



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue I

January 2022

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

Here we are in 2022! Time flies when you're having fun. I think we had a fun year at MOAA Chapter meetings through 2021, and I predict more fun for 2022.

I certainly enjoyed the privilege of serving as Chapter President during the past two years, and now we will start 2022 with installation of a new Chapter President and other Officers and Directors, led by Michael Slavens, Beau Crosby, Ken Ratajczak, George Littell and of course Vince Tobola. Vince has been the Chapter's work horse and he made my job easy.

Last month we had an apparent recent record attendance (71 folks) at our dinner meeting; we elected our new Officers and Directors and were entertained by The Morticians who I think are sounding better and better with their 70s style rock music!

Now we have to deal with another seemingly confusing COVID pandemic, with conflicting information and guidance tainted by political considerations. We will proceed with our monthly meeting in January – a luncheon at the Baylor Club on January 20; more details are in this issue of the Newsletter. I think most of us are in the "at risk" age group for the effects of contagious illnesses, so that should be kept in mind, and those who chose not to be vaccinated should be particularly cautious about attending a group gathering. Wearing of masks is up to individuals; my understanding is that cloth masks, while nice and decorative, give no significant protection from the spread of COVID virus particles, so a more protective mask probably would be the better choice.

Hopefully we will be able to return soon to our traditional scholarship fund raising efforts including the spring golf tournament.

I look forward to seeing all who choose to attend our luncheon on the 20th at McLane Stadium Media Meeting Room!

Respectfully,

Bill Milnor

Membership Corner

As I will be turning the position of Chair of the Membership Committee over to our new 2nd VP Ken Ratajczak, I want to take this opportunity to thank all who assisted in recruiting new Chapter members during 2021.

Fifteen new Regular members were added to the HOT Chapter roster in 2021, as were four Associate and two Honorary members. With these additions and the passing of three members, our total membership grew from 86 to 104 – an increase of 17.3%.

With your continued support and the efforts of Ken, we can keep this trend going.

Three ways to keep this trend going is to **renew your membership for 2022**, if you have not already done so, and become an Associate member as the IRS rules will allow us to add twelve new Associate members based on our current number of Regular members. So, **spouse of Regular members, please consider joining the seven Associated members who pay dues in 2021** and contribute in numerous ways in helping the Chapter achieve its stated missions.

Jim Milam, Membership Chairman

Upcoming Events and Information Items

THURSDAY LUNCHEON MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2022, AT MCLANE STADIUM –
MEDIA PRESS BOX LOUNGE, HOSTED BY
BAYLOR CLUB. ENTER PARKING LOT
THRU GATE 1, OFF OF MKL BLVD AND
BEAR RIGHT. THE MEDIA ENTRANCE IS
ON I-35 SIDE OF MCLANE STADIUM AND
LOCATED BEFORE THE BAYLOR CLUB;
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.

GUEST SPEAKER, ROBERT JOHNSON,
PUBLISHER OF WACON MAGAZINE,
REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL PERIOD:
11:00 A.M. **, **CALL TO TABLES 11:35 A.M.
***, *INTRO & ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:40 A.M.**
****, **LUNCH 11:50P.M.**, **DRAWING &**
GUEST SPEAKER 12:20 P.M.

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad, artisan
bread, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Parmesan
Crusted Chicken, Roasted Asparagus, Garlic
Mashed Potatoes, Dessert, Fresh Brewed Iced
Tea or Hot Tea and Coffee. Please note lunch
cost is \$30 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, 17
January, 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. Lunch cost may be charged for missed
attendance, depending on total turnout for the
meeting date.

NOTE: The dress code will be business casual,
which for gentlemen is collared shirt and slacks,
coat and/or tie optional and ladies' as desired.

GUEST SPEAKER – ROBERT JOHNSON

Robert Johnson is a native of Waco, graduate of Baylor University. He is an avid (and excellent) tennis player. Robert and his wife Michelle are publishers of the WACOAN magazine. The presentation will be about challenges of publishing a magazine and anecdotes about the community.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

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

- **17 February,** Thursday, Ridgewood Country Club, Dinner meeting with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **17 March,** Thursday, Dinner meeting, Ridgewood Country Club with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **21 April,** Thursday, Dinner meeting, Ridgewood Country Club with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.
- **19 May,** Thursday, Lunch meeting at McLane Stadium President's Suite 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.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The next Board meeting is planned for Tuesday, January 25, 2022; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ and located on Lake Air Drive near Valley Mills intersection.

JANUARY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Rita Dampier, Gloria DuBose, Mary Aileen Edwards, Charles Farr, Mary Gee, Kay Gompper, Hope Hacker, Joe Herbelin, Donna Hulsey, Gene Lednicky, Linda Pitzer, Harold Rafuse, Donna Sammon, Rosemary Sancton, Mauve Sawyer, and Amy Schnelle.

Anniversaries: Jimmie and Mary Hanes, Jon and Terri Ker, Bill and Donna Hulsey.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

2022 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 and he will provide 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. Dues notices have been sent out. 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.

MOAA 2022 GOALS

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA pay raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the Military Health System, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections and administration support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all service members.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our service members.

MOAA MEMBERS AMONG NEW ASTRONAUT NASA CLASS

Two MOAA members will be among the 10 NASA recruits set to begin astronaut training in January 2022.

Maj. Marcos Berríos, USAF, and Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Wittner, USN, join a military-heavy field of candidates who could be a part of planned missions to the moon and Mars in coming years. Berríos, 37, has 110 combat missions and 1,300 hours of flight time in more than 21 airframes, per his NASA bio. The Puerto Rico native served as a test pilot and deployed to Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, as well as the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Wittner, USN, 38, also worked as a test pilot after securing her commission via an enlisted-to-officer program. She served as a department head with the Vigilantes of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 at the time of her selection. "I think initially when you get the phone call, it's instantly shocking," Wittner told YourCentralValley.com – a news outlet covering her hometown of Clovis, Calif. "I had to pinch myself a couple of times."

In addition to Berríos and Wittner, six other recruits are or have been in uniformed service:

- Major Nichole Ayers, USAF
- Lt. Deniz Burhham, , USNR
- Maj. Luke Delaney,, USMC (Ret)
- Andre Douglas, former Coast Guard officer and on track to be the third astronaut to graduate from the Coast Guard Academy.
- Cmdr. Jack Hathawayh, USN
- Lt. Col. Anil Menon, USAF

More than 12,000 people from all 50 states applied for consideration.

MOAA members have made recent space-travel news: Col. Shane Kimbrough, USA (Ret), splashed down off the Florida coast Nov. 8 after spending nearly 200 days in orbit, and Col. Doug Hurley, USMC (Ret), who commanded the first crewed SpaceX launch in 2020, announced his retirement from NASA in July.

VETERANS LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

In early December, President Biden signed into law four bills. The Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021 will structure VA's maternity care coordination programs to provide community maternity care providers with training and support for veterans' unique pregnancy and postpartum needs. The Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021 will create alternative pathways for veterans to attain gainful employment after leaving active duty. The Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021 will finally close the loophole for survivors using their Chapter 35, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) tuition benefits and ensure institutions charge in-state tuition to these students. Lastly, S. 1031 will require a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by VA.

2022 CHAPTER ELECTION WAS HELD

The chapter election for 2022 officers and directors was held at the December 9, 2021 dinner meeting. The slate was voted on and approved by acclamation. The elected slate plus appointed positions follow;

• **Officers**

- President, Michael Slavens
- 1st Vice-President, Beau Crosby
- 2nd Vice-President, Ken Rataczak
- Secretary, George Littell (appointed)
- Treasurer, Vince Tobola
- Immediate Past President, Bill Milnor

• **Directors**

- Don Speed
- Joe Augeri
- Carol McHaney
- Ennis Sullivan
- Barbara Purselley
- Norma Thronburg
- Bill Porter
- Rusty Rowe
- Gary Urban
- Bill Easley
- Jim Milam
- Jon Ker
- **Directors Emeritus**
- Jimmie Hanes
- Dr. Harold Rafuse

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR MEMORIAL

Congress created exceptions to the law Dec. 14 to authorize a choice spot on the National Mall for a Global War on Terror Memorial to honor those who served in the nation's longest conflict, which is symbolically bookended by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the disastrous fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, in August.

The authorization was only the opening move in a 24-step process, including approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Park Service and other agencies before the monument can be built.

The foundation also will have to come up with a design to memorialize a war that was launched to avenge the worst attacks on American soil, rout "evildoers" and remake nations, but left many in the general public and veterans to question whether the price in blood and treasure was worth the effort.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, at a joint Pentagon press briefing with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sept. 1, acknowledged the doubts but said there was "one thing I am certain of. For any soldier, sailor, airman, Marine and their family, your service mattered."

The final design for the GWOT Memorial will come from an arts competition, but the foundation said the overriding theme is expected to avoid the why and how of the war to focus on what mattered in the service and sacrifice of troops and their families.

"The GWOT Memorial will be a lasting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all who have served -- especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice -- in the nation's longest ongoing conflict to protect our country, while inspiring all Americans to stand united behind those who continue to serve," the foundation said in a release.

The amendment authorized that a GWOT Memorial "shall be located within the Reserve," the core section of the 1.8-mile National Mall stretching from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial that now is home to the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation must come up with at least 75% of the projected \$50 million cost of the GWOT Memorial - - all through private donations -- before it can be built, but Jackman was confident that ground could be broken in 2024.

F-22 AIRCRAFT UPGRADE AND TEXAS

The Air Force has awarded Lockheed Martin a \$10.9 billion contract to modernize the F-22 Raptor fighter. If all contract options are exercised, the work being done in Fort Worth, should be finished by October 31, 2031.

The massive deal will cover up to a decade's worth of sustainment and modernization of the fifth-gen fighter, including, upgrades, enhancements and fixes to the Raptor. Lockheed will also provide logistics services and modernization hardware kit procurement.

HIGH ENERGY LASER TESTED

Amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland (LPD 27) conducted a high-energy laser weapon system demonstration, Dec. 14, while sailing in the Gulf of Aden. During the demonstration, the Solid State Laser – Technology Maturation Laser Weapons System Demonstrator (LWSD) Mark 2 MOD 0 aboard the Portland successfully engaged a static surface training target. Portland previously tested the LWSD in May 2020 when it successfully disabled a small unmanned aerial system while operating in the Pacific Ocean.

2022 PRIMARY VOTING DATES

You can go to web site co.mclennan.tx.us/337/elections to get info on the coming primary election.

- Jan 1, First day to apply for a ballot by mail using the Application for a Ballot by Mail, available on the web site.
- Jan. 31, Last day to register to vote.
- Feb. 14, First early voting by personal appearance.
- Feb. 18, Last day to apply for ballot by mail (**received**, no 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. 4th Street, Waco, TX 76701.

DFAS IRS TAX INFORMATION

Military retirees, former spouses, and annuitants should have access to their IRS Form 1099Rs via their myPay accounts, but those awaiting mail deliveries will need to wait a bit longer.

All tax statements mailed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will be sent no later than Jan. 31, 2022, the service announced in a Dec. 13 statement.

Retirees and former spouses were to have access to their 1099Rs by Dec. 17, per the release, with annuitant 1099Rs available Dec. 21. Other key 2022 dates for myPay form delivery:

- **Jan. 4:** Navy Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) W-2
- **Jan. 6:** Reserve Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force W-2
- **Jan. 8:** Army Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Employee W-2 (other service's NAF employees receive tax forms via their respective service)
- **Jan. 15:** Active/Reserve Marine Corps W-2
- **Jan. 20:** Federal Civilian Employee W-2/1095 (DoD/Non-DoD)
- **Jan. 22:** Army SLRP W-2; Savings Deposit Program (SDP) 1099INT
- **Jan. 25:** Active Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force W-2
- **Jan. 26:** Travel Pay 1099INT
- **Jan. 31:** Military/Military Retiree IRS Form 1095; Travel/Miscellaneous W-2

Need a reissue of a previous year's tax form? Visit the DFAS website for information. Need to change your mailing address? DFAS recommends doing so via myPay, but retirees also can do so by a change-ticket form. Other problems with myPay or DFAS? Contact the service at (888) 332-7411 or visit the DFAS customer services website, which includes detailed contact information, myPay and other resources, and holiday hours for the DFAS Customer Care Centers.

LOCAL WACO ACTIVITY

The Waco Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 9:00 am to 1 pm in downtown Waco at 500 Washington Avenue, Waco, TX 76701. It is located across Washington Avenue from the McLennan County Courthouse between 5th and 6th Street.



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

Address label

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

President

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

1st Vice President

Beau Crosby, Col, USAF (ret) (Kathy) 254-265-2023

2nd Vice President

Ken Rataczak, Col, USA (ret) (Anne) 254-776-4804

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Immediate Past President

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

Chaplain

John Wells, COL, USA (ret) (Su) coljtw@yahoo.com
 254-776-1143

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Carol McHaney (254) 716-6376

Legislative Liaison

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

Directors

Don Speed, CAPT, USAF (Ann) 254-366-5528
 Joe Augeri, Maj, USAF (ret) (Karen) 254-366-2544
 Carol McHaney 254-716-6376
 Ennis Sullivan, CAPT, USAF (Kay) 214-797-1464
 Barbara Purselley 254-716-4572
 Norma Thronburg 254-749-0957
 Bill Porter, COL, USA (ret) 479-616-2929
 Rusty Rowe, COL, USA (ret) (Susie) 301-727-0955
 Gary Urban, MAJ, USAF (ret) 254-715-6560
 Bill Easley, 1LT, USAF (Bernie) 214-693-4085
 Jim Milam, COL, USAF (ret) (Laura) 817-909-3588
 Jon Ker, COL, USA (ret) (Terri) 254-723-2546

Directors Emeritus

Jimmie Hanes, COL, USAF, (ret) (Mary) 254-848-5493
 Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary) 254-717-8112

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 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020
 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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