



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue VII

July 2022

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

I hope each of you had a blessed July 4th and remembered the sacrifices made by our soldiers past and present for this great nation. This month, 159 years ago on July 1-3, two armies met at Gettysburg and suffered over 51,000 casualties which were more than the casualties in both the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 combined. The sacrifices our brothers and sisters since our founding must not be forgotten!

Save the Date results. Our Freedom is Not Free golf fundraiser was a great success. We matched our 2019 results. I especially thank our chapter 20 volunteers who worked this effort and made it a success. An excellent BBQ lunch was served prior to tee-off by our caterer Marvin Mattheys of Hubbard. Even though the temperature at start time was in excess of 95°, only nine of the planned 43 golfers decided not to tee-off. Overall, we raised over \$12,000 to support our ROTC, JROTC, Young Marines, and Civil Air Patrol grants and scholarship programs. An outstanding effort by all involved. We have set the bar high for next year. Let's keep up the good work!

The scholarship(s) will be awarded at our July 21 member dinner meeting in the Baylor Club Media Room. Be sure to attend and meet outstanding future leaders and see the fruits of our fundraising efforts.

Here are a few other events occurring this month in Texas.

- Saturday July 9, 2022 - WWII Hidden Stories Program at the National Museum of the Pacific War, 311 East Austin Street, Fredericksburg, Texas. Event occurs every 2nd Saturday of the month

- Saturday July 9 and 23, 2022 – Texas Ranger Talks, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, 100 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco, Texas
- Sunday July 17, 2022 – Military family Day at the Candlelight Ranch, 6408 Muleshoe Bend Trail, Marble Falls, Texas 78654. The event is free to all Active duty, veteran, Blue Star and Gold Star families. RSVP required.
- Saturday July 30, 2022 –Calling All Heroes: Veteran, Military, and First Responder Appreciation Day. Frisco Texas - FREE admission to the Frisco Athletic Center and Frisco Water Park (outdoor) for all veterans, military, police, medical, and first responders, ID required
 - Form DD-214 (retired), with ID
 - Active military ID
 - Dependent military ID
 - Police or First Responder ID

Modernization effort. We are working with on revamping our HOTMOAA.org web site. In addition to giving it a new look, our goal is to make it more user friendly, provide secure on-line payment methods, and a secure member access portal, to name a few. More to follow next month.

As always, our HOT MOAA Challenge Coins make excellent gifts and are very reasonably priced at only \$15 per coin. Proceeds go toward our fundraising efforts. Time to pitch in! Contact Vince to pick up one but better yet get two or more.

P.S. As former military members, you should never go to the bar without one – could be costly. Finally, let's pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and the United States of America. They need our support reestablish the trust in our institutions and to restore civility.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

Thank you for your good work and support. See you at our July 21 dinner meeting for scholarship awards, music and patriotic sing-along - come out and enjoy!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

There is a new date for the next Board meeting which will now be on **MONDAY, July 25, 2022**; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive. This is a change from the original date of July 26th.

JULY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Jim Alexander, Bob Baugh, George Brinegar, Jan Cason, Jon Ker, Bill Milnor, Susan Patrick, Ken Ratajczak, Michael Slavens and Shirley Wilson.

Anniversaries: Bill and Judy Bauer, Bob and Gaye Baugh, Wally and Voncyle Burns, Dennis and Debby DeGraff, Don and Mary Aileen Edwards, Pat and Joe Herbelin, Scott and Linda Pitzer, Will and Dee Rogers, Bobby and Donna Sammon, and Ennis and Kay Sullivan.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

2022 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter member dues are \$25 for renewing members and were due starting January 1. Dues will be prorated for new members joining depending on the date in the year. Renewals can be paid at a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702. The Board is always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Ken Ratajczak, 254-776-4804 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 with prospect names. Reminder that our website, hotmoaa.org, does have chapter application form and MOAA membership forms. Dues for the chapter and MOAA are separate from each other.

THURSDAY DINNER MEETING JULY 21, 2022, AT MCLANE STADIUM, 1001 S MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD IN MEDIA ROOM, HOSTED BY THE BAYLOR CLUB.

Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. The media entrance has a separate outside entrance on the I-35 side of McLane Stadium and is located before the Baylor Club main entrance.

There will be a Media Entrance sign above the inset double door entrance located almost behind the white column at the stadium sidewalk. Go thru the doorway and take the elevator to the fifth floor. You can park in any space; the numbered spaces for 1-160's and 1-170's are across from the Media Entrance and there are steps to get up to the sidewalk at the building.

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 & Awards Ceremony & Sing Along**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Medley Mixed Vegetables, Red Roasted Potatoes, and Desserts. Fresh Brewed Iced Tea and water will be on the table.

Awards Ceremony and "Sing Along Patriotic Songs"

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, 14 July Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After the 14th, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if then planning to attend and we will update the attendee list to accommodate you at the dinner meeting. On another item, dinner cost may be charged for missed attendance, depending on total turnout for the meeting date.

NOTE: Summer dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, collared shirts and pants, optional for coat and/or tie and ladies attire as desired.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

- **18 August, Thursday, LUNCH meeting in President's Suite** at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker is Dr. T. Michael Parrish, PhD, Baylor University History talking on Doris Miller.
- **22 September, Thursday, DINNER meeting** at Media Room in McLane Stadium. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Jimmie Munroe, talking on rodeos.
- **20 October, Thursday, LUNCH meeting** at President's Suite in McLane Stadium. Guest speaker will be James Lux, talking on WWII B-24 Liberator memorial in Iceland.
- **17 November 2022, Lunch or Dinner** to be determined at McLane Stadium and guest speaker or entertainment pending.
- **15 December 2022, DINNER/DANCE** in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium. Proposed to have election for 2023 Officers and Directors plus music by the band, The Morticians.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Let us not forget other events that occurred in July - **remember:**

- July 1 1943 - the Women's Army Corp and Cadet Nurses Corp established
- July 2, 1926 - US Army Air Corps established
- July 3, 1775 - George Washington took command of the Continental Army
- July 4, 1776 - Declaration of Independence approved by the Continental Congress
- July 4, 1863 - Vicksburg surrenders to General Grant
- July 16, 1969 - Neil Armstrong steps on to the lunar surface
- July 26, 1944 - US Army began desegregating training facilities
- July 28, 1914 - WWI began
- July 27, 1953 - Korean War Armistice signed
- July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction began in Washington DC
- July 28, 1992 - National Buffalo Soldiers Day
- July 29, 1775 - US Army Chaplain Corps established
- July 30. 1942 - Navy Women's Reserves (WAVES) established

2022 SCHOLARSHIP GOLF FUNDRAISER

We want to express thanks to all that enabled the annual fundraiser to take place on June 10th at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. It was a hot day but the players and members made it happen.

Our thanks to the 20 member volunteers that showed up at varied times in the morning and the afternoon. This assistance involved tasks as setting up the registration tables, ticket jar prize tables, and silent auction tables; picking up and delivering the donor signs and storing signs after the event; managing the registration table and team assignments; assembling and handing out the player goody bags; monitoring play on the hole-in-one grand prize hole (no one scored); providing water and Gatorade beverages to players; collecting funds for silent auction items, preparation for the end of play prize awards' ceremony and tasks in between.

Lunch was served starting at 11:30 and tee-off was at 1:00 p.m. Golf continued until the finish of play. The final portion of the fundraiser concluded with various team and individual prize awards plus Blue Bell ice cream cups for all.

Our thanks again to the members who solicited and made donations for the prize items used in the silent auction, the ticket jar prize items, goody bag items and in general for all the cash donations from members and through business contacts.

Meanwhile, the scholarship committee is actively working the evaluation and interviews of the applicants for this year. Plan is to present at the July 21 dinner meeting.

We will be reviewing this event for lessons learned, adding members to the golf committee and to start planning for our 2023 fundraiser.

A final thanks to all for your support!

LOCAL EVENTS

- **July 16, Saturday**, Brotherwell Brewing, 400 E. Bridge Street, Waco. Phone number 254-301-7152. There will be various craft vendors and food trucks in the afternoon.
- **July 21 – 24, Thurs. – Sunday**, downtown Waco Hippodrome. Nearly 150 shorts and feature films will be showcased at the Deep in the Heart Film Festival week. Films also can be viewed online the next week. Info online at: deepintheheartff.com.

PACT ACT PASSAGE DELAYED

Following the 84-14 Senate vote in June on the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the *Honoring our PACT Act*, the House discovered a parliamentary procedure issue regarding one of the provisions in the bill. Since Congress is now in recess, passage of the PACT Act will be delayed.

HOW THE ANNUAL GIFT TAX EXCLUSION CAN BE A POWERFUL ESTATE PLANNING TOOL

There are many clichés about generosity, but it turns out your well-being **and** your financial plan may benefit if you share your wealth with your loved ones now rather than passing it on through your estate.

One way you can do so with no adverse tax consequences is through something called the annual gift tax exclusion.

The annual exclusion is the amount of money one person may transfer to another each year without incurring a gift tax. In 2022, the amount is \$16,000 per gift – in other words, this year you can give up to \$16,000 to as many people as you want without you or the recipient(s) owing taxes.

If you are married, your spouse can give the same amount. A married couple could potentially give a child, grandchild, or friend up to \$32,000 this year and neither the giver nor the recipient would owe taxes on the amount.

Even though there's an annual exclusion limit on cash gifts to individuals, there's no limit on the amount of gifts for qualified medical or educational purposes. The gifts can be made on behalf of any individual, regardless of their relationship to you.

The catch is that the amounts must be paid directly to the educational institution or medical provider and can't be paid to an individual as a "reimbursement" for expenses.

Gifting while you are alive reduces the size of your estate. Once you've exhausted the annual exclusion amount and the tax-free medical/educational gifts, any further gifts you make go against your lifetime estate and gift tax exemption amount.

The current federal estate tax exemption is \$12.06 million for individuals, \$24.12 million for a married couple. That sounds like a huge sum, and it's true that only a small percentage of Americans die with an estate valued this high.

However, the exemption amount is expected to drop to \$5 million (plus an adjustment for inflation) in 2026 when the current tax laws sunset. And there are proposals in Congress to drop it even further. If an estate is valued above the exclusion, much of the estate's value is taxed at a steep 40% rate.

And even if your estate isn't large enough to trigger the federal tax, there are 12 states and the District of Columbia that impose their own estate or inheritance tax or have limited exemptions.

Tax planning is an important aspect of estate planning. It's best to seek the advice of a tax professional when it comes to creating a comprehensive estate plan.

SECURE ACT 2.0 AND RETIREMENT STRATEGY

SECURE Act 2.0 has passed the House and is sitting in the Senate. There are four areas of interest and these may change during the legislative process.

- Retirement distribution rules are likely to change again. The original SECURE Act (2019) changed the required distributions from 70 ½ to 72, and it could become later.
- Military spouses may reap rewards. Any new legislation may include provisions that will incent employers, even small employers, to offer retirement plans to spouses. These changes could make the plans more attractive to both the employer (tax incentives) and military spouse (quicker eligibility, shorter vesting periods).
- Savers may be able to save more, later in the game. There might be an aggressive increase in "catch-up" contribution limits available to those 50 and older, and perhaps an additional boost for savers in their 60s.
- Employers are going to make it easier to save and more rewarding. Automatic enrollment – signing people up to make contributions to their employer retirement plan when they start a job – could get a boost, along with automatic increases in how much individuals contribute.

2022 "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

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