda for the Texas 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, and hear from the elected officials on their top priorities. Cost is \$50 per person. Please register by November 19<sup>th</sup> at WacoChamber.com.
- **Monday, December 3, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.,** State of the Nation Luncheon at the Baylor Club. Special guests will be the Honorable Bill Flores, U.S. House of Representatives and Ron Ekshaug, Vice-President of Congressional & Public Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Cost is \$50 per person for members. Please register by November 26 at WacoChamber.com.

## MAILING DATES TO OVERSEAS

### LOCATIONS

Military postal officials and the U.S. Postal Service have issued their suggested mailing deadlines for holiday packages and letters, for the best chance of getting them to military locations overseas in time for Christmas. To get them there in time for Hanukkah, which starts on Dec. 2 this year, subtract 23 days from the deadlines.

The deadlines for various methods of shipping are the same for most APO/FPO/DPO (diplomatic post office) ZIP codes, with the exception of some mail going to APO/FPO/DPO Zip Code 093, which covers overseas contingency areas.

- USPS Retail Ground mail (the slowest way to go, formerly known as Standard Post): **Nov. 6.**
- Space Available Mail (SAM): **Nov. 27.**
- Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL): **Dec. 4.**
- First-Class and Priority Mail (letters, cards and packages): **Dec. 11,** except for ZIP 093, which is **Dec. 4.**
- Priority Mail Express Military Services: **Dec. 18.** Not available for ZIP 093.

You’ve got time to plan within your budget. Check with your local post office to compare prices of the ways to send your package.

## VIETNAM WAR MARINE RECEIVES

### MEDAL OF HONOR

President Trump presented retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley the Medal of Honor at the White House before a crowd of Canley’s fellow Vietnam veterans and senior military and civilian officials. The Marines who fought alongside Canley in the Battle of Huế had worked for years to see him receive the award – an upgrade of the Navy Cross he was awarded in 1970. Canley, now 80, is the 300th Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. On Jan. 31, 1968, with his company commander severely wounded, then-Gunnery Sgt. Canley took control of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, as it made its way toward the besieged city of Huế in central Vietnam. For the next six days, writes Stars and Stripes, Canley would organize assaults on enemy positions, killing countless enemy fighters as his team retook buildings in the city, according to award citations. Twice he would brave fire to scale a wall in “full view of the enemy to pick up wounded Marines and carry them to safety,” said the president, adding that Canley had saved at least 20 Marines’ lives during the “house-to-house” fighting.





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MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622  
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