



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

Volume MMXVIII, Issue VII

July 2019

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings:

July 2019 is here! I hope that our members have great memories of past Independence Day (4th of July) events. Some experts tell us that July 4 in the United States of America is the busiest BBQ day of the year. As we know, it is much more than just grilling those veggie burgers. Although almost every country in the world recognizes some type of independence or creation day, most of us Americans celebrate it because of our way of life, opportunities and freedoms. This becomes very evident to me during past travels in other countries. We are most fortunate. Let's keep it that way.

June was a good month since we had the pleasure of evaluating Heart of Texas Chapter MOAA Scholarship Applications submitted by some outstanding young Americans. Needless to say, the month of July will be even better since our members get to present the awards on July 18 at our monthly meeting.

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into evaluating the scholarship applications. A special thanks to all those who gave their time and expertise during the evaluation meetings. These included Vince Tobola, John Wells, Rosemary Mayes, Harold Rafuse and Jimmie Hanes. Again, you will have the opportunity to meet the award recipients at the meeting on July 18.

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

Please help us have a big turnout for the July 18 membership meeting. I'm sure the young folks receiving scholarship awards want to meet and thank you. Plus, Ann Harder will be present to entertain us once again. Hope to 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 blessed month of July, enjoy family and be safe. As always, "Never Stop Serving".

Respectfully,

Gary Urban

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20

15 August, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting with speaker or entertainment to be announced.

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 with entertainment.

5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon, Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. **Ridgewood Country Club is at 7301 Fish Pond Road**

JULY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Jim Alexander, Bob Baugh, George Brinegar, Jan Cason, Phil Ford, Russell Glover, Jon Ker, Bill Milnor, Karen O'Brice, Susan Patrick, Ken Ratajczak, and Shirley Wilson.

Anniversaries: Bill and Judy Bauer, Bob and Gaye Baugh, Wally and Voncyle, Don and Mary Aileen Edwards, Phil and Kris Ford, Pat and Joe Herbelin, Scott and Linda Pitzer, Will and Dee Rogers, Mike and DeLisa Russell, Bobby and Donna Sammon, and Ennis and Kay Sullivan.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

Upcoming Events and Information Items

**JULY 18 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT
RIDGEWOOD BANQUET ROOM,
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND
ENTERTAINMENT BY ANN HARDER**
****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 & AWARDS AND
ENTERTAINMENT 7:55 P.M.**

MENU: Caesar salad with crisp romaine hearts, brioche croutons, grated Parmesan cheese and club made Caesar dressing, chopped steak, tilapia, 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 16 July, 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).

- Tues., Jul. 9, 5 – 7 p.m. at Hampton Inn North, 4259 IH 35 N. Business After Hours, a networking opportunity.
- Tues, Jul. 16, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, Cooper Room. Talk on Small Business PowerHour: Health, Your Key to Wellness in Life and the Workplace.
- Wed., Jul. 17, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce. 1000 Friends of Waco monthly update on downtown area with inputs from Downtown Merchants Assoc., the Public Improvement District, Greater Waco Chamber and others.
- Thurs., Aug. 1, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., Networking Forum at Diamond Back's Restaurant & Bar, 217 Mary Avenue. Meal cost is \$15 and you will pay the server directly for the meal. Please RSVP at the web site due to limited seating.

BIO – ANN HARDER

Ann Harder is a native Wacoan and cum laude graduate of Baylor University.

Her career spans 35 years in electronic journalism in both radio and television. She's worked in radio in Waco, Lubbock and Houston. During her radio career, she received two Dallas Press Club Katie Awards (1990, 1991) for best medium market newscast. Ann began her television news career at KXXV in 1996.

A noted vocalist, Ann sings for many civic and church groups throughout Central Texas.

She serves on a number of local boards including the Waco ISD Education Foundation, The Center for Learning and Development, and sings each week with the Junior League of Waco Musical Therapy Committee at area rest homes. She also serves on the board of The Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Among her honors, Ann has been given the Junior League of Waco Eva Award for excellence in volunteering; she was named a Distinguished Alumni of the Waco Independent School District; and in 2005 was honored as the National Media Person of the Year for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Ann is married to Mike Harder and they have three sons and two daughters-in-law: Adam and his wife, Kendal; Joel and his wife, Donelle; and Evan.

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 an 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, **July 23, 2019, 5 p.m., UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE**, 1001 Lake Air Drive.

COLA WATCH

The April consumer price index is 149.332, 1.2% above the FY 2019 COLA baseline.

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019 SIGNED

Long-sought legislation that will extend disability benefits to about 90,000 veterans who served off Vietnam's coast during the war was signed into law June 25 by President Donald Trump. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 will extend the presumption of exposure to toxic defoliants such as Agent Orange to these service members, which will allow them to receive care for types of cancer and other illnesses linked to these chemicals. MOAA and other veteran service organizations, including Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Fleet Reserve Association, have championed the bill, which failed to clear Congress in previous sessions.

"This is great news and rectifies literally decades of oversight to tens of thousands of veterans who have been denied of the appropriate medical care and compensation from their exposure to toxic chemicals during combat operations," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). "Hopefully, this sets the stage for future considerations of toxic chemical exposure and mandates both effective documentation and treatment for those service members exposed to these dangers."

The legislation passed the House on May 14 and the Senate on June 12. In January, a Federal Circuit court ruling granted presumptive exposure to Blue Water Navy veterans who served within the territorial waters of Vietnam; a motion in a separate court case, filed between the House and Senate votes, confirmed the VA would not appeal that ruling.

The act includes coordinates that define "offshore of Vietnam" for the purposes of the benefit. It also extends benefits to veterans exposed to Agent Orange on the Korean DMZ, and it expands benefits to those suffering from spina bifida who had a parent who served in Thailand during the Vietnam war. These groups were not covered by the court ruling.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie recently told a Senate committee that the VA began processing benefit claims from Blue Water Navy veterans before the legislation passed, according to Military Times.

SENATE PASSES FISCAL YEAR 2020 NDA

The Senate recently passed National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2020 supports a total of \$750 billion for national defense programs, including those at the Department of Defense and Department of Energy national security programs. Highlights of the legislation include:

- Providing for a 3.1 percent pay raise for our 2.15 million uniformed service members—the largest in a decade;
- Reforming the Military Housing Privatization Initiative to improve quality of life for military families;
- Authorizing critical investments in battle force ships, aircraft, and other equipment to maintain our combat advantage;
- Maintaining a secure, credible nuclear deterrent;
- Supporting our allies and partners to counter strategic competition;
- Establishing the United States Space Force under the Air Force;
- Modernizing our military technology and capabilities, including artificial intelligence and hypersonic weapons; and
- Advancing the Department of Defense's cybersecurity strategy and addressing our cyber warfighting capabilities.

WHITE HOUSE VA HOTLINE UPDATE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' new telephone hotline for veterans eclipsed 250,000 phone calls and spread its operation into a sprawling office complex in the mountains of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The hotline initiative was announced in 2017 amid criticism from veterans and veteran service organizations about the challenges of reaching VA representatives by phone. The White House VA Hotline, which first opened as a small operation in the basement of VA headquarters in 2017, has rapidly grown in size, staff and call intake. The hotline – 1-855-948-2311 is staffed by operators, 90% of whom are veterans. The 24-hour hotline accepts calls from veterans nationwide. It has received over 250,000 calls since its inception in 2017. Operators said a large number of calls come from veterans with questions about claims, benefits or prescriptions, including medications that hadn't arrived on time. The VA's Choice program and its new Mission Act, both of which allow veterans to seek non-VA care for some medical needs, also produce a growing number of calls, employees said.

NOTE ON AFGHANISTAN AND NATO

Ongoing support to Afghanistan was “high on the agenda” as NATO’s defense ministers, including the United States’ new acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, gathered in Brussels for a ministerial meeting June 26-27. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged that “roughly half” of the troops participating in the Resolute Support mission there are from the US, saying the best way NATO can support the peace effort is to remain committed to the train, advise, and assist mission there. That’s why the Alliance has committed to financially support Afghan Security Forces through 2024 and is preparing to send another rotation of troops to the country in the near future. “We will stay in Afghanistan for as long as necessary, to ensure the country never again becomes a safe haven for international terrorists,” Stoltenberg added. His comments come days after two US soldiers were killed in combat operations in Afghanistan, prompting a rather heated exchange amongst democratic presidential hopefuls on June 26 about the merits of remaining in the country.

EXHIBIT AT BAYLOR MAYBORN MUSEUM

SpaceX has become a vital part of the industrial and social fabric of central Texas. This new exhibit features a rocket model and thruster engine, projection video, vibrant scale representation of our solar system, and some history of the rocket development and test facility in the local community of McGregor, TX. Because, as we like to say: To go to Mars, you have to go through McGregor.

This exhibit was made possible through generous support and collaboration from SpaceX, and will be on display through fall 2019.

The Mayborn Museum is at 1300 University Parks Drive. Phone number is 254-710-1110. Cost is adults \$8; Children (2-12 yrs) \$6 and Seniors (65 yrs +) \$7. It is open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Thurs and Sun 1 – 5 p.m. Admission includes access to the outside river village, which is open to 5 p.m.

MAYBORN MOON PARTY JULY 20

Baylor University Mayborn Museum will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing with a “Party Like It’s 1969” event from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Party tickets cost \$35 each and \$25 for museum members and can be purchased at the front desk or on line: tablerock.org . Can also check the museum web site for more info.

COLONEL DYKE PASSES – HAD BEEN OLDEST LIVING WEST POINT GRADUATE

Air Force Col. Kermit Robert Dyke – a World War II pilot, MOAA Life member, and the oldest living graduate of the U.S. Military Academy – died late last month in his hometown of Solomons, Md. He was 104.

Dyke began his military career after he graduated high school in Los Angeles in 1932, during the Great Depression. He didn’t want to end up like the scores of men he saw lined up looking for work every day, according to a 2017 profile in the Washington Post.

He joined the National Guard, which helped him enter the U.S. Military Academy in 1936. He enjoyed his time at West Point, where he learned to foxtrot and spent time firing guns, eventually earning a spot on West Point’s pistol team. But he didn’t like waking up at 6 a.m. or being told not to look at his food when he ate so he wouldn’t feel pampered, according to the Post feature.

Dyke served as a pilot with Army Air Corps and later the Air Force. He was trained to fly more than 40 different aircraft and flew missions over Africa, Sardinia, France, and Italy during World War II, according to an obituary in The Calvert (Md.) Recorder.

Over his 22-year-career, Dyke served at installations in Virginia, Canada, Missouri, and Colorado.

Dyke was active in local associations and in West Point alumni affairs, serving as the Class of ’40 president. In May 2018, Dyke led the West Point alumni parade as its oldest living graduate. In February of that year, his wife, Barbara Williams “Bobbe” Dyke, died at age 91; they were married in 1951.

THE DAY THE WORLD STOPPED

It has been a half century since humans first landed on the moon. An estimated 530 million people around the world watched and listened on July 20, 1969 as Apollo 11’s lunar module touched down at 4:17 EDT. About six hours later, Neil Armstrong took “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” – as Buzz Aldrin prepared to join him and Michael Collins waited alone in the skies above for their return. Only 12 astronauts walked on the moon, but inspiration spurs us 50 years on to shoot for Mars, while never tiring of sentences that begin, “They can put a man on the, but...”

2019 "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"
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TOURNAMENT

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Trades, Uncle Dan's BBQ,
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Anthony Brown, Barry Bryan, Robert Clemmer,
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Tim Strouse, Clayton Tynes, Gary Urban, Gary
Vogel, Durwood Williams, Cameron Wolf and
George Wolfe.



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 202-225-6105; fax 202-225-0350

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BY ANN HARDER

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 OF SPONSORS & DONORS AND PLAYERS**