



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

Volume MMXVIX, Issue XII

December 2019

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Greetings

Here we are in December 2019 and we still have special events to enjoy in days ahead. But first let's remember a few noteworthy events in 2019.

Each of us experienced changes in 2019. A few examples include: We each added a year to our lives, many of us celebrated special days like wedding Anniversaries, some added new members to our family, such as, Grandchildren and some added family by marriage.

Now let's reflect on Heart of Texas MOAA Year 2019.

We had a successful fund-raising golf tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course due to the hard work of our Golf Tournament Committee. They did a great job of planning the event and raising funds from our many sponsors. Yes, the weather also cooperated in May. Additionally, HOT MOAA members contributed by playing in the tournament and providing personal donations. Thank you so much and hope to have your help again this coming June.

HOT MOAA's fund-raising efforts resulted in our ability to assist outstanding area young folks with their plans for higher education. The General Goodall Scholarship and Freedom Is Not Free Scholarship Programs provided five accomplished young Americans with scholarship monetary awards that were sent directly to the school that they will attend. Note: All the scholarship winners will attend institutions of higher learning in the state of Texas.

HOT MOAA also provides awards to Baylor University Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets who have excelled in their military training programs. Additionally, we also support Junior ROTC programs at five local High Schools in the

Waco area. Plus, your fund-raising program supports local organizations that give direct assistance to Veterans and their families. These awards support military programs as well as the local community.

Just a few of the significant military related days in December include National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (7<sup>th</sup>); War Ended in Iraq 2011 (15<sup>th</sup>); Official End of WW-II 1946 (31<sup>st</sup>).

If you attended our monthly dinner meeting in November, we enjoyed a short presentation by Captain Carl Tidwell on the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 810 program at Baylor University. Your HOT MOAA also presented awards to three Baylor University Cadets who excelled in their training program. These students included Cadet Tim Davis, Cadet Effy (Elisabeth) Misnick and Cadet Tanner Taskerud.

Please attend our annual dinner dance on December 12 at the Ridgewood Country Club. We plan to have Officer and Board member elections followed by a nice dinner and a variety of live music selections by the Morticians. Military dress uniform wear is encouraged.

It appears that we have some informative and interesting speakers and entertainment lined up for 2020. Many thanks to our members for recommending guest speakers and entertainment as well as new members. Your involvement continues to be greatly appreciated.

Please have a safe month while enjoying your special Christmas and Holiday events during December. Next year looks to be exciting so be prepared for the new Decade in 2020. Bless you, your family, current and former military personnel plus the greatest country on earth, "The United States of America".

Respectfully,

*Gary J. Urban*

## Upcoming Events and Information Items

**DECEMBER 12 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB BANQUET ROOM, 2020 CHAPTER ELECTION AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY THE MORTICIANS**  
**\*\*SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. \*\*, \*\*CALL TO TABLES 6:30 P.M. \*, \*INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS 6:35 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DINNER 6:55 P.M.\*\*, \*\*DRAWING AND ENTERTAINMENT 7:55 P.M.**

**MENU:** Garden salad, top butt sirloin and chicken breast, 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 December 10, 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: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen collared shirt with slacks and coat and tie, and ladies attire as desired. Also, military uniforms are welcome.**

### **PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20**

Ridgewood Country Club at 7301 Fish Pond Rd.

- **16 January 2020, Thursday, McLane Stadium at the Media Room and Press Box,** Media Entrance on Side A, Luncheon by Baylor Club, Guest speaker will be McLennan County Judge Scott Felton and Installation of 2020 Chapter Officers.
- **20 February, Thursday, RCC,** Dinner Meeting, Guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **19 March, Thursday, RCC,** Dinner Meeting, Guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **16 April, Thursday, RCC,** Dinner Meeting, Guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **May 21, Thursday, RCC,** Dinner Meeting, Guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon,** Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

### **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

There will be a special Board meeting on Tuesday, **December 3, 2019, 12:30 p.m.,** UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE, 1001 Lake Air Dr.

### **GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING**

The second golf committee meeting for the 2020 annual scholarship fundraiser golf tournament will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>h</sup>, Noon, at the Hewitt Summer Palace.

### **AREA EVENTS COMING**

- **Fri. – Sun, Dec. 6 -8, Waco Wonderland.** The annual winter-themed event begins Friday with a tree lighting and fireworks display at Heritage Square in downtown Waco. Gates open at 5 to 10 p.m. and tree lighting is at 7 p.m. Visits with Santa, the Snow Hill and more are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.
- **Fri to Sat, Dec. 13 – 21, Christmas Lights in the Village.** More than 30,000 lights will illuminate the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Village during the new nightly event from 6 to 8 p.m. The village will feature a petting zoo, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, food for purchase from local vendors, live music and activities. Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 2 thru 12, and \$5 for Mayborn Museum members and Baylor University students. Online info: maybornlights.com

### **ENTERTAINMENT – THE MORTICIANS**

The Waco-based Morticians have been a mainstay of the Central Texas music scene since the band was formed by five high school students in 1965. Devoted to classic rock from the '50s, '60s and '70s, the group earned "Best Oldies Band" for 2006, 2007 and 2008 from the Music Association of Central Texas and has been voted "Best Band" in Central Texas in the Waco-Tribune Herald's Annual Reader's Poll several times. Band members have come and gone over the years, but The Morticians' distinct sound has always remained.

## ONGOING BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

When our lawmakers come back from Thanksgiving break, they will only have three weeks to get a budget signed into law before the end of the first session in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) were able to reach an agreement over this last weekend, signaling they are ready to get to work and pass the appropriations. The agreement provided subcommittee funding allocation, but challenging topics regarding the border wall and military construction funding still remain contentious.

A Continuing Resolution is very restrictive because no new projects, acquisitions, or changes to contracts may occur. Each of the military services have compelling reasons why a CR is damaging to our national security and fiscally irresponsible. Some examples from recent news coverage:

**Army:** Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and his chiefs of staff have identified 31 modernization projects requiring immediate funding to maintain progress in innovation, specifically in urgent areas of cybersecurity and technology.

**Navy:** Service leaders have outlined the cost of continuous CRs, which may have reached \$4 billion since 2011. The funding is vital to build up the strength of the service to address contemporary threats.

**Air Force:** About 145 projects in development will be negatively affected by the budget impasses, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, if they have not been already. Included on the list is an estimated \$466 million for funding the natural disaster recovery efforts at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Offutt AFB, Neb.

## 2020 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Bobby Sammon, 254-662-5232 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 and can help with chapter information as needed. Each can also provide a membership application, which is also on the chapter web site, hotmoaa.org. Chapter member dues are \$25 and are due starting January 1 and will be prorated for new members joining later in year. Renewals can be paid at the dinner meeting or mailed to the PO Box address on first page of newsletter. Thank you for your support.

## DECEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

**Birthdays:** Christine Brinegar, Bruce Burdett, Beau Crosby, Kris Ford, Carol McHaney, Larry Pennington, Barbara Purselley, Rusty Rowe, Ann Speed, and Gary Urban.

**Anniversaries:** Jim and Joan Alexander, Michael and Teresa Flynn, John and Nora Householder, Don and Pam Schreiber, and Paul and Norma Thronburg.

## CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

## 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (254 757-5600). Please check web site for registration info on events.

- Thurs, Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Baylor Club, President's Suite, McLane Stadium. Networking Form, free.
- Thurs., Dec. 12, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. State of the State of the State, Baylor Club, 1001 S. MLK Blvd, Presentations from Commissioner Julian Alvarez of the Texas Workforce Commission and State Demographer Dr. Lloyd Potter, followed by a Legislative Panel featuring Senator Brian Birdwell, State Representatives Charles "Doc" Anderson and Kyle Kacal. Cost is \$50 for members and \$100 for non-members. Contact Chamber web site for registration by December 2.
- Wed., Dec. 18, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Waco Chamber of Commerce, 1000 Friends of Waco would like to invite the community to participate in our monthly roundtable discussion focusing on Greater Downtown Waco. This monthly meeting series includes updates from various stakeholders working in the greater downtown area.

## VA IMPLEMENTS SMOKE-FREE POLICY

Starting in 2020, smoking will no longer be allowed at VA facilities across the country. VA will no longer allow its staff to smoke at its facilities starting Jan. 1. The new policy follows a smoking ban that was implemented by the VA in October. However, the October ban only applied to veterans, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors. The smoke-free ban includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes and electronic cigarettes.

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR 2021 SESSION**

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick released 116 interim charges to the Texas Senate on October 30 to study before the 2021 legislative session. The charges are an indication of the lieutenant governor's priorities and those of the Texas Senate.

The **Business and Commerce Committee** will study information technology, unmanned aerial vehicles, electricity, and health-care costs in addition to monitoring broadband service, medical and health care billing, and drug cost transparency, and deployment of network nodes in public right-of-way.

Charges for the **Criminal Justice Committee** are to examine crime victims' support, vaping device use by minors, gang violence, and crimes against students with disabilities, hazing, capital murder punishments, and intoxication-related offenses.

The **Education Committee** is tasked with examining best practices for teacher recruitment and retention and studying alternative education policies and programs. It also is charged with evaluating special education services strategies, monitoring school safety and mental health promotion, HB 3, and public school finance.

**Finance Committee** members are charged with reviewing investment strategies and performance of the Teacher Retirement System, the Permanent School Fund, and university funds. They also will examine technology related to state agency purchases and upgrades, best practices for executing performance-based contracting, restrictions on appropriations, business personal property tax, and natural disaster funding.

**Health and Human Services Committee** members are to examine the state health and human services finance system and analyze heart health, vaping, rural health, and Department of Family Protective Services procedures.

Members of the **Higher Education Committee** will review community colleges, data transparency, facility needs, adult learner programs, formula funding, and health institution formula funding.

**Intergovernmental Relations Committee** members will study the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program, federal housing programs accessible to Texas, and infrastructure resiliency.

Both the **Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee** and **Water and Rural Affairs Committee** are charged with reviewing the use of local tax abatements, eminent domain, future water supply, river authority infrastructure, and groundwater regulatory framework.

The **Property Tax Committee** will monitor implementation of SB 2 and ad valorem taxation, and the **State Affairs Committee** will study election integrity and security, conscience protections, private personal data, taxpayer lobbying, unborn protection, Second Amendment legislation, personal property protection, and lobbying loopholes.

**Transportation Committee** members will study primary causes for traffic-related accidents. They also will review project delivery for major roadway construction projects and make recommendations to ensure on-time project completion and improve cost efficiencies. In addition, they will evaluate the Texas Department of Transportation Flight Services.

**Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee** members will review veteran treatment courts, health care, and mental health. They also will study border security transnational crime and technology.

## **REMEMBERING DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

"December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United State of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan ... Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through absolute victory." President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a speech to Congress on Dec. 8, 1941.

There were 2,008 Navy personnel killed in action, 218 Army personnel killed in actions, 109 Marines killed in action and 68 civilian casualties.

There were 15 Navy Medal of Honor recipients and 51 Navy Cross recipients.

Three Navy ships were lost: Arizona BB 39, Oklahoma BB 37 and Utah AG 16.

Eighteen ships were repaired and returned to service.

One Navy ship sunk, raised, repaired and present at Tokyo Bay during Japan's formal surrender Sept. 2, 1945 (West Virginia BB 48)

## **MILITARY ID CARD RENEWAL OPTION**

One option for renewing military ID cards is at the Texas Military Department base, Camp Mabry in Austin. The military ID office typically does not require reservations and takes walk-in service compared to other bases.

Camp Mabry is located in Austin at 2200 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78703. ID office is at Bldg. 34, phone number 512-782-5976. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, excluding holidays. ID card is needed to get on the base and the gate guard will give directions. Side note, the ID office is located about block away for the Base Exchange and couple of blocks from the free Texas Military Forces Museum.

## **TEXAS MILITARY FORCES MUSEUM – CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN**

The 45,000-square foot Texas Military Forces Museum explores the history of the lone star state militia and volunteer forces from 1823 (date of the first militia muster in Stephen F. Austin's colony) to 1903 when the Congress created the National Guard. From 1902 to the present, the museum tells the story of the Texas Army and Air National Guard, as well as the Texas State Guard, in both peacetime and wartime. The museum displays dozens of tanks, armored personnel carriers, self-propelled guns, trucks, jeeps, helicopters, jet fighters, observation aircraft and towed artillery pieces. There are also some WWII German military vehicles on display.

Permanent exhibits utilize uniforms, weapons, equipment, personal items, film music, photographs, the Texas Revolution, Texas Navy, The Texas Republic, the Mexican War, the Battles along the Indian Frontier, The War between the States, the Spanish-American and Phillipine-American Wars, World War I, world War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, peace Keeping Deployments and the Global War on Terror. Living history Program, batter reenactments and other special events tack place through the year.

Admission to the museum is free but military ID or civilian ID is needed for entry to the base. The museum is located on Camp Mabry, 2200 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78703. Phone number is 512-782-5659. It is open Tues. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **PART B PREMIUM INCREASES**

The standard Medicare Part B premium will rise about \$9 a month beginning Jan. 1, 2020, but beneficiaries in higher income brackets will see a larger increase.

Individuals whose 2018 modified adjusted gross income (MAGI), as reported on their federal tax return, was \$87,000 or less, or was \$174,000 in a joint return, will pay \$144.60 a month in premium costs, up from \$135.50 in 2019. Beneficiaries in five higher income brackets pay an extra charge, known as an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), which also goes up at the start of the new year.

- If your individual tax income was above \$87,000 to \$109,000, or your joint income was above \$174,000 up to \$218,000, you'll pay **\$202.40 per month.**
- From \$109,000 to \$136,000 individual or \$218,000 to \$272,000 joint, you'll pay **\$289.20 per month.**
- From \$136,000 to \$163,000 individual or \$272,000 to \$326,000 joint, you'll pay **\$376 per month.**
- From \$163,000 to \$500,000 individual or \$326,000 to \$750,000 joint, you'll pay **\$462.70 per month.** If you are married but file a separate tax return with income above \$87,000 but less than \$413,000, you'll also pay this rate.

### **Income Adjustment**

The income figures used to determine your Part B premium payment may not reflect your current financial situation, especially in the event of a retirement, a divorce, or other life-changing events. If you've undergone one of these events, you can file Form SSA-44, Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount – Life Changing Event, or visit your local Social Security office to request an adjustment.

Qualifying events include:

- Marriage, divorce/annulment, or death of a spouse.
- Work stoppage or reduction.
- Loss of income-producing property.
- Loss of pension income.
- Employer settlement payment.



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MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622  
 MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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