



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

Volume MMXVIII, Issue VIII

August 2019

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings:

“Oh, What a Night.” No, I’m not talking about the 1963 hit song by the Four Seasons. I’m remembering the great evening this past July 18 at your Heart of Texas Chapter Military Officers Association of America monthly membership meeting. It was a great night for our five scholarship winners, their families, and our members. Our members got to meet a small sample of the many outstanding young Americans in our part of Texas as well as the talented Ann Harder and her guitar playing musical partner. Weren’t they great? Most of all, special thanks goes to our scholarship winners plus their families for raising such great young Americans.

August is here. Yes, it is hot, but we have several special Days that happened this month. Many of us will be remembering significant events such as Air Force Day, National Airborne Day, National Aviation Day, and Women’s Equality Day. Additionally, take a moment to note that August was when the U.S. Coast Guard was established on the 4th in 1790, the Purple Heart Medal was established on the 7th in 1782, the Vietnam War began on the 7th in 1964, and Japan surrendered on the 14th 1945 ending World War II.

Things in August that we can enjoy in person include our MOAA monthly membership meeting on August 15 at the Ridgewood Country Club. Our guest speaker will be McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. On August 28 we are invited to Stan Parker’s Ninth Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum, 2801 West Waco Drive. The Guest Speaker will be Lt. Col Allen West (Ret). Recommend that you arrive by 1030 to sign in and the event will start at 1100. I believe that you will find a couple of tables reserved for MOAA members.

As always, thanks to our members for continuing to recommend guest speakers, entertainment and new members. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Please come and help us have a nice turnout for the August 15 membership meeting. Sheriff McNamara has had a long and varied career in law enforcement plus he has been involved in high profile cases. Did I mention that he consulted on a movie named Hell or High Water in 2016? You may want to ask him some questions. I hear that he tells it like it is. See you there.

Please remember MOAA members, your friends and neighbors that are experiencing health and personal challenges. Your encouragement will be greatly appreciated.

Have a safe month of August and enjoy family and friends. As always, Bless You and “Never Stop Serving”.

Respectfully,

Gary Urban

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20
Ridgewood Country Club (RCC) is at 7301 Fish Pond Road

19 September, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting with speaker or entertainment to be announced.

17 October, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting with speaker or entertainment to be announced.

21 November, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting with speaker or entertainment to be announced.

12 December, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting, Election and entertainment by The Morticians.

5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon, Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

AUGUST 15 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING

AT RIDGEWOOD BANQUET ROOM,

Guest Speaker, Parnell McNamara, McLennan
County Sheriff

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

**MENU: Champion salad, top butt sirloin, pork
loin, Chef's choice of starch, vegetable and two
desserts, Fresh Rolls and Butter, Fresh Brewed
Iced Tea or Hot Tea and Coffee. Please note new
dinner charge is \$33 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, NLT
Tuesday 13 August, 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: Summer dress code will be in effect,
gentlemen collared shirt with slacks, coat and/or
tie optional and ladies attire as desired.**

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. Web site is wacochamber.com. The Chamber is located in downtown Waco at 101 S. 3rd Street (254 757-5600). Please check web site for registration info on events.

- Wed., Aug 7, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Greater Waco Chamber, Young Professional Lunch Connection. Lunch free to members, \$10 for non-members. This is a networking opportunity.
- Thurs., Aug. 8, 7:45 – 9:00 a.m., Baylor Research & Innovation Collaborative (BRIC), 100 Research Pky, Room 3160, 3rd Floor. Businesses for around greater Waco will provide Technology Briefing, includes free breakfast..
- Thurs., Aug 23, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Balcones Distilling, 225 S. 22th Street, 1000 Friends of Waco monthly update on downtown area with inputs from Downtown Merchants Assoc., the Public Improvement District, Greater Waco Chamber and others.

GUEST SPEAKER – PARNELL MCNAMARA

Sheriff McNamara was born in Waco, Texas and graduated from Baylor University. After 32 years with the U.S. Marshal's Service, he was elected McLennan County sheriff in 2012 and was elected again in 2016.

During his career, he and his brother, Mike McNamara, helped instigate the nationwide manhunt that led to the arrest and execution of Kenneth McDuff in 1992. In 1993 he was an active U.S. Marshall during the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian Complex outside Waco, Texas. He has also been involved in numerous high profile law enforcement cases in the Waco area.

Parnell McNamara was the key consultant to Jeff Bridges for his lawman role in the movie "Hell or High Water" in 2016.

Sheriff McNamara and his wife Charlotte continue to serve the residents and visitors of McLennan County.

AUGUST SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

August Birthdays: Wendy Adamo, Joan Alexander, Pike Anderson, Karen Augeri, Anne Bowman, Ron Dampier, Linda Day, Sally McErlean, Pete Patrick, Palmira Robertson, Bobby Sammon, Pam Schreiber, and Lou Storm.

August Anniversaries: Charles and Wendy Adamo, Stan and Lori Brubaker, Bruce and Patsy Burdett, Beau Crosby and Kathy Endres, Lynn and Linda Day, Willie and Gloria DuBose, Henry and Hope Hacker, Bob and Penny Lull, Robert and Lyn Powers, and Tony and Claire Raineri.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

2019 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter. Please contact Vince Tobola, or call 709-5795 or e-mail vtobola@aol.com if you need a membership application form. Chapter member dues are \$25 and due starting January and will be prorated for new members joining 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 support.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **August 27, 2019, 5 p.m., UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE**, 1001 Lake Air Drive.

BUDGET DEAL REACHED AND APPROVED

Senior congressional leaders and administration officials have reached an agreement over the budget and the debt ceiling and it was forwarded to the President for signature.

Negotiators agreed to raise federal spending levels for defense and nondefense programs by \$320 billion. They also agreed to suspend the debt ceiling until July 31, 2021, setting the stage for a dramatic showdown in the first year of the next administration, regardless of which party sits in the White House. The two-year deal ends the threat of sequestration through fiscal year 2021.

The deal passed in Congress before the lawmakers began their return to their home districts for the August recess beginning. Part of this likely was due to a July 12 letter to House and Senate leaders where the Treasury Secretary warned "there is a scenario in which we run out of cash in early September, before Congress reconvenes. As such, I request that Congress increase the debt ceiling before Congress leaves for summer recess."

The government hit the debt ceiling back on March 1. Since then, the Treasury department employed what's known as "extraordinary measures" to keep the government running. Under extreme measures, the government can choose to delay fully funding things like Thrift Savings Plan accounts or pension funds for federal retirees. Once the debt ceiling gets raised or suspended, the government then puts in the missing money, plus any interest accrued.

If the bill had not passed and the Treasury had run out of wiggle room to cover daily expenses in early September, the government would then had to begin delaying payments on things such as interest on the national debt, military personnel, and beneficiaries of government assistance programs like Medicare and Social Security. Defaulting on the government's obligations would throw financial markets into turmoil.

It's important to note that raising the debt limit does not authorize the government to spend more money: It merely allows the government to borrow more money to pay for the things it already agreed to authorize. According to estimates at the Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget, suspending the debt limit until after the 2020 elections would allow the government to take on anywhere between \$1.5 and \$2 trillion in additional debt over the next ten years.

The agreement sets defense spending at \$738 billion in FY 2020 and \$740 billion in FY 2021. The FY 2020 figure aligns more closely with what the House passed in its defense authorization bill earlier this month.

The agreement continues to highlight the failed attempt to rein in federal spending, the 2011 Budget Control Act. The Budget Control Act was designed to bring both parties together to come up with combinations of spending cuts and tax increases to reduce the debt and end trillion-dollar annual deficits. It contained a mechanism known as sequestration that would trigger automatic, across the board cuts to spending if Congress spent money above the law's arbitrary budget caps.

To get around the caps, Congress passed a series of two-year budget deals, raising spending levels in the short-term by agreeing to extend sequestration out into the future. In the first two-year deal, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Congress tried to pay for the increased budget by cutting military retirement COLAs. The provision, known as COLA-1%, asked military retirees to be the only segment of the American population to shoulder the burden of the deal. After a groundswell of opposition from MOAA members, Congress quickly reversed the COLA cuts before they could take effect.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the budget deal will take the nation's debt-to-GDP to its highest percentage since 1947. Inevitably, lawmakers will have to make some very difficult choices on what to do about federal spending and revenues. Some of those choices may include cuts to entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security or changes to COLA calculations for retirees.

VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum, 2801 West Waco Drive. The speaker will be Lt. Col. Allen West (Ret). Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 11 a.m. sharp. The lunch is full smoked brisket with all the trimmings. There is no cost but RSVP's are required. Contact is Stan Parker, 254-759-4934, call or text or e-mail stancparkerfoundation@gmail.com . There will be two tables reserved for MOAA.

HOT CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America recently awarded five educational scholarships.

Four Freedom Is Not Free scholarships were awarded at the chapter's monthly dinner meeting at Ridgewood Country Club on July 18. The fifth scholarship was the General Harry A. Goodall Educational Scholarship.

Recipients of the Freedom Is Not Free Scholarships were MichaelAnne Roach, \$1,000; Adrianna Schalefer, \$1,000; Noah Gonzales, \$2,000 and Ty Hale, \$3,000. Baylee McGuire was awarded the General Harry A Goodall Educational Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000.

Roach is from Belton and will be attending Texas A&M University, majoring in bio-chemistry and genetics.

Schalefer is from Temple and will be attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in communications.

Gonzales is from Copperas Cove and will be attending the University of Texas at Dallas, majoring in computer science with a specialization in cybersecurity and quantum computing.

Hale is from Groesbeck and will be attending Texas A&M University, majoring in pre-medical program and eventually going to medical school to become a cardiologist.

McGuire is from Harker Heights and will be attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in pediatric occupational therapy.

ISSUE ON TIMELY PROCESSING OF BLUE WATER NAVY CLAIMS

In a letter to congressional leaders Wednesday, MOAA called on lawmakers to identify and close any budgetary gaps in fulfilling Blue Water Navy disability claims mandated by Congress in the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act and by the judicial ruling in *Procopio vs. Wilkie*.

Joined by 17 other veteran and military service organizations, the letter asked Congress "to appropriate suitable resources for the complete and immediate implementation of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, and to assist the VA to ensure this vulnerable group receives in a timely manner the health care and benefits they have been denied for decades."

VA leadership strongly opposed the legislation during the 115th Congress, although VA Secretary,

Robert Wilkie pledged to uphold the will of Congress if the bill passed. The basis of that opposition was that scientific evidence supporting presumption of exposure for Blue Water veterans was inconclusive. VA also asserted that granting benefits to Blue Water veterans would cost much more than the estimates provided by the Congressional Budget Office.

This influx of claims, said Under Secretary Paul Lawrence in testimony to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in August 2018, would cost \$6.7 billion over 10 years. The following month, Wilkie wrote that the legislation also would require an additional 803 positions to handle the anticipated backlog in claims processing.

In early July 2019, the VA announced a stay on all claims by Blue Water Navy veterans until Jan. 1, 2020. The memo stated that the delay was to uphold congressional intent and included a quote from Wilkie saying the stay was in place "to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

MOAA signed onto a July 24 letter asking Wilkie to lift or modify the blanket stay. That letter argued that the decision in *Procopio vs. Wilkie* justified moving forward with those claims immediately, rather than waiting for the Jan. 1, implementation date of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act signed into law earlier this summer. But more must be done.

If such a budgetary gap is preventing full and timely delivery of benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans and their survivors, it is the responsibility of Congress to identify and fill that gap in appropriations with all due haste.

Request consideration to write to your Congressional representatives and ask them to provide the resources that will make full and immediate implementation possible.

F-16 AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION CONTINUES

Lockheed Martin received two major F-16 contracts July 31, collectively worth \$1.1 billion, to produce 14 jets for Slovakia and to support the fighter fleet at Balad AB, Iraq. Lockheed will be relocating from Fort Worth to Greenville, South Carolina for the production of these and future F-16 aircraft

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMENS ARMY CORPS BATTALION RECOGNIZED FOR WW II SERVICE

When Indiana Hunt picked up a magazine at a drugstore in upstate New York during World War II, an article about women in the Army Corps caught her eye. At the age of 22, she learned that African American women were being recruited from around the country. Hunt, who would later become Indiana Hunt Martin, enlisted—not knowing she would be making history.

Within months the Army private who had rarely left her hometown of Niagara Falls and had never been outside the state of New York, was on a boat headed to Europe, chased by German submarines and later greeted in England by Buzz Bombs.

Martin turned 97 on May 30 and is one of the members of the historic 6888 Central Postal Battalion, also known as the Six Triple Eight. The unit is the only African American Women's Army Corps Battalion in the U.S. Army to serve overseas during World War II. The surviving members of the 6888, in addition to Martin, are Anna Mae Wilson Robertson, of Milwaukee, Wis.; Delores L. Ruddock, of Mt. Rainer, Md.; Lena Derriott Bell King, of Las Vegas, Nev.; Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson, of Hickory, N.C.; Maybelle Rutland Tanner Campbell, of Alexandria, Va.; and Fannie Mae McClendon, of Ariz.

The Six Triple Eight was deployed in 1945 to help clear a massive backlog of mail to service members, U.S. government officials, and Red Cross workers. Before the days of email and cell phone calls, overseas personnel depended on the postal service for news from home. However, the warehouses storing the mail were filled with disheveled letters, often poorly addressed, and opened packages with rats eating items intended for those serving their country.

"Mail was piling up over there," Martin said in an interview from her Maryland home, her memories of her extraordinary experiences clear after all these years. "We worked day and night until we got through that mail. They told us we were chosen because of [civil rights leader] Mary McLeod Bethune and [first lady] Eleanor Roosevelt."

With the motto "No Mail, Low Morale," the Six Triple Eight cleared about 18 million pieces of mail for Americans in the European Theater of Operations in less than six months, serving first in

England first and then France during WWII. The women worked in austere, wartime conditions, often during bombings in London. "You never knew what was going to happen," Martin said.

On February 20, 2019, the Secretary of the Army awarded the 6888th the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

LOCAL AREA EVENTS COMING

- Margarita and Salsa Festival, Aug. 24 at Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd, starting at 6 p.m. More info at extracoeventscenter.com
- WESTFEST, Aug. 30 evening preview party, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. 43rd annual celebration in West with Czech heritage on full display over the weekend. Includes music, arts and craft booths, food booths and beverages and more for children activities. Location is at West Fair and Rodeo Grounds one mile south of downtown West on South Main Street. Free shuttle parking in downtown West, info on admission and parking fees can be found at Westfest.com.
- Baylor 1st Football Home Game, Aug. 31st, McLane Stadium, 6 p.m.
- Sorghum Fest at Homestead Craft Village, Monday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., free admission. Includes sorghum pressing and syrup making process, food items as outdoor BBQ and Brick Oven Pizza, fresh cranked ice cream, horse-drawn hayrides, and demonstrations of various fine hand-crafts and special music at noon. The festival is at Homestead Craft Village, take I-35 to Elm Mott exit 343; go west on FM 308 for 3 miles, then north on FM 933 for 1 ½ miles. (Watch for signs.) Turn west on Halbert Lane and proceed half mile to entrance. More info at www.homesteadcraftvillage.com or phone contact 254-754-9600.

B-2 SPIRIT STEALTH BOMBER TURNS 30

The B-2 Spirit is easily the most recognizable aircraft in the Air Force inventory, with its sleek, black, improbable shape blending science fiction with reality even now, 30 years after its first flight in 1989. Only 21 were built and 20 remain. The "Spirit of Texas" was the seventh aircraft delivered. The others also are named after states. The aircraft are located at Whiteman AFB, MO and Edwards AFB, CA.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

AUGUST 15 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING,

GUEST SPEAKER: PARNELL MCNAMARA,

MCLENNAN COUNTY SHERIFF

2019 HOT CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET UPDATES

AUGUST 28 VETERANS APPRECIATION

LUNCHEON BY STAN PARKER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & LOCAL EVENTS