



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

Volume MMXXI, Issue XI

November 2021

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

President's Column

Greetings,

This month we had a great dinner meeting; 46 attendees and speech by new chapter member Senator Brian Birdwell. Brian discussed challenges facing all of us, including "bailout" illegal immigrants scattering into our communities, difficulties with property taxation, legislative redistricting which will shift some of the territory represented by him and new voting rights and responsibilities that will be more inclusive of legitimate voters. We presented the first of our new chapter commemorative coins after his talk. The Senator is indeed a busy person in our state legislature and we were very fortunate to be able to schedule a presentation by him; he is definitely on our side!

The HOT Chapter Board met on October 26. Issues to be voted on by the membership will be published in more detail later in this month's newsletter.

The Board recommended that HOT Chapter Board meetings should be held each month on the first Tuesday following the regular dinner meeting rather than on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month; we all felt that it would be easier to remember from month to month, and more convenient for those who must plan trips out of town. The Board also recommended adding a new Directors position on the Board of Directors – Directors Emeritus – to recognize those who have served the Chapter for a long period of time and with distinction. Since these would be changes to the chapter bylaws, the membership will be asked to vote on both at the November dinner meeting.

The Board also considered and agreed on a list of candidate Officers and Directors for 2022; that group will be voted on at the dinner meeting on December 9, and any member can nominate another candidate to be voted on as well. Once a proper group of Officers and Directors is elected,

they will be formally sworn into office at our January dinner meeting and will assume their elected positions for 2022.

Once again someone has used our online chapter list of names and email addresses of officers; an email was sent ostensibly from our President to our First Vice President requesting emergency transfer of money via an anonymous device; a good look at the email showed that the sender indeed was not anyone in our chapter. So, again, be suspicious of such phishing and scamming; do not open links or otherwise respond to suspicious appearing messages.

At the November dinner meeting we will hear Terry Wright and Doug Baldwin (Doug was our guest in October and appeared to enjoy the experience and meeting various members) discuss the new/revised Baylor Lifelong Learning (LLL) program, a great community asset. The program is now administered through the Mayborn Museum on the Baylor University campus. Some of us have participated in LLL in the past but there have been changes, and more are said to be on the way; for others who have not participated, this will be an opportunity to learn about an interesting program.

Recently I encountered a retired USAF Officer, a nurse who asked if I understood the need for Medicare supplemental insurance. It seems that with a large volume of advertising right now during the Medicare enrollment period, there is some confusion. Officially, Tricare for Life appears to be a Medicare supplement for those military retirees who are eligible for Medicare and sign up for Parts A and B so then are automatically enrolled in Tricare for Life. So I personally do not see any benefit in participating in another Medicare supplement besides Tricare for Life for those of us who are eligible. Check the TRICARE web site for more info.

Respectfully,  
Bill Milnor

# Upcoming Events and Information Items

## THURSDAY DINNER MEETING NOVEMBER

18, AT RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB.

GUEST SPEAKER IS TERRY WRIGHT,

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY LIFE LONG

LERARING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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

TABLES 6:35 P.M. \*, \*INTRO &

ANNOUNCEMENTS 6:40 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DINNER

6:55P.M.\*\*, \*\*DRAWING & PRESENTATION

7:50 P.M.

**MENU: Roasted Pumpkin Salad, Pistachio Crusted Salmon with buerre blanc sauce, Chicken Marsala, Chef's choices of a starch, a vegetable and two desserts, rolls and butter, fresh brewed iced tea and coffee. Dinner cost 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 November,**

**Noon for sign-ups.**

**Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After this time, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if plans change on attending and we will work to accommodate you at the lunch meeting. Dinner cost may be charged for missed attendance, depending on total turnout for the meeting date.**

**NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, coat and tie and ladies attire as desired.**

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021/2022

Ridgewood Country Club (RCC) is at 7301 Fish Pond Road. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday.

- **18 November 2021**, Dinner Meeting, Guest Speake, Terry Wright, Baylor University Life Long Learning Program Director.
- **9 December 2021**, Dinner Meeting, Election for 2022 and Live Entertainment by the band, The Morticians.
- **20 January 2022**, Dinner Meeting, Installation of Officers and Directors and Guest Speaker or Entertainment.
- **Note:** The next fundraiser golf tournament is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 10, 2022 at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

## NOVEMBER VETERAN EVENTS

- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, Thurs., there will be a Veterans Day Parade in downtown Waco that is being organized by the Stan Parker Foundation. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. and goes from 12<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets on Austin Avenue.
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, Fri., the City of Woodway will be sponsoring a veterans' breakfast at 9 a.m., at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, 1 Pavilion Way. Attendees need to register ahead of time at discoverwoodway.com, scroll to Upcoming Events to Veterans Breakfast and then go to Find Out More and register. A ticket will be e-mailed.
- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Wed., the Veterans One Stop will be providing Thanksgiving meal for drive-thru pick-up on Nov. 17 at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum, 2801 W. Waco Drive. Meal will be turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and pie. Food is being provided thru Cracker Barrel. Participants need to pick-up free ticker at the Veterans One Stop, 2010 LaSalle Ave.

## NOVEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

**Birthdays:** Joe Augeri, Jerrie Buehrig, Patricia Heberlin, Lee Harkins, Lyn Lawson, Tony Raineri, Ray Sancton and Don Speed.

**Anniversaries:** Rick and Madeline Sweeney.

## CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

## HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 23, 5 p.m., at Uncle Dan's BBQ, 1001 Lake Air Drive.

## NOVEMBER MILITARY NOTES

- November 10, U.S. Marine Corps birthday.
- November 11, Veterans Day, the anniversary date of the signing of the armistice which ended World War 1. Also, Veterans Day is a remembrance of all U.S. military veterans – past and present.

## **BIO – GUEST SPEAKER – TERRY WRIGHT**

Terry Wright is currently the President of Baylor Lifelong Learning (LLL). His career spanned being an accountant, a software developer and as a system analyst. Upon graduation from college in 1971, he was commissioned from ROTC, Miami University of Ohio into the USAF. As an Accounting and Finance Officer he served at Bolling AFB in DC, U-Tapao in Thailand, and Moody AFB GA. Then he returned to civilian life and worked as an accountant, and then got the software bug. He led teams that developed, installed, and maintained a software package, used primarily here in Texas, where he and his family have lived since 1981.

In 1997 he joined the Financial Aid Office at Baylor where his responsibilities included internal and external reporting of the office's awarding, establishing, and maintaining software tables to provide awarding of Financial Aid and as a liaison to the IT area who maintained the core software. Since retirement he has been fortunate to be able to volunteer at several organizations in the Waco area, which of course includes Baylor's Lifelong Learning.

Baylor's Lifelong Learning is a primarily volunteer-led membership-based organization, that offers an array of learning opportunities and experiences for adults 'age 50 and better. Each fall and spring there are fee-based courses and special events, to entice intellectually curious adults to explore a wide range of interests. Benefits of membership now include eligibility in member lead special interest groups and admission to the Mayborn Museum on Baylor's campus. It is anticipated Terry's presentation in November will include a history of LLL, which includes the interaction of MOAA membership with LLL, its mission and what shapes course offerings along with a preview of the Spring 2022 course offerings. Please visit the LLL web site at: <https://baylor.edu/lifelonglearning> for information about the program.

## **GUARD YOUR MEDICARE CARD**

The most important thing you can do is guard your Medicare card like it is a credit card. Do not give our Medicare card or number to anyone except your doctor or people you know should have it. This is to protect against fraud or scammers. If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-633-4227.

## **CENTENNIAL ANIVERSARY OF THETOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER**

On Veterans Day, many will gather at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to commemorate 100 years of existence.

More than 100 years ago, Congress approved the building of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The monument was created to represent missing troops and troops killed from WWI, WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The remains of unidentified troops from each of those wars have been interred at the site since the Tomb was dedicated. However, the remains of the unknown warrior representing the Vietnam War were identified in 1998 as Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael Blassie, who was a pilot shot down by enemy troops in 1972. With Blassie's remains currently at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Mo., the Vietnam War crypt remains vacant. The crypt for the Vietnam War unknown soldier remains empty in honor of the more than 82,000 troops still MIA, which underscores the larger purpose of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Here are some facts about soldiers standing watch at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:

- Army Sgt. Heather Johnson became the first woman to earn a Tomb Gerard badge in 1996. Five other women have earned a badge since.
- A sentinel has stood in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every minute since 1937 with no exception.
- Members of the guard stand watch 24/7 every day of the year. Tomb sentinels consider it an honor to guard the tomb during inclement weather, including blizzards, hurricanes and thunderstorms. They do not stand down the watch.
- Guards are changed every 30 minutes from April 1 to September 30 and every hour from October 1 to March 31.
- Tomb guards carry "fully functional" M14 rifles.
- Soldiers must be at least 5-feet-8 inches tall to be a sentinel.
- It has been said that sentinels need to commit two to guard the Tomb – they do not. In fact, an average tour at the Tomb is 18 months.

## Chapter Bylaws Changes

When there are proposed changes to the Chapter bylaws, the general membership is required to approve them by a majority vote – this will happen at the November dinner/meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The two proposed changes are: adding a new Directors position on the Board of Directors – Directors Emeritus – to recognize those who have served the Chapter for a long period of time and with distinction; and, changing the date of the monthly Board of Directors meeting from the fourth Tuesday to the following Tuesday following the monthly General Membership meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

These changes are reflected in the **highlighted words** in the bylaws articles that address the two changes:

### Directors Emeritus

The Board of Directors shall be composed of five (5) elected Officers (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President), twelve (12) elected Directors, **an unspecified number of Directors Emeritus**, and a Secretary appointed by the President. All shall be Regular, Surviving Spouses and Associate members of the Chapter and in good standing (having paid their dues). **The Directors Emeritus shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, in recognition of their long and distinguished service to the Chapter. They will not stand for election, will perform the duties and functions of elected Directors, and shall be subject to the requirements of these bylaws.**

The length of service for all members of the Board of Directors, except the President, Immediate Past President, **Directors Emeritus**, and Secretary, shall be a three (3) year term. The President shall be eligible to serve no more than three (3) consecutive one (1) year terms. The Immediate Past President shall serve in his/her position until a new President is either elected or filled by the 1st Vice President for any number of reasons. **The length of service of Directors Emeritus is at their discretion.** The Secretary's length of service is determined by the President

who appointed him/her, and the follow-on Presidents. Those who assume a position or appointed to fill a vacant position, will serve the remaining portions of the term of the member they are replacing. If nominated and elected or appointed, all members of the Board of Directors, except the President, Immediate Past President, **Directors Emeritus**, and Secretary, may serve additional three (3) year terms.

### Board Meeting Day

Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be typically held on the third Thursday of the month for the general membership and the **following** Tuesday for the Board of Directors, at sites and times to be determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of each of these meetings shall be posted on the Chapter web site, emailed or mailed to each member at least 15 days in advance. These meetings are open to all members.

### Proposed 2022 Slate of Officers and Directors for December 9 Meeting and Election

#### Officers

President: Michael Slavens

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Beau Crosby

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Ken Ratajczak

Treasurer: Vince Tobola

Immediate Past President: Bill Milnor

#### Appointed positions

Secretary: George Littell

Chaplain: John Wells

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Carol McHaney

Legislative Liaison: Gary Urban

#### Directors

Joe Augeri

Jim Milam

Barbara Purselley

Don Speed

Norma Thronburg

Bill Easley

Bill Porter

Rusty Rowe

Ennis Sullivan

Paul Thronburg

Carol McHaney

Gary Urban

Harold Rafuse (Director Emeritus)\*

Jimmie Hanes (Director Emeritus)\*

\*If the change to Chapter bylaws on Directors Emeritus is approved by the membership. P.4

**Membership Corner**  
*“Help Wanted Sign is Out”*

Last month we announced three new members and ran their bios, and had hoped to run more this month; but those we thought were ready to commit, have not as yet joined. Recruiting them continues, and **we could surely use your help**. If you personally know one or more of these individuals – Matt Witt, Doug Baldwin, John & Dawn Jacques, or Steven Dutschmann – we are asking YOU to join the recruiting effort. If you need a phone number or email address to contact them, let me know.

Our goal of having 91 Regular members by the end of this calendar year appears unachievable, but we are not giving up, even though we currently have just 82 such members. Other possible members fall in two categories; those who were members in 2020 and have not renewed their membership – Charles Adamo, Larry Gee, Jim Igleheart and Elmer Speights; and those we are trying to judge their interest in joining – Camron Branom and Ben Hagins.

There are enough names above and more that can be discovered/added, to get us to our 2021 goal of 91. Want you help get there?

Jim Milam, Membership Chairman  
254 845-1310

**COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR 2022**

Military retirees and veterans receiving disability payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will see their paychecks go up by 5.9% for 2022, triggered by inflation and an annual adjustment to the federal Cost of living Allowance (COLA). That annual adjustment has averaged around 1.5% for the last 10 years. The adjustment rate was announced in mid-October by the Social Security Administration. The VA is required by law to alter disability payment rates by that amount. While military retirement is not legally required to follow suit, the change is traditionally the same.

Military retirees and VA beneficiaries aren't the only ones who benefit from the COLA increase. Civil Service retirees and Social Security recipients also will see the 5.9% jump in their monthly checks.

The Department of Labor determines the annual COLA by measuring the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measurement of a broad sampling of the cost of consumer goods and expenses.

**HOLIDAY SHIPPING DATES**

For delivery by Dec. 25 within the lower 48 states, the U.S. Postal service advised people using its ground service to send items by Dec. 15. Those using First-Class Mail and Priority Mail have until Dec. 17 and 18, respectively – one day earlier than last year. The recommended shipping date for Priority Mail Express, Dec. 23, has not changed.

UPS advises sending packages within the U.S. by Dec. 21 if using UPS 3 Day Select or as late as Dec. we if sent by UPS Next Day Air – the same dates as last year. Ground shipping deadlines vary depending on the package's route, and UPS advised checking its website for estimated shipping times.

FedEx, meanwhile, advised sending packages no later than Dec. 15 if using FedEx Ground and Dec. 22 if using FedEx 2-Day. The deadline for FedEx's Same Day service is Dec. 24, one day earlier than last year.

All three package carriers are staffing up for another surge this year. UPS and U.S. Postal Service have said they plan to hire 100,000 and 40,000 seasonal employees, respectively. FedEx aims to hire 90,000, up from 70,000 last year.

**WHAT A WILL WON'T DO**

Your last will may not be the directive for doling out your wealth and may be overruled by other paperwork and relevant laws. A will is a document of last resort to transfer assets and there are a lot of ways to transfer assets that would preempt the terms of a will.

On retirement accounts, the person or persons listed as beneficiaries may end up receiving those assets regardless of what your will says. Another problem can arise if no primary beneficiaries are alive and no contingent beneficiaries were named.

As the case with retirement accounts, a life insurance policy's beneficiary listing, not your will, generally determines who gets the money.

It is important to stay current on life events such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or the death of a beneficiary and a good reason to stay current on your paperwork.



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

Address label

**2021 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Bill Milnor, COL, USA (ret) (Gerry) 972-533-7874

**1st Vice President**

Michael Slavens, LtCol, USAF (ret) (Marsha) 703-898-9173

**2nd Vice President**

Jim Milam, Col, USAF (ret) (Laura) 817-909-3588

**Secretary (Acting)**

George Littell, 1LT, USA (ret) (Helen) 713-254-0972

**Treasurer**

Vince Tobola, LtCol, USAF (ret) (254) 709-5795

**Immediate Past President**

Urban, Gary, Maj, USAF (ret) 254-715-6560

**Chaplain**

John Wells, COL, USA (ret) (Su) 254-776-1143

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Carol McHaney (254) 716-6376

**Legislative Liaison**

Jon Ker, COL, USA (RET) (Terri) (254) 934-2018

**Directors**

Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary) 254-717-8112  
 Jimmie Hanes, COL, USAF, (ret) (Mary) 254-848-5493  
 Don Speed, CAPT, USAF (Ann) 254-366-5528  
 Joe Augeri, Maj, USAF (ret) (Karen) 254-366-2544  
 Carol McHaney 254-716-6376  
 Ennis Sullivan (Kay) 214-797-1464  
 Beau Crosby, Col, USAF (ret) (Kathy Endres) 254-709-9588  
 Barbara Purselley 254-716-4572  
 Ken Ratajczak, COL, USA (ret) (Anne) 254-776-4804  
 George Littell, 1LT, USA (Helen) 713-254-0972  
 Norma Thronburg (Paul) 254-749-0957  
 Paul Thronburg, 1LT, USA (Norma) 254-749-0957

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

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz  
 127A Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510  
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions Office of Congressman Pete  
 2204 Rayburn Building Sessions – 17<sup>th</sup> District of TX  
 Washington, D.C. 20515 400 Austin Avenue Suite 302  
 202-225-6105 Waco, TX 76701  
 254-633-4500

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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

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