



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

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November 2019

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

It is November and why not start on a personal note? For some of you and I from fly-over country, the month of November brings back fond memories. The weather is getting cooler and that means it is time to hunt four legged animals with racks as well as fast flying birds such as Pheasant, Quail and Prairie Chicken. Our family was lucky since my Mom could make all these wild birds taste good. This brings to mind a favorite holiday. Many years on Thanksgiving Day our family and friends would get together before dawn and start hunting those birds at first light. In late morning we would dress or undress the birds, so to speak, and put them in the freezer for a later date. At noon our large family would gather at my Dad's mother's house and have the first big meal of the day. In the evening we would have another meal at my Mom's parents' house. When I was growing up this routine occurred almost every year. That is until the crowd got too big and it was time to rent a community center to have enough room for everyone. You may have experienced similar Thanksgivings and family events.

Significant days each November include (3rd) Daylight Savings Time Ends (Set the clock back one hour); (5th) Election Day; (10th) U.S. Marine Corps Established in 1775; (11th) Veterans Day (Be sure to attend, join in or just enjoy the local Veterans Day Parade); and (28th) Thanksgiving Day.

As in every month this year, we have learned from and, I think enjoyed, our monthly guest speakers. Barry Johnson, Criminal District Attorney for McLennan County, spoke of the challenges he and his staff face almost daily. As we have discussed before, our members are very good at recommending speakers and programs. Thanks so much.

Our membership meeting on November 21 will be another opportunity to fulfill one of our mission objectives of encouraging and honoring young men and women who excel in academics and training. Three Air Force ROTC Cadets from Baylor University will receive awards from our MOAA Chapter and we will hear from Captain Tidwell from AFROTC Detachment 810. 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 is greatly appreciated.

Please remember to "Never Stop Serving" and have a safe November while enjoying your special events this month.

Bless you, your family, current and former active duty personnel plus the greatest country on earth, The United States of America.

Respectfully,

Gary J. Urban

NOVEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Joe Augeri, Jerrie Buehrig, Paul Flynn, Patricia Heberlin, Tony Raineri, Ray Sancton, and Steve Robertson.

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

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **November 26, 2019, 5 p.m.**, UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE, 1001 Lake Air Dr.

GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING

The first golf committee meeting to start work on the 2020 annual scholarship fundraiser golf tournament will be on Thursday, Nov. 14th, Noon, at the Hewitt Summer Palace.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

NOVEMBER 21 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB BANQUET ROOM,

Awards Presentation AFROTC Cadets and Guest

Speaker, Captain Carl Tidwell

**SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. **, **CALL TO

TABLES 6:30 P.M. *, *INTRO &

ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS

PRESENTATION, 6:35 P.M. **, **DINNER

6:55 P.M.**, **DRAWING & GUEST

SPEAKER 7:55 P.M.

MENU: Champion Salad with mesclun greens and dried cranberries, feta cheese, spiced pecans and balsamic vinaigrette, port loin and 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 November 19, 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.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20

Ridgewood Country Club (RCC) is at 7301 Fish Pond Road.

- 12 December, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting, Election and live entertainment by band, The Morticians and dance floor available. Military dress uniform encouraged as desired besides normal winter dress code.
- 16 January 2020, Thursday, McLane Stadium at the Media Room and Press Box, Media Entrance, 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.
- 5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon, Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

GUEST SPEAKER – CAPTAIN TIDWELL

Captain Carl D. Tidwell III is the Education Officer for Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 810 at Baylor University. In this position he oversees all instruction activities for eighty AFROTC cadets. He is responsible for the training, qualification and evaluation of four academic instructors covering five training courses. He supervises approximately 180 training hours per year, ensuring cadets are physically and mentally prepared for entry into service as active duty officers. He also instructs the team and leadership fundamentals course, ensuring cadets develop and practice team building and leadership skills needed to succeed as 2nd Lieutenants.

Captain Tidwell entered the Air Force in 2012 as a graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at The University of Oklahoma. He is a career intelligence officer with assignments supporting USCYBERCOM and MQ-9 operations, with over 12,000 hours of intelligence support to Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM SENTINEL, and INHERENT RESOLVE.

AREA EVENTS COMING

- Monday, November 11, the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Waco. The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Austin Avenue at 11th Street and continues downtown on Austin Avenue and ends at Waco City Hall.
- Sunday, November 17th, the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd, Woodway, starting at 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Worn flags can be dropped off at the Carleen Bright Arboretum office, 1 Pavilion Way, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday prior to the event.

2020 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 are due starting January 1 and will be prorated for new members joining later in year. Dues can be paid early in the last quarter and will count for 2020. These can be paid at the dinner meeting or mailed to the PO Box address on first page of newsletter.

CHAPTER 2020 NOMINATIONS OPEN

The time is now for consideration and nominations of officers and directors for the coming year. The elected officers consist of:

President

Past President

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

Treasurer

Minimum of five Directors-at-Large, the actual number can be more.

Appointed positions are:

Secretary

Chaplain

Committee Chairs

The Nominating Committee will be responsible for developing a proposed slate of elective officers and directors for the next calendar year, 2020. The committee chair person is Dennis DeGraff, mobile 713-530-8925 or dennisdebby@earthlink.net and the committee members are Bill Milnor and Michael Flynn. Members interested in the positions should contact Dennis DeGraff. The election is proposed for the December 12 dinner meeting at Ridgewood Country Club. Members will be notified at least ten days prior to the election on the proposed slate. A copy of the bylaws can be reviewed on the chapter web site, hotmoaa.org in the mission and objectives section.

HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

In late October, the House passed VFW-supported H.R. 2385, which would permit VA to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP). Under the current program, the VLP awards contracts to universities, colleges, and institutions to develop educational programs to teach students and others about the veterans interred in the National Veterans Cemeteries in their communities. Transitioning to a grant-based program would broaden the reach of the VLP beyond large universities to smaller groups that wish to engage with VA in memorializing veterans. The VFW applauds all the members of the House who showed their support for this important program that promotes civic engagement and fosters respect for service and sacrifice.

VETERAN BILLS ADVANCED FOR HOUSE VOTE

In mid-October, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs advanced six bipartisan pieces of legislation to the full House for a vote. The six bills covered a wide range of veteran benefits and protections to include improvements for homeless veterans, student veterans, veteran-owned small businesses, and improved reporting transparency within VA. These six bills are just some of the important work the Veterans' Affairs Committee has worked on this session, and they have shown a commitment to work for veterans in a bipartisan manner.

SAFETY OF MEDICATIONS AND CHINA

MOAA continues to engage heavily in any and all issues associated with the access and safety of medications. In that regard, MOAA was a primary force behind a House bill introduced Oct. 17 that would require DOD to acquire and purchase only American-made medicines and vaccines — including only U.S.-produced raw materials — for use by our military.

The Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act (also will require DOD to identify the national security vulnerabilities caused by our current dependence on pharmaceuticals from China.

MOAA commends Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) and cosponsor Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) for introducing H.R. 4710. MOAA's awareness of the issue was heightened well over a year ago, when the blood pressure medication valsartan was pulled off the market by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). MOAA members called and voiced their worries, too, especially because a probable cancer-causing chemical was identified in the active pharmaceutical ingredient ... and traced back to its manufacturer in China.

As MOAA worked this issue and it gained more traction, it highlighted our nation's increased reliance on generic medications manufactured outside the U.S. Unfortunately; this reliance includes the associated medication manufacturing processes and ingredients, which are not under the strict scrutiny of the FDA.

While there are many forces impacting our national industrial base, MOAA became convinced the risks to the pharmaceutical sector should be more closely examined. These factors led to a consensus that something needed to be done, and this legislation serves as a crucial beginning in that process. MOAA will continue efforts on this issue.

POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The Senate plans to take up two spending packages, including one on defense spending, soon in an effort to prevent a government shutdown. Appropriators plan to pass a bill funding several federal domestic agencies before moving on to defense spending.

The government is currently operating under a stopgap spending measure, known as a continuing resolution, until Nov. 21. Congress has only 14 legislative working days until then to reach a spending agreement.

It will be the first appropriations bill the full Senate will vote on this year. While several spending bills advanced through committee, no spending bill has received a floor vote. The House passed 10 of its 12 spending bills earlier this year. Senate lawmakers waited until President Donald Trump signed a two-year budget agreement that raised spending levels for domestic and non-domestic programs. Without an agreement to lift spending levels, Congress faced stiff budget caps on the amount of money it could appropriate. But with a laundry list of must-pass items for Congress, it remains unclear how lawmakers will be able to address everything. In addition to passing defense policy and spending bills, Congress has to agree on funding levels for other federal agencies and address a series of tax cuts which expire at the end of the year.

It is possible Congress may throw its collective hands up and pass a year-long continuing resolution. If that happens, funding levels would be set at last year's rates and the services would be unable to start work on new projects. It would disrupt TDY orders, flight training, and rebuilding installations damaged from storms, among other things.

The alternative would be another government shutdown. Unlike the previous government shutdown in January, where only a handful of federal agencies lacked funding, a full shutdown would be significantly more damaging.

The January 2019 shutdown lasted 35 days. After the shutdown, Congress passed legislation to ensure Coast Guard pay – including retired pay and survivor benefits – would continue in the event of another shutdown. However, commissioned officers in the Public Health Service and NOAA were not included in the law.

COST OF LIVING INCREASE

It was announced in mid-October that the cost of living allowance increase will be 1.6 percent.

MAILING TIMES FOR MILITARY LOCATIONS

Fall has started and now it is time to start thinking about the holidays, especially when it comes to getting packages overseas in time for the troops.

The U.S. Postal Service helps with your planning. They've just announced recommended mailing deadlines to get those goodies overseas in time for Christmas. To get them there in time for Hanukkah, which starts on Dec. 22 this year, subtract three days from the deadlines.

The deadlines for various methods of shipping are the same for most APO/FPO/DPO (Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/diplomatic post office) ZIP codes. The exception is mail going to 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. 9.**
- Priority Mail Express Military Services: **Dec. 18. This service is not available for ZIP 093.**

Plan to use the U.S. Postal Service's Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. The boxes themselves are free; you can stuff whatever you can fit into them, and they cost one flat fee to ship your goodies, regardless of weight. There's a \$1.50 discount per box for those going to APO/FPO/DPO addresses. For example, the largest box military discounted price is \$18.45. The boxes come in various shapes and sizes.

The boxes are available at post offices, and at www.usps.com.

NATIONAL WORLD I MEMORIAL STATUS

The National World I memorial received final approval in September from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. The design now goes for final review by the National Capital Planning Commission. The memorial is intended to be a tribute to the 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I.

FACTS ABOUT VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day does not have an apostrophe. The holiday is not a day that “belongs” to one veteran or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It is a day for honoring all veterans.

Veterans Day is not the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace – dead or alive – although it is largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.

The day was originally called Armistice Day, Commemorating the end of the Great War. World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed June 18, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that, when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of “the war to end all wars” and dubbed Armistice Day.

In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

Then World War II and the Korean War happened. On June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration again by changing “armistice” to “veterans” so the day would honor U.S. veterans of all wars.

Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few holidays – Veterans Day included – would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hope it would spur travel over a long weekend, which would stimulate the economy.

For a brief time, Veterans Day was the fourth Monday in October. On Oct. 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under the new bill was observed, though many states chose to recognize the day in November. Within a few years, it became apparent that most Americans wanted to observe Veterans Day on Nov. 11, a day of historic significance. So on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 95-97, which returned Veterans Day to its original date starting in 1978.

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.

- Tues, Nov. 12, 5 - 7 p.m., Fairfield Inns and Suites Waco North, 4257 N. IH 35, Waco After Hours, a networking opportunity.
- Wed., Nov. 13, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. State of the City and County by City of Waco Mayor Kyle Deaver and McLennan County Judge Scott Felton, Ridgewood Country Club. Cost is \$50 for members and \$100 for non-members. Contact site for registration.
- Tues., Nov. 20, 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.
- Fri. & Sat., 29-30 Nov., Homestead Craft Village Thanksgiving Festival, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Call 254-754-9600 or go to web site www.homesteadcraftvillage.com for details.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

On November 9, 1989, the symbol of Communist oppression in Europe – the Berlin Wall – began tumbling down. It was the beginning of the end of America’s longest conflict – the Cold War – and signaled the demise of the Soviet Union. On Aug. 13, 1961, under the guise of keeping Western influence out of East Germany, the communist German Democratic Republic began erecting a fence. This fence went quickly from a hasty obstacle to a concrete wall lined with razor-sharp barbed wire and then to a 12-foot-high, 4-foot-wide structure spanning the entire city. In 1989, there was a turning point when citizens of Poland, Hungary and several other Warsaw Pact nations challenged their Communist leadership. The USSR did not brutally put down the resistance. In 1989, refugees started to come across the border without being stopped. The trickle turned into a flood. On Nov. 9, 1989, East Germany formally announced open borders.



Heart of Texas Chapter TX07, MOAA
P.O. Box 23964
Waco, TX 76702-3964

Address label

2019 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Gary Urban, Maj, USAF (ret) 254-715-6560
 6379 Rosenthal Pkwy, Lorena, TX 76655 garyurban1@inbox.com

1st Vice President

Joe Augeri, Maj, USAF (ret) (Karen) 254-366-2544
 1690 County Road 268, Oglesby, TX 76561 j_augeri@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Bobby Sammon, LtCol, USAF (ret) Donna) 254-662-5232
 6662 S. 12th St. Rd., Waco, TX 76706 bgsammon@gmail.com

Secretary

Paul Thronburg, 1LT, USA (Norma) (254) 876-3303 (home)
 910 E. Burselson Ave, Mart, TX 76664 tmartmgb@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Vince Tobola, LtCol, USAF (ret) (254) 709-5795 or 772-5251
 1704 Laurel Lake Dr. Waco, TX 76710 vtobola@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Dennis DeGraff, COL, USAF (ret) (Debby) 254-848-9212
 585 Willow Grove Rd., Waco, TX 76712 dennisdebby@earthlink.net

Chaplain

John Wells, COL, USA (ret) (Su) coljtw@yahoo.com
 14043 Horseshoe Cir, Waco, TX 76712 254-776-1143

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Carol McHaney carol_mchaney@mygrande.net
 3309 Pioneer Circle, Waco, TX 76712 (254) 848-9575

Legislative Liaison

Jon Ker, COL, USA (RET) (Terri) (254) 934-2018
 279 Buffalo Run, Valley Mills, TX 76689 jon@jonker.com

Directors

Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (254) 848-5639
 Dr. Mike O'Bric, CAPT, USMC (Karen) (254) 399-9974
 Jimmie Hanes, COL, USAF, (ret) (Mary) (254) 848-5493
 Roland Duty, LT, ANG, (Mary) (254) 722-8939
 Bob Lull, COL, USA (ret) (Penny) (254) 751-7824
 Don Speed, CAPT, USAF (Ann) (254) 366-5528
 Billie Sawyer, MAJ, USAF (ret) (Maeve) (254) 881-1753
 Jim Milam, COL, USAF (ret) (Laura) 254-845-1310
 Michael Slavens, LtCol, USAF (ret) (Marsha) 703-898-9173

ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator John Cornyn Chase Tower
 517 Hart Senate Office Building 221 West Sixth St, Suite 1530
 Washington, DC 20510 Austin, TX 78701
 Website: www.Cornyn.senate.gov 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020
 202-228-2856

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
 404 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Bill Flores (Waco office)
 1505 Longworth HOB 400 Austin Ave, STE 29
 Washington, DC 20515 Waco, TX 76701
 Website: www.flores.house.gov
 202-225-6105; fax 202-225-0350

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 MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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