



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

Volume MMXX, Issue IX

September 2020

Chapter Web Site: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

It was gratifying to hear from other HOT Chapter members that the Newsletter was interesting and pertinent reading. With that said, I want to say thanks to the one person who works most diligently to put together the Newsletter every month. Most of us know that Vince Tobola is the workhorse behind much of what the Heart of Texas Chapter accomplishes; his work includes most of what goes into the monthly Newsletter. It is not easy to find appropriate, pertinent information to include in any newsletter, but Vince finds things that are pertinent. Thanks, Vince!

I see that most of us are wearing masks in public where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Information continues to be variable concerning which masks are best for us. N95 masks are said to be best overall, but generally have not been available to those of us who are not working in an intense health-care setting; even some who are working in doctors' offices have been using the disposable masks that are generally available but do not appear to meet N95 specifications. Interestingly, N95 masks were commonly available for people working in dusty settings, including do-it-yourself tasks at home such as sanding. Now masks with the newer PM 2.5 filters might be an improvement over N-95. Current knowledge is that COVID virus particles are spread by aerosol droplets and air pollution particles (dust, etc.), and face coverings including masks are generally protect those around you from your coughing and sneezing, but it seems logical that your mask should protect you from other people's expired aerosol droplets as well.

Recommendations appear to be that wearing some sort of mask or face covering prevents most of the aerosol spray from coughing and sneezing and even talking, although no mask is guaranteed to prevent spread of COVID-19 virus infection, and available masks have been shown to be significantly more effective than handkerchief bandanas. I have not seen any mask available to us now that is labelled as being for "medical use" – probably for liability reasons.

Bottom line: we need to continue to use face coverings such as masks, continue to practice social distancing, and continue hand washing.

The Chapter Board of Directors resumed monthly meetings on August. 25th; and we are planning to resume our regular dinner meetings for the members and spouses and invited guests, starting back on Thursday, September 17th. We will need to respect facility rules that mandate face covering and social distancing; those facility rules are outlined in the dinner meeting information on the second page under list of dinner meeting health precautions.

We are interested in encouraging and increasing participation by our spouses in our chapter activities, including voting and holding office in the chapter. A few spouses have signed up as regular members. We have been advised that in order to maintain our status with the IRS, we can only have 25% or fewer of the members be non-military veterans; therefore, we are looking at how we can incorporate as many spouses as want to participate as members, in a way that the IRS will not penalize us! Obviously more information will be forthcoming on that topic.

There will be an interesting presentation by Detective Sergeant Chad Ashworth of the Waco Police Department, at our next meeting. Sgt Ashworth is a 20-year Waco Police veteran, serving in multiple roles from patrol officer to supervisor of the Traffic Enforcement Unit. Sgt Ashworth is from Lampasas, TX, attended Central Texas College and earned a degree from the Community College of the Air Force; he served in the US Army as an air defense artillery crewman and helicopter crewman, then switched services and currently is a Chief Master Sergeant in the US Air Force Reserve. Sgt Ashworth will speak about current urban unrest and how we can help and how we can respond if we faced with imminent involvement in such a dangerous situation; he says he likes to entertain questions from the audience, so be ready to ask!

Respectfully,

William Milnor

# Upcoming Events and Information Items

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

Guest Speaker, Detective Sergeant Chad Ashworth, Waco Police Department

\*\*SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. \*\*, \*\*CALL TO TABLES 6:30 P.M. \*, \*INTRO & ANNOUNCEMENTS, 6:35 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DINNER 6:50 P.M.\*\*\*, \*\*DRAWING & GUEST SPEAKER 7:50 P.M.

**MENU:** Caesar salad with crisp romaine hearts, brioche croutons, grated Parmesan 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 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 Monday, 14 September, 12 noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After this time, please contact as soon as possible if plans change on attending 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.

## DINNER MEETING HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

- Masks shall be worn inside at all times and all locations except when sitting at the tables.
- Drinks will be available at the bar.
- Buffet line and dessert table will have Club staff serving food items.
- Only one table at a time for food service since only one side available with Club staff serving.
- Tables will have six chairs versus normal eight.
- Please be aware of your personal conditions since fever is one of most likely symptoms of coronavirus and we all need to take proper care to protect others.

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION DATES INFO FOR TEXAS

- October 5 is last day for voter registration.
- Early voting will start on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and continue through Friday, October 30. The normal period has been extended a week.
- The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

## MCLENNAN COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATES

For current information on the status of COVID-19 cases in McLennan County, go to web site: covidwaco.com

## HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 5 p.m., at Uncle Dan's BBQ on Lake Air Drive.

## SEPTEMBER REMEMBRANCE DATES

- 4<sup>th</sup>, US Coast Guard (USCG) Birthday
- 10<sup>th</sup>, Purple Heart Day
- 10<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Department Of Defense Birthday
- 14<sup>th</sup>, Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 14<sup>th</sup>, President Roosevelt announced VJ (Victory of Japan) Day, Formal surrender ceremony occurred later, September 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay
- 29<sup>th</sup>, Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020

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

- 15 October, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting, Speaker – William Milnor.
- 19 November, Thursday, RCC, Dinner meeting, Guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- 10 December, Thursday, Dinner meeting with election and live entertainment.

Note: The annual fundraiser golf tournament is scheduled on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday afternoon at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, Waco.

## **SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** Jim Buehrig, Debby DeGraff, Mary Duty, Don Edwards, Elizabeth Garcia, Jerry Gordon, Bill Perdue, Tim Pfanner, Matt Pirko, Robert Ross, and Madeline Sweeney.

**Anniversaries:** Larry and Mary Gee, Rusty and Janet Glover, Pete and Susan Patrick, and Billie and Mauve Sawyer.

## **CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

## **CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT ON SEPT. 21, 2020**

The Central Texas Chapter MOAA will be having their annual golf tournament on Monday, September 21, 2020 at Wildflower Country Club, 4902 Wildflower Lane, Temple, Texas. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.; shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. and Lunch & Awards at 1:00 p.m. Lunch is included with registration. Cost is \$500 for a team and \$125 for an individual. More information is available at the chapter web site, centexmoaa.org, which has on line forms for registration and sponsorships. For information, you can also call 573-855-7173 or e-mail centexmoaa@gmail.com.

## **ADAPTIVE HOUSING BILL BECOMES LAW**

In late August, the president signed into law H.R. 3504, the *Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019*. The new law will provide enhancements to VA's Specially Adapted Housing program by increasing the number of grants awarded, raising the dollar amount of the individual grants, and expanding the number of times qualified veterans can use a housing grant. This change will help certain severely disabled veterans purchase adaptive homes or upgrade existing homes to meet their specific needs for daily living activities.

## **COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE UPDATE**

The official July Consumer Price Index –Watch (CPI-W) numbers are out and a COLA increase in 2021 is looking very likely. The July CPI-W, the first of three months that count towards an increase, saw a .96%, year over year. If the increase continues Social Security, Military Retirees, Disabled Veterans and other beneficiaries could see a greater than 1% increase. While a many were hoping for a much higher increase in 2021, this is positive news that there will be any increase given earlier projections of no increase at all.

## **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies and community members will unite to promote suicide prevention awareness.

One day, World Suicide Prevention Day, is set aside to highlight the message. This year it is September 10. Additionally, National Suicide Preventions Week is the Monday through Sunday surrounding World Suicide Prevention Day. In 2020, it runs from September 6-12.

The Air Force is on a path to match its 2019 suicide level, despite a service-wide tactical pause and efforts to curb the spread, as stresses related to COVID-19 have added to the problem, the service's top officer said Aug. 26. "One of my concerns here is COVID adds stress and we are, from a suicide perspective, we are on a path to be as bad as last year," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said during an appearance at a virtual Air Force Sergeants Association's conference. "And it's not just an Air Force problem; this is a national problem, because COVID actually adds some additional stressors." Brown told the audience of Airmen, "I'll be honest with the collective; we're struggling to figure out how to deal with this."

## **BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS AND AGENT ORANGE**

In Jan. 1, 2020, the VA began processing disability compensation and dependency and indemnity (DIC) claims for Vietnam-era Navy veterans and their survivors exposed to the defoliating toxin commonly known as Agent Orange, or AO. This veteran group, familiarly known as Blue Water Navy (BWN) veterans, had long contended that their ships, having steamed within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam, had ingested the toxic AO runoff into their water producing systems. Drinking and bathing from the water produced on those vessels thus exposed those veterans to Agent Orange.

### **Blue Water Navy Claims for Processing (3,027 received in July)**

- **Total Claims for Processing:** 63,818 (includes 55,916 veteran claims and 7,902 survivor claims)
- **Pending Claims:** 34,858 (includes 31,196 veteran claims and 3,662 survivor claims)
- **Completed Claims:** 28,960 (includes 24,720 veteran claims and 4,240 survivor claims)

## **U.S. POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERIES**

The U.S. Postal Service announced it will halt planned service reductions and other cost-cutting initiatives in response to public outcry — including strong opposition from veterans’ advocates — over the timing and impact of the moves.

“There are some long-standing operational initiatives ... that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a devastating pandemic,” Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. “To avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded. Retail hours at Post Offices will not change. Mail processing equipment and blue collection boxes will remain where they are. No mail processing facilities will be closed. And we reassert that overtime has, and will continue to be, approved as needed.”

The reversal came just a few days before DeJoy was scheduled on August 24<sup>th</sup> to testify t before Congress on the operational changes, some of which drew concerns about election tampering from Democratic leaders.

Much of the country is expected to use mail-in voting in this fall’s presidential election because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and recent service disruptions and operational cutbacks have drawn accusations that administration officials were hurting the system to gain electoral advantages. But in recent days, the change has also drawn strong criticism from veterans’ advocates who reported widespread problems with veterans receiving needed medications through the mail.

Mail-order prescriptions have become the only option for large groups of veterans around the country since the start of the pandemic because VA medical centers have limited visitors in an effort to slow the spread of the illness.

DeJoy has testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and before the House Oversight Committee on Aug. 24. A report is expected from DeJoy in coming weeks on the plan to handle the election support along with other normal operations. During his testimony, DeJoy pledged to deliver the nation’s mail “on time and within our well-established service standards” in coming months.

## **VA COMMENTS ON COMING FLU SEASON**

The top medical official in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) used a recent message in August to warn veterans and VA health care employees of the impending influenza (flu) season and urging individuals to get their annual flu vaccination before Nov. 30. The move comes as VA continues battling the coronavirus pandemic, and as talk of the development of COVID-19 vaccines may lead to concern or confusion about the annual flu shot.

“Vaccination of both Veterans and health care personnel is the cornerstone of our efforts to prevent flu transmission,” noted Dr. Richard Stone in his message to veterans and VHA staff. “This will be especially important this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Vaccination of health care personnel reduces their risk of becoming infected with the flu and transmitting it to susceptible patients and coworkers.”

Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system should contact their primary care provider about vaccine availability. As of Aug. 12, VA had not updated its online influenza materials to reflect the 2020-21 flu season. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, “Getting vaccinated in July or August is too early, especially for older people, because of the likelihood of reduced protection against flu infection later in the flu season. September and October are good times to get vaccinated. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue, even in January or later.”

More than 490,000 people nationwide were hospitalized with influenza during the 2018-2019 flu season, according to CDC estimates. More than 4,600 veterans were hospitalized last year, per the VA, with more than 600 requiring intensive care. Another 27,000 veterans sought outpatient care related to the flu, and VA triaged more than 13,000 calls for similar conditions. Goal is to work to reduce these numbers for coming flu season.

The pandemic crisis certainly complicates communication, especially when the nation is still battling COVID-19 and fear surrounding it. Veterans are concerned about how to access health care in general, and being asked to get a flu shot, amid all this chaos and recent reports of a potential COVID-19 vaccine that might be available by year’s end, adds additional stress an uncertainty.

## **MEMORIAM – PAUL FLYNN**

Paul Thomas Flynn, Sr., Colonel USAF retired, died Aug. 8, 2020. His service was held 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at Woodway First United Methodist Church. A private burial at DFW National Cemetery will be at a later date. He was born in Corsicana, TX, to L.F. and Edna Flynn.

Paul graduated from Corsicana High in 1942 and attended North Texas Agriculture College for one year, now UTA. In 1943, he joined Air Corps Aviation Cadets and graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1944. He was stationed in the Philippines and Okinawa and flew 28 combat missions in a P38 Lightning; last one in Aug. 1945, four days before the peace treaty was signed. He returned to Corsicana in Oct. 1945 and stayed in the Air Force Reserve.

He married Betty Ruth Mathews on Jan. 12, 1947. They enjoyed 55 years together until her death Dec. 28, 2002. Paul graduated with BS in Agriculture Economics from Texas Tech in one year. He took a job with Soil and Conservation Dept. in Robstown, TX, and they lived there for a year. In Oct. 1949, he was recalled to active duty and stationed in San Bernadino, CA. He served in Korea from 1950 to 1952 and on his return stayed in the Air Force Reserve. His last assignment was Vice Commander of the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing, Carswell AFB. Paul moved his family, which now included a son, to Eastland, TX, where his daughter was born.

In 1960, they moved to Fort Worth, where they raised their children. In 1975, he retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Full Colonel. Paul worked for the GSA in Fort Worth from 1960 to 1983, when he retired as regional director. He enjoyed traveling, and Paul and Betty went on many vacations with their children and later with the grandchildren. Paul was very active in raising his kids to include assistant coach of their baseball team, and Boy Scout master of their Scout troop.

He also served in his church to include treasurer, youth events, and usher. He truly had a servant's heart. Paul and Betty moved to Waco in 1993 and joined the Woodway First United Methodist Church. Here he served on the Building and Finance Committee, and became very active in the Senior Golf League, becoming president in 1997.

In 2004, he started volunteering for Meals on Wheels and delivered on Tuesday and Thursday.

He played golf on Monday and sometimes Wednesday. He also played bridge on Thursday afternoon and sometimes at night. He volunteered at Providence Hospital on Friday. In 2014, he was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Heart of Texas Volunteer Association. At that time, he was the oldest and longest serving of the volunteers at his church. Paul continued these activities until Spring of 2020 (when COVID-19 changed our world), when he became ill and the above activities were cancelled. He was a beloved and faithful Christian, Veteran, daddy, granddaddy and great-granddaddy, and friend, and will be missed by many.

## **MEMORIAM – DAVID “BART” BATHOLOWEW**

This is belated notice for Colonel David “Bart” Bartholomew, USAF (ret), who passed away on May 29, 2020. Bart and his wife, Susan, had moved out of the local area sometime in the spring. He was a new member and had been the guest speaker at the February dinner meeting.

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.



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