



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue II

February 2022

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow. Brrrrr.

I want to thank Dr. Bill Milnor for his leadership during 2021's trying times. We were successful in spite of COVID. Well done.

My leadership team is excited to serve you over the next year. We appreciate your prayers and continued support. Our Board of Directors has already approved our chapter's charter objectives and budget for 2022 and we plan to achieve all of these and more.

Chief among these is our scholarship program which is funded through our annual golf fundraiser scheduled for June 10, 2022. **This is a total team effort and we need your support!** I hope you will volunteer and/or contribute to the success of this effort, so **SAVE the DATE**. Please contact one of our fundraising leads – Harold Refuse, Jimmy Hanes, Jim Milam or Gary Urban for more information on how you can help.

February will be an exciting month with several upcoming events:

- Baylor People's Law School will be held on February 12, 2022 from 9:15am - 12:45pm via Zoom Webinar. This annual event is free to the public and helps educate citizens of their legal rights. I encourage you to sign up at <https://www.baylor.edu/law>.

- In commemoration of Black History Month, our Feb 17th dinner meeting at the Baylor Club features Mr. Paul Hubbard who will address Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Mr. Hubbard formerly served as mayor and on the city council of Woodway, Texas. He recently retired as an attorney from the Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee Law firm.
- Valentine's Day is February 14
- On February 26, the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Freedom Ball from 6-11pm in Chisholm Hall at the Waco Convention Center. Register online at [FreedomBallWaco.com](http://FreedomBallWaco.com)

As we support National, Texas and HOT MOAA 2022 veteran priorities and objectives, there will be many opportunities for your involvement. Your leadership team will keep you up-to-date on all of these.

In 2021, in spite of COVID, we added 12 new members to our chapter. Congratulations! We need to continue to grow in 2022, so reach out to your networks to identify candidates.

Finally, over the next year I look to expand our relationship with other HOT veterans groups -- Daedalians, VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, America's Gold Star Families, Baylor VETS, Patriot Guard Riders -- to mention a few.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing all of you on February 17.

v/r  
Michael Slavens

# Upcoming Events and Information Items

## **THURSDAY DINNER MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2022, AT MCLANE STADIUM – MEDIA ROOM, HOSTED BY THE BAYLOR CLUB.**

Enter parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. The media entrance is on the I-35 side of McLane Stadium and located before the Baylor Club entrance; there will be sign above entrance doorway and a sign on the sidewalk. Go thru doorway and take elevator to the fifth floor. You can park in any space; the numbered spaces are only used during football events.

### **DINNER SCHEDULE**

**\*\* 6:00 P.M. Social Hour**

**\*\* 6:35 P.M. Call To Table**

**\*\* 6:40 P.M. Intro & Announcements.**

**\*\* 6:50 P.M. Dinner**

**\*\* 7:50 P.M Drawing & Presentation**

**MENU:** Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad, artisan bread, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Honey Glazed Salmon, Roasted Asparagus, Roasted Red Potatoes, Dessert, Fresh Brewed Iced Tea or Hot Tea and Coffee.

**GUEST SPEAKER,** Paul Hubbard, speaking on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “I Have A Dream” speech

**Please note dinner cost is \$35 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 Thursday, 10 February, 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 dinner 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 slacks and ladies attire as desired.**

## **CAMERON PARK ZOO AND TRIPADVISOR**

Waco's Cameron Park Zoo came in #48 in TripAdvisor's 2021 Top 50 Best Zoos in the United States. TripAdvisor based its top 50 Best Zoos list on customer review of the approximately 2,400 animal facilities in the U.S. Three other Texas Zoos listed in the Top 50 were the Fort Worth Zoo, The Houston Zoo, and the Dallas Zoo.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

Location and lunch or dinner venue are under review.

- **17 March,** Thursday, lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **21 April,** Thursday, lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **19 May,** Thursday, lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **10 June, Annual fundraiser golf tournament, Friday lunch and afternoon at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco.**
- **21 July, Thursday,** lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **18 August, Thursday,** lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.

## **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, Elmer Speights, Ennis Sullivan, Vince Tobola and Su Wells.

**Anniversaries:** Joe and Karen Augeri, Jim and Jerrie Buehrig and George and Helen Littell.

## **CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

## **2022 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Ken Ratajczak, 254-776-4804 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 for chapter information and a membership application. 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 a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. Thank you for your support.

## **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING UPDATE**

The next Board meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 22, 2022; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ and located on Lake Air Drive near Valley Mills intersection.

### **EVEST ACT PASSES HOUSE**

The House passed H.R. 4673, the *Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act*. This bill would require VA to automatically enroll eligible veterans into its health care system upon receipt of confirmation from DOD. If passed into law, this proposal would provide a seamless transition of health care, unless transitioning service members choose to opt out of the VA health care system. Now we hope that the Senate to take up this important piece of legislation and pass this bill.

### **PROTECTING MOMS WHO SERVED ACT OF 2021**

Public Law (P.L.) 117-69 aims to help veteran mothers. The VA is required to implement a maternity care coordination program and provide non-VA maternity caretakers training and support to help veterans who are pregnant or postpartum. The bill was introduced by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).

### **REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022**

Most holders of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), including employer-provided defined contribution plans, are familiar with the COVID-influenced changes (SECURE ACT)) to mandatory age-based distributions.

If you did not reach age 70½ until after Dec. 31, 2019, then mandatory distributions were delayed until no later than April 1 of the year after the owner's 72nd birth year. Future distributions must occur by Dec. 31 of each year. If you reached age 72 in 2021 but plan to delay your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) until just prior to April 2022, you will be required to make another withdrawal prior to Dec. 31, 2022.

If the account owner reached 70½ prior to Dec. 31, 2019, then the initial RMD must have commenced prior to April 1, 2020.

Life expectancy tables recently have been updated, reducing the amount of previously calculated RMDs for 2022 and beyond. IRS Publication 590-B is the guiding document for IRAs. As of Jan. 26, 2022, the 590-B is still in *draft* form. However, the RMD worksheets (Appendix A) and Life Expectancy Tables (Appendix B) are available to make RMD estimates.

### **HIRE VETERAN HEALTH HEROES ACT OF 2021**

P.L. 117-67 could increase coordination for hiring veteran health care professionals at VA. The law requires VA to consult with the Department of Defense to recruit troops for jobs in the military's and VA's health care systems.

### **A BILL TO ADDRESS RACE DISPARITIES AT VA**

P.O. 117-66 requires a study that assesses possible disparities associated with race and ethnicity concerning VA compensation and benefits. It also required a final report to be submitted to Congress.

### **COLONEL JOHN MCHUGH TUITION FARIENESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021**

P.L 117-68 requires colleges that receive GI Bill benefits to provide in-state tuition rates for students receiving Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance. The program provides education benefits to the dependents of veterans who died due to a service-related condition. The bill is named after Col. John McHugh, who was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2010. McHugh's daughter was attending Kansas State University at the time of his death.

### **2022 PRIMARY VOTING DATES**

You can go to web site [co.mclennan.tx.us/337/elections](http://co.mclennan.tx.us/337/elections) to get info on the coming primary election.

- Feb. 14, First early voting by personal appearance.
- Feb. 18, Last day to apply for ballot by mail (**received at Elections Office**, not postmarked).
- Feb. 25, Last day of early voting by personal appearance.
- Mar. 1, Last day to receive ballot by mail.
- Mar. 1, Primary Election Day, voting by personal appearance.

Again, more information available on the web site or phone number 254-757-5043. Physical address for the elections office is 214 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Waco, TX 76701.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – PAUL HUBBARD**

The speaker for our February dinner meeting (Feb 17, 2022, 6:00PM in the Press/Media Room of the Baylor Club) is Mr. Paul Hubbard. He will speak on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech given at the March on Washington from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. Dr. King's speech sparked a movement, which helped create the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, **ending racial segregation** in the United States. Paul served on the City Counsel and as the Mayor of the City of Woodway. He recently retired from active practice as an attorney with the Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee Law firm. He and his wife Phyllis have been married over 50 years. His main hobby is golf.

### **FEB 26<sup>TH</sup> FREEDOM BALL (FOREVER GRATEFUL, NEVER FORGOTTEN)**

The Freedom Ball will return on February 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Chisholm Hall at the Waco Convention Center.

You are invited to join the event for dinner, an open bar, silent and live auctions, dancing, and entertainment provided by the Manhattan Band. Attire is Cocktail, black-tie optional.

The Greater Waco Aviation Alliance established the Freedom Ball to be a patriotically themed gala that recognizes active-duty military, veterans and Gold Star Spouses for their service and sacrifice to our nation. It is the only event of its kind in the Heart of Texas area and is very well received by the military community. This is an opportunity for the public to say thank you to those who put their lives on the line to protect our nation at home and abroad. Proceeds of the event benefit the Greater Waco Aviation Alliance Scholarship Fund, providing scholarships to McLennan County high school and college students pursuing aviation/aerospace and engineering careers and support target industry marketing of Greater Waco's aerospace industry.

Individual tickets are \$160.00.

Veterans and Active-Duty military tickets are \$75.00.

Donate a ticket for a veteran/active duty at \$75.00

Bronze Sponsor is \$1,250.00 (includes a table of 8 and sponsor recognition).

Tickets can be purchased at web site:

[www.FreedomBallWaco.com](http://www.FreedomBallWaco.com).

### **THE CHAPTER WEB SITE**

The chapter web site is now active at **hotmoaa.org**. It includes information on the chapter, ongoing events and current and past newsletters.

### **SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>**

The **June 10, 2022** annual scholarship golf fundraiser information will be added in the near future to the web site. This info will also be sent to the membership when available.

Also, forms will be able to be downloaded for golf registration and for donation/sponsorships. The golf fundraiser will be held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. Registration starts at 11 a.m., lunch is available starting at 11:30 a.m. and player tee-off at 1 p.m.

Lunch is available to individuals for \$10.00. The golf fee is \$125 per player and includes golf fee, cart, range balls, lunch and a gift bag. More information details will be coming.

### **MUSEUM TO BREAK GROUND IN MARCH**

Construction is set to start on in March on the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas. A ceremonial groundbreaking is planned for March 25 to coincide with National Medal of Honor Day.

The museum—the first of its kind in the U.S. – will share stories of the more than 2500 recipients of the Medal of Honor, which is the nation's highest award for valor in combat. It is expected to open in 2024.

Arlington was selected for the museum in 2019 following a nationwide search. Since then, the museum's foundation has picked up big donations, including \$20 million from Jerry Jones, as well as numerous private and corporate donors.

Featuring a modern aesthetic, the museum will have a prime spot in the city's entertainment district, which already draws millions of tourists each year. The area is home to the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, Texas LIVE! and Six Flags Over Texas. The museum will include an education center that aims to develop character in young people.

Once complete, the museum in Arlington will complement the National Medal of Honor Monument being built in Washington, D.C. The monument will honor the growing list of medal recipients and will serve as a ceremonial place of reflection to highlight their service and sacrifice.

**PARTS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

- **Military Justice Reform** (Subtitles D and E). Sexual assault and harassment in the military are pervasive issues affecting an alarming number of service members, past and present. Provisions within these subtitles represent substantive changes in how the military handles these cases, including sexual assault investigations that will now be fully independent of chains of command.
- The **National Global War on Terrorism Memorial** (Sec. 6605). This authorizes a Global War on Terrorism memorial to be constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
- **Updates and Preservation of Memorials to Chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery** (Sec. 584). This legislation authorizes needed updates and corrections to the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish chaplain memorials located at Arlington National Cemetery. Updates will include the addition of chaplains who have died in service to our nation as far back as World War II.
- **The Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act** (Sec. 641). This legislation will provide free lifetime access to national parks and public lands that honor service members, veterans, and Gold Star families.
- **Improvement of Postpartum Care for Members of the Military and Dependents** (Sec. 707). This will improve postpartum care by creating clinical practice guidelines for postpartum care in military medical treatment facilities. Pelvic health assessment and treatment, and screening for postpartum depression will be addressed.
- **Pilot Program on Assistance for Mental Health Appointment Scheduling at Military Medical Treatment Facilities** (Sec. 734). This establishes a pilot program to assist in scheduling mental health appointments to create a warm handoff and eliminate the barrier to gaps between appointments to ensure participants have continuity of mental health treatment.

- **Military Pay Raise**. Service members received a 2.7 percent increase in basic pay for calendar year 2022.
- **Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021** (Sec. 1094). This act establishes a commission charged with investigating all aspects of United States' activities in Afghanistan from June 1, 2001, through August 30, 2021. Points of emphasis will include but not be limited to United States policy objectives, efficacy of efforts, intelligence activities, and circumstances leading to the downfall of the Afghanistan National Defense Security Forces. The commission's final report will be released to the public.
- **Basic Needs Allowance for Members on Active Service in the Armed Forces** (Sec. 601). Food insecurity among military families is a critical issue impacting an estimated 160,000 troops. The newly created Basic Needs Allowance will bring relief to many active duty families by helping to ensure yearly gross household income is equivalent to 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as set by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- **GAO Biennial Study on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record Program** (Sec. 741). This legislation directs regular studies and reporting by the Government Accountability Office on the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER) program. As a vital component of DOD and Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to align health care with individuals' unique exposures during service, these studies will help ensure the ILER program is functioning as intended.
- **Feasibility Study on Establishment of Housing History for Members of the Armed Forces** (Sec. 526). Veteran success after service is in part determined by having reliable housing. However, not all transitioning service members (TSMs) leave service with verifiable housing histories if they have lived only in government-provided housing. Born out of a VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow proposal, this study will determine the feasibility of providing TSMs with a housing history form that can demonstrate their reliability as tenants to prospective civilian landlords.



**Heart of Texas Chapter TX07, MOAA**  
**P.O. Box 23964**  
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Address label

**INCOMING 2022 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary) 254-717-8112

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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 202-228-2856

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

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions  
 Contact information pending.

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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

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