



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

Volume MMXVIII, Issue X

October 2019

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Greetings:

For many of us, the month of October was an exciting month when we were younger. We had Halloween with the goal of having the most creative costume in the neighborhood or was it creating the most fantastic costume for our children to wear? Say, I am so old that I remember kids and few parents walking the streets collecting candy, without fear. Also, did you know Columbus Day is still recognized on October 14? Additionally, Navy Day is observed on October 27. Anyway, prepare for Halloween by having goodies on hand, just in case.

Since there aren't many national days observed in October, let's consider some of the more obscure days that are important to some folks. Name Your Car Day (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mean Girls Day (3<sup>rd</sup>), Golf Lovers Day (4<sup>th</sup>), Be Nice Day (5<sup>th</sup>) "Should be every day", Transfer Money to Your Daughter Day (6<sup>th</sup>), Kick Butt Day (14<sup>th</sup>), I Love Lucy Day (15<sup>th</sup>), and Slap Your Annoying Co-Worker Day (23<sup>rd</sup>). Perhaps these are enough.

As in previous months, I think that everyone enjoyed the September Heart of Texas MOAA dinner meeting with Felecia Mulkey, Head Coach to the Acrobatics & Tumbling Team at Baylor University. Very motivating presentation and don't forget that MOAA is invited to their first competition in 2020.

We will meet again on October 17. Please plan to hear from Barry Johnson, Criminal District Attorney for McLennan County. Mr. Johnson was born and raised in Waco and is a 1979 graduate of Baylor University and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1988. Due to historical and recent events in McLennan County, Mr. Johnson's comments should be very interesting and informative.

October 16 annual Vets Fest: Dine in or Order meals by calling (254) 772-5449 or Email: [obs4468@outback.com](mailto:obs4468@outback.com). For a donation of \$10.00 per meal you can have a nice lunch for dine in or take out. Get your meal between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Outback Steak House (New Road and Franklin Avenue). Vets Fest supports the Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Day Parade and the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. More details in the newsletter.

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

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

Have a safe and productive October while continuing to enjoy family and friends. As always, Bless You, Military Members around the world, and Bless the United States of America.

"Never Stop Serving".

Respectfully,  
Gary Urban

**OCTOBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** Lynn Day, Frank Drew, Michael Garcia, Bill Hearn, John Householder, Nora Householder, Penny Lull, Scott Pitzer, and Richard Sweeney, Norma Thronburg, Pat Young, and Doug Young.

**Anniversaries:** George and Pam Holmes, Rusty and Susie Rowe, and John and Su Wells.

**CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

**HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

The monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **October 22, 2019, 5 p.m.**, UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE, 1001 Lake Air Dr.

## Upcoming Events and Information Items

### OCTOBER 17 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB BANQUET ROOM,

Guest Speaker, Barry Johnson, McLennan  
County District Attorney

\*\*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:** Caesar salad with crisp romaine hearts, brioche croutons, grated Parmesan cheese and club made Caesar dressing, chicken breast, fried catfish, 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 15 October, 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.

### PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20

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

- 21 November, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting awards for Baylor AFROTC cadets and guest speaker, Capt. Tidwell, from Detachment 810.
- 12 December, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting, Election and live entertainment by band, The Morticians.
- 16 January 2020, Thursday, Baylor Club/McLane Stadium, Luncheon, Guest speaker will be McLennan County Judge Scott Felton and Installation of 2020 Chapter Officers.
- 5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon, Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

### GUEST SPEAKER – BARRY JOHNSON

Barry Johnson was born and raised in Waco, Texas. He is the second of four children born to the late Judge Joe N. Johnson, which exposed him to the Courthouse as a teenager. Mr. Johnson is the father of three children, BJ, Lexi and Pierce Johnson, one granddaughter, Isabella. He is a 1979 graduate of Baylor University, following graduation from Oklahoma Law School, he practiced law for 28 years, handling over 1,000 cases and many court trials. He was AV Preeminent Rated by the prestigious Martindale-Hubbard, and was named Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly Magazine.

As the newly elected Criminal District Attorney of McLennan County, Mr. Johnson is the County's top law enforcement official and has sole authority and discretion over the prosecution of criminal offenses occurring within the County. Mr. Johnson exercises authority through the operations of the McLennan County Criminal District Attorney's office, where he manages a staff of 65 employees, which includes 30 Assistant District Attorneys, in prosecuting more than 2,500 felony and 4,500 misdemeanor offenses each year.

### AREA EVENTS COMING

Oct 3 – 13, Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo. Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd. Admission: \$15 at gate, free for children 8 and under. Parking \$5. Parking has changed some due to construction of new exhibit building. Check the web site for information on daily events, admission specials, and parking info, [www.hotfair.com](http://www.hotfair.com).

Sep. 27 – Oct. 20, Texas State Fair, Fair Park, 3809 Grand Avenue, Dallas. Gates open at 7 a.m. and most exhibit buildings at 10 a.m. At the gate, tickets are \$18, adults; adults 60 and older and children 3-12 are \$12, and kids 2 or younger are free. Self-parking is \$20. For more information, admission specials, and daily events, call 214-565-9931 or web site, [bigtex.com](http://bigtex.com).

Oct 17 – 19, Thurs. – Sat., the Fifth Annual Silo-bration, 601 Webster Avenue. Celebration includes Magnolia Market site, 40+ artisan vendors, midway w/ferris wheel, food trucks and evening concerts. Daytime events have no admission charge and a \$40 admission charge for evening concerts on Friday or Saturday. More info at [Magnolia.com/events/silobration-2019](http://Magnolia.com/events/silobration-2019).

## **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

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [dennisdeby@earthlink.net](mailto:dennisdeby@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](http://hotmoaa.org) in the mission and objectives section.

## **NEW SITE OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM**

Arlington will be the new home of the coming new \$150 million National Medal of Honor Museum after a review of possible sites across the country by the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation. The museum will honor the values, courage and patriotism embodied by the more than 3,500 recipients of the nation's highest honor of valor. Seventy of the recipients live in the region and nearly 1.8 million veterans and active duty personnel call Texas home.

The medal was first present in 1863. The National Medal of Honor Museum will offer an experience that draws personal and emotional connections on the stories of heroism and the values that the Medal of Honor represents.

The museum is expected to be constructed near Arlington's Globe Life Park and AT&T Stadium. Architect selection is expected in early 2020 and construction is expected to be complete by 2024.

## **VETS FEST WED. OCTOBER 16**

The annual Vets Fest sponsored by the McLennan County Veterans Association (MCVA) will be held at the Outback Steakhouse, intersection of New Road and Franklin Avenue, 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., dine-in or carry-out. The meal will be an eight oz. chicken breast, mashed potatoes, salad, drink and a cookie. Suggested donation of \$10 for the meal, check or cash only. Donations go to assist with paying for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, the annual Veterans Day Parade and the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. To place an order for carry-out on the day of the event 9 a.m. to 12 noon, call 254-772-5449 or FAX 866-931-6520 or e-mail [obs4468@outback.com](mailto:obs4468@outback.com). Orders to go will be picked up at the side door.

## **ARMY PROPOSED ARLINGTON ELIGIBILITY CHANGES**

The Department of the Army this week proposed changing the interment and inurnment eligibility criteria for Arlington National Cemetery. The recommendations, which involved more than two years of deliberation and 250,000 survey respondents, are in response to a congressional mandate that directs the Army to keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground well into the future – defined as 150 years. Given the current rate of burials, Arlington will be closed to future burials in three decades, so Army's challenge was to meet the needs of the existing veteran population while preserving space for future warriors. One recommendation changes eligibility from the current one day of service to two years, which matches VA cemetery requirements, but adds an additional requirement to having served in combat. Other recommendations, though differing for in-ground and above-ground, specifically link eligibility to having served in combat. "The service life of Arlington will be extended by restricting eligibility to those who have been to war or who are training for war," said VFW National Commander William J. "Doc" Schmitz. "The VFW understands there are many details that must still be ironed out, but at first glance it appears the Army has addressed VFW's eligibility concerns and answered Congress' mandate to keep the cemetery functioning well into the future." As required by law, a public comment period will soon open on the Federal Register.

## **SENATE CALLS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WIDOW'S TAX**

At end of September, Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) called for a Motion to Instruct (MTI) vote on including the elimination of the Widow's Tax into the final version of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020* (NDAA). With a vote of 94-0, the Senate unanimously voted to pass the MTI. This is a call to action and sends a message to the NDAA conference committee members that a permanent fix of the Widow's Tax is long overdue. While an MTI is a non-bonding show of support, the elimination of the Widow's Tax has never made it this far in the NDAA process in 20 years.

## **PHARMACY INCREASES**

The cost shares for medications, if you do not receive them at a DOD military treatment facility will increase on January 1. In 2017, TRICARE's pharmacy cost shares changed and a new fee table was introduced. Beneficiaries had prescription fees start to increase in 2018 and 2019. As published at the time, these fees will accumulate and continue to rise annually until 2017.

	Now	2020	2027
Retails (30-days)			
Generic	\$11	\$13	\$16
Brand	\$28	\$33	\$48
Non-Formulary	\$53	\$60	\$85
Mail Order (90 days)			
Generic	\$7	\$10	\$14
Brand	\$24	\$29	\$44
Non-Formulary	53	\$60	\$85

## **CONTINUING RESOLUTION BILL PASSED**

The bill provides FY2020 continuing appropriations to federal agencies through November 21, 2019. The bill also extended items that were to expire at the end of FY2019: several health programs, the National Flood Insurance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and related programs, several authorities related to immigration, the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act, the Department of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Program aid will also continue to farmers affected by the tariffs.

## **COST OF LIVING INCREASE**

Veterans will see a cost of living increase in their benefits payouts later this year, but it likely won't be as big as the last one they received.

Last week, President Donald Trump signed into law the annual Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which guarantees that a host of veterans benefits will see the same annual boost as Social Security recipients.

Veterans benefits covered include disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation checks.

The measure is typically just a formality — it passed Congress again this year with no opposition — but is required annual work for lawmakers because federal statute does not link annual COLA increases for the two separate payouts. Legislative efforts in recent years to make the increases automatic for veterans have proven unsuccessful.

Navy veteran Elaine Luria, D-Va., sponsored the measure and called it an important way for lawmakers to honor their commitment to individuals who served honorably in the armed forces. "Providing quality benefits to our veterans and their dependents can change lives," she said.

The official cost-of-living boost for social security beneficiaries won't be announced until next month, but multiple analysts have said they expect it to be below the 2.8 percent adjustment awarded last January.

The annual COLA calculation is based on a series of economic indicators, including the private sector wage growth. In the last decade, social security recipients (and individuals receiving veterans' benefits) have gone without an annual increase three times. It has only gone about 2.0 percent twice in that span.

Frequently, lawmakers don't finalize the link between the veterans' cost-of-living increase and the Social Security one until later in the fall, after the figure has been announced. Because of the timing of check distribution and the federal calendar, the increases in veterans benefits will be reflected in individuals December payouts,

## **MCLENNAN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE**

The McLennan County Veteran Services Office has various duties:

- Assists and interviews County veterans and their dependents to determine eligibility for state and federal Veterans' Benefits
- Assists County veterans in obtaining admission and treatment in VA medical facilities, domiciliary and long term care facilities
- Assists County veterans, dependents and surviving spouses in the completion of applications for federal and state benefits for areas involving pensions, disability compensation, home and education loans and benefits, available grants, community needs, burial allowances, scholarships, memorial ceremonies, hospital issues and all other services that need professional assistance and guidance
- Communicates with elected officials on veterans' issues
- Provides information and guidance to the general public
- Submits applications to Department of Veterans Affairs for approval
- Attends meetings, conferences, and seminars relating to veterans' issues
- Visits veterans and families at home, medical facilities and nursing homes to provide information, communicates with various state and federal social offices, consults and communicates with law enforcement agencies, VA regional offices and health care system offices and all other offices, agencies, and institutions of importance, to render advice, guidance and assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

The McLennan County Veterans Service officer is Steve Hernandez, 254-297-7171, ext. 4118. His office is located at the Veterans One Stop Service Center, 2010 LaSalle.

## **OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES**

Texas Veterans Commission at [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov)

Texas Veterans Portal at [www.texvet.org](http://www.texvet.org)

## **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](http://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., Oct. 9, 10:30 – 11:30 at the Hole in the Roof, 1125 Washington, 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 including: the city of Waco, the Downtown Merchants Association, and the Public Improvement District and the Greater Waco Chamber.
- Thurs., Oct. 10, 7:45 – 9 a.m., Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative (BRIC), 100 Research Parkway, Room 3160, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Technology Business Briefing. The Business of Block chain and how block chain is disrupting finance, business and logistics as we know it. Free breakfast. RSVP at [wacochamber.com](http://wacochamber.com).
- Thurs., Oct. 10, 5 - 7 p.m., Emerald Cottages of Waco, 2412 Marketplace, Waco After Hours, networking opportunity plus tours of new top rated 55+ active senior community.
- Tues. Oct. 15, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Greater Waco Chamber, Cooper Room. Small Business Power Hour: Disability Etiquette in the Workplace. An inclusive workplace represents a place that has respectful communications and interaction with people who have disabilities.

## **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](mailto:vtobola@aol.com) if you need a membership application form. Chapter member dues are \$25 and 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. Thank you for your support.

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**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**

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 Website: [www.Cornyn.senate.gov](http://www.Cornyn.senate.gov) 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020  
 202-228-2856

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz  
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 Washington, D.C. 20510  
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Bill Flores (Waco office)  
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 Washington, DC 20515 Waco, TX 76701  
 Website: [www.flores.house.gov](http://www.flores.house.gov)  
 202-225-6105; fax 202-225-0350

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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

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 (<https://www.moaa.org/>) click on Legislative Action Center or call (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) to get the information.

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