



Heart of Texas Chapter (TX-07)
Military Officer Association of America
P.O. Box 23964 Waco, TX 76702-3964

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February 2020

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

February 2020 is here. Are you prepared? Did you buy enough of the appropriate Valentine's Cards and Candy plus have you ordered those fancy Flowers for all the special folks in your life? Speaking of Valentine's Day. Martha West, wife of Alford (Al) West, long time HOT Chapter MOAA member, has invited us to attend her annual Valentines for Veterans event at Kopperl School. The event starts at 1300 Hours in the school activities center. The address is Kopperl ISD, 175 County Road 1240, Kopperl Texas 76652. Once you get to Kopperl, turn right at the Post Office and you will be at the school. If possible, please plan to attend.

On January 16, we had a nice turnout for the annual installation of chapter officers and directors at the Baylor University Stadium. Additionally, our thanks to our guest speaker McLennan County Judge Scott Felton. Judge Felton described the wide-ranging duties he and the county commissioners court oversee. If you attended, you were also entertained by his straight forward and quick answers plus his superb sense of humor.

Our guest speaker for our February 20th Chapter Dinner Meeting will be MOAA member, David (Bart) Bartholomew. Colonel Bartholomew has volunteered to describe his personal battle with a disease that over 200,000 Americans are diagnosed with each year. My thanks to Bart for sharing with us.

On January 24 and 25, Vince Tobola, Robert (Bob) Lull and I attended the MOAA Texas Council of Chapters board meeting that was held here in Waco. Of note is that Vince was once again appointed Treasurer and Bob as the Membership Chairman for the Council. The primary topic of this meeting dealt with the TCC mission to keep Federal and State elected officials

up to date on military related issues and to be informed on their military related priorities in the coming years. MOAA TCC members are planning to once again Storm the Hill in Austin in late March 2020. More to follow.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find articles of interest to all current and former military members. Please keep informed on behalf of yourself and spread the word to others. I ask that you help your chapter meet our objectives for our annual HOT Chapter MOAA Benevolence Fund campaign also known as the Scholarship/Grant Program. We helped well deserving young Americans last year with Scholarship Funds and Awards and we want to continue being part of their future success. We also assisted local organizations that support former and current military personnel.

Significant annual days of recognition in February include National Freedom Day (1st); Boys Scouts of America Founded in 1910 (8th); St. Valentine's Day (14th); and President's Day (17th) AKA: (*Lincoln: 12th*) and (*Washington: 22nd*).

We hope to continue having informative and interesting speakers lined up for 2020. Also, we are always looking for live entertainment for your pleasure. Many thanks to our members for recommending guest speakers and I ask that you give us some recommendations for live entertainment. Additionally, we would like to receive recommendations for new members to our Chapter. Please contact Bobby Sammon or any board member to recommend a new member. Your involvement continues to be greatly appreciated.

Please have a safe February 2020 and help your fellow Veterans if possible. God 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

FEBRUARY 20, THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD BANQUET ROOM, GUEST SPEAKER, DAVID "BART" BARTHOLOMEW ON PARKINSON'S.
****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 lettuce hearts, broche croutons, grated Parmesan cheese and club made 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 dinner cost is \$33 per person, payable at registration table, cash or check made to HOT Chapter MOAA. Please call Vince Tobola, w54-709-5795 or e-mail vtobola@aol.com, NLT Tuesday 18 February, 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: The fall/winter code is effect with gentlemen's attire as coat and tie and ladies' attire as desired.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2020

Ridgewood Country Club at 7301 Fish Pond Rd.

- **19 March, Thursday, RCC**, Dinner Meeting, Guest speaker will be George Littell.
- **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.
- **Other meetings for now scheduled on third Thursday dinners at RCC**
- **5 June, 2020, Friday afternoon**, Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

- The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m., UNCLE DAN'S BBQ & RIBHOUSE, 1001 Lake Air Dr.

ELECTIONS

Early voting for primary elections is from Tuesday, February 18 to Friday, February 28. The Primary Elections date is Tuesday, March 3rd. Side note, Monday, February 17 is a federal holiday for Washington's Birthday/President's Day.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Bill Bewley, Pam Holmes, Jim Igleheart, Terri Ker, Bob Lull, Jim Milam, Nancy Pfanner, Claire Raineri, Anne Ratajczak, Bob Rochell, Michael Russell, Elmer Speights, Ennis Sullivan, Vince Tobola and Su Wells.

Anniversaries: Joe and Karen Augeri, Jim and Jerrie Buehrig, George and Helen Littell, Wayne and Barbara Purselley, Ken and Anne Ratajczak, and Al and Martha West.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

FREEDOM BALL 2020

The Freedom Ball, honoring soldiers both past and present and Gold Star families, will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 in the Brazos Ballroom at the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Avenue. It includes dinner, live music and dancing. Tickets are \$125 per person; \$75 for veterans and active duty military; and table of 8 for \$1,000. Tickets are available on line at

<https://waco-chamber.com/freedom-ball/> or call 254-757-5600. This is hosted by the Greater Waco Aviation Alliance and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

Proceeds from the Freedom Ball are used to market the aviation assets of Greater Waco and to provide scholarships to high school and college students pursuing careers in aviation and engineering related fields.

MOAA A TOP LOBBYIST

For the 13th year in a row, MOAA has been named one of the top lobbyists by The Hill, a news outlet based in Washington, D.C. It is the only military or veterans service organization honored among the 100 winners in the association category for 2019. Some highlights include: helping to secure repeal of the widow's tax; ensuring no new health care access fees for service members and retirees; partnering with other veterans service organizations to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, and helping ensure a 3.1% active duty pay raise.

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 meetings or mailed to the PO Box address on first page of newsletter. Thank you for your support.

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.

- **Thurs., Feb. 13, 7:45 – 9:00 a.m.,** Technology Business Briefing, BRIC, 100 Research Parkway, Guest speaker is David G. Henry, patent attorney, talking on Intellectual Property: IP myths, traps and disaster avoidance. Event is free and includes breakfast. Please RSVP at web site..
- **Wed., Feb 19, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.,** Union Hall, 720 Franklin. 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.
- **Thurs., Feb. 19, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** 360 Solutions Kick-Off Meeting, 7301 Fish Pond Road at Ridgewood Country Club. 360 Solutions founder and CEO Chip Wilson will provide his vision for the formation of 360 Groups. The focus of 360 groups is to create higher performing organizations through the use of 360 Solutions' proven leadership development curriculum. Lunch will be provided. Need to register at <https://www.360solutions.com/events/>
- **Thurs, Feb. 25, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Business After Hours at TownePlace Suites, 4505 N. IH-35, Waco. This is come & go networking event.

GUEST SPEAKER – DAVID “BART” BARTHOLOMEW

David Bartholomew was born October 2, 1933 in Fargo North Dakota and graduated from Moorhead State College High School, MN in 1950. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture education from North Dakota State University in 1954 and earned a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1965.

David was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve in 1954. He was called to active duty in March 1955 and was assigned to Chanute AFB. Over the next twenty nine plus years he had a variety of increasingly responsible and challenging assignments in the continental US and overseas. During the first 21 years of his Air Force career he was promoted through the ranks and achieved grade of colonel in 1976. David retired from the Air Force e in 1984 and started work at Texas Instruments that same year. He later worked for Raytheon and retired from the company in 2004.

In early 2000's, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's' and became interested in the speech problems of Parkinson's disease and related neurological disorders. A special non-profit group was formed in Dallas, in 2005 under the auspices of the National Parkinson Foundation to help people with related problems. In 2008, the name and mission of the organization was changed to Parkinson Voice Project and he became chairman of the board. He retired in July 2019.

SENATE ADVANCES MENTAL HEALTH BILL

At end of January, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a markup to discuss and advance the S.785, *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019*, which would improve VA mental health care programs and services for veterans. The bill would also establish two grant programs, one to enable nongovernment entities to provide supportive mental health care services and another to expand telehealth programs such as Project ATLAS. The committee also advanced legislation to improve health care for women veterans, expand transportation grants for veterans who live in rural areas, expand veterans preference for reserve component members, and confirm Judge Grant Jaquith to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The bills and Judge Jaquith's nomination now await consideration by the full Senate.

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD LOAN INFO

On Thursday, Jan. 23, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced that Texas Veterans and Military Members are now eligible for **low-interest home loans up to \$510,400**. The new loan limit will take effect on Friday, Jan. 24 for all applications received on or after that date.

In 1983, the Texas Legislature created the VLB Veterans Housing Assistance Program, to aid Texas Veterans in purchasing a home. Eligible Texas Veterans, Military Members, and their spouses can purchase a home with a competitive, low-interest loan with little or no down payment. They can borrow up to \$510,400 on a fixed-rate loan for 15-, 20-, 25- or 30-year term*.

Veterans with a VA service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater qualify for a discounted interest rate. You can check the interest rates in real time on our website.

Under Texas General Land Office Commissioner George P. Bush's leadership, the VLB offers many exclusive programs to Texas Veterans. Visit vlb.texas.gov to find out about our only in Texas:

- land sales and loans;
- home improvement loans;
- long-term skilled care nursing homes;
- Unaccompanied Veterans burials;
- cemeteries;
- Voices of Veterans program;
- Next Gen Warrior series; and
- events.

The VLB benefits specialists are happy to answer any questions or provide assistance. Please call us at 1-800-252-8387 or send an email to vlbinfo@glo.texas.gov.

HISTORY NOTE ON IWO JIMA

U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945 after months of naval and air bombardments. Japanese soldiers were dug in bunkers deep in the island's volcanic rock. Approximately 70,000 U.S. Marines and 18,000 Japanese soldiers took part in the battle. In 36 days of fighting, nearly 7,000 Marines were killed. Another 20,000 were wounded. Marines captured 218 Japanese soldiers; the rest were killed in action. Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded for the battle.

MEMORIAM – GEORGE BARTON

Colonel George C. Barton passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 18, 2020. He was born March 8, 1932, in Salamanca, New York, to Harry and Maud Barton. During his high school years, he was a member of the track team. He would run cross country for New York State College for Teachers at Buffalo, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1954. Later while also serving in the military, he earned his Master's degree from the University of Southern California in 1978.

He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant, received his navigator wings in 1956 and retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1982. His assignments took him many places: Germany, Morocco, Kansas, Texas, Washington, California, Thailand, Guam, Okinawa, and Nebraska, where he and Goldie made homes and met many friends.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Services Reserve Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

George was an avid golfer as well as a league bowler. He enjoyed the hands-on automobile restoration of his prized Volkswagen Karmen Gia, and an intellectual passion for family genealogy research.

He was preceded in death by his parents. George is survived by his wife of 63 years, Goldie Barton; daughter, Karen Harrelson and husband, Greg, and grandson, Bradley; son, Brian Barton and wife, Corina; and brother, Howard Barton. Services were held on January 27, 2020 and burial was at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen.

HIGH FLIGHT

By John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of –
wheeled and soared and sung

High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,

Where never lark, or even eagle flew;
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod

The high untrodden sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Our Only Fundraising Event Each Year Is Fast Approaching, Let's ALL Participate!

Last year less than forty percent (40%) of the members in the HOT Chapter of MOAA participated in its **“Freedom is Not Free” Scholarship Golf Scramble – our only fundraising event each year.** The thirty one (31) Chapter members who did participate, donated \$6,750, with donations ranged from \$1,000 to \$50, and the average donation just short of \$220.

Your Board of Directors and other Chapter members – many of whom gave their time, effort and funds **last year** to make our annual fundraiser a success – have set a goal of getting **ALL members of HOT MOAA to participate** in this worthy event **this year.** **All funds raised are used to provide scholarships, grants and financial support (\$15,750 provided in 2019) to:** highly deserving college bound students from the Heart of Texas (\$11,000); Baylor University's Army and Air Force ROTC students (\$2,400); Junior ROTC Cadets at five Waco area High Schools (\$1,350); Young Marines Cadets in the Heart of Texas Chapter (\$300); and, various programs and activities for veterans and currently serving military members and their families (\$700).

The HOT MOAA members who have donated to the 2020 fundraiser are listed below. Each month we will add to this list the names of those who have recently made their donation. When you receive the June newsletter, we hope the names of all members of the Chapter are listed. **Seventeen (17) of the 31 members and fifteen (15) of the 30 businesses who donated in 2019, chose to donate \$150 – the minimum required to sponsor a hole at the HOT Scholarship Golf Scramble.**

Your donation is tax deductible as the HOT Chapter MOAA Benevolence Fund is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 84-2047070.

Please complete the attached (or enclosed) Donation Form. **Make your check payable to HOT Chapter MOAA Benevolence Fund,** and note on the memo or for line: For the Scholarship/Grant Program. Mail both to: HOT Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702-3964.

2020 Donors to Date

**Buehrig, Jim and Jerrie
Milnor, Bill and Gerry
Sammon, Bobby and Donna
Milam, Jim and Laura
Tobola, Vince
Urban, Gary
Robert Rochell**

Donation Form

Enclosed is my/our contribution to the **“Freedom Is Not Free” Scholarship/Grant Program**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

() **\$150 Minimum required to sponsor a hole at the Heart of Texas Scholarship Golf Scramble.** PRINT name(s) of donor(s) **or** the person(s) you wish to honor below for a sign to be placed on a Tee-Box at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course on the day of the scramble.

I/we would like our sign to read: ____

() **My/our best gift of \$** _____



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Address label

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 202-224-5922

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USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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