



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue VIII

August 2022

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Greetings

I hope each of you is having a wonderful, yet hot, summer. We have a lot to be thankful for this month. To name a few: August 14, 1945 the end of the war with Japan was announced; on August 18, 1920 the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified giving women the right to vote; and, on August 31, 2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom officially ended. We must remember the sacrifices made by our soldiers past and present and those citizens who struggled for equal rights was realized. The sacrifices our brothers, sisters and citizens made since our founding must not be forgotten!

2022 Scholarship Winners. Last month over 60 members/guests attended our membership dinner where you met Sydney King, our General Goodall \$5000 award winner who will attend Baylor University, and Montserrat Serrano, our Freedom is Not Free" \$2000 award winner who will attend Texas A&M University. – IMPRESSIVE! Let's do the same for our August 18<sup>th</sup> membership luncheon in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium where you will meet final scholarship awardee and outstanding student leader, Scott Harmon, the "Freedom is Not Free" \$3000 scholarship winner who attends Baylor University

Featured Speaker. You will not want to miss our guest speaker, Dr. T. Michael Parrish, the Linden G. Bowers Professor of American History at Baylor University and author of "Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor and the birth of the Civil Rights Movement". Dr. Parrish will highlight the sacrifices made by a Waco hero over 70 years ago and share how Miller's heroism remains felt to this day.

Website Modernization. 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. Our webmaster liked our approach and has reviewed and made a few recommendations. Vince and I are reviewing these and will discuss with our web master this month. I will give you a progress report next month.

Challenge Coins. As always, our HOT MOAA Challenge Coins make excellent gifts and are very reasonably priced at only \$15 per coin. These coins herald organization membership and help promote organizational camaraderie. 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 to reestablish trust in our institutions and to restore civility.

Thank you for your good work and support. I look forward to seeing you at our August 18<sup>th</sup> luncheon - come out and enjoy!

***Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving***

v/r  
Michael Slavens

# Upcoming Events and Information Items

## HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The August Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022**; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

## AUGUST SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

**Birthdays**: Joan Alexander, Karen Augeri, Anne Bowman, Ron Dampier, Bill Hulsey, Sally McErlean, Pete Patrick, Bill Porter, RoseMary Rafuse, Bobby Sammon, Joshua Schnelle, Pam Schreiber and Michael Strain.

**Anniversaries**: Ron and Jody Benson, Stan and Lori Brubaker, Beau Crosby and Kathy Endres, Willie and Gloria DuBose, Henry and Hope Hacker, Lee and Jeri Harkins, TJ and Christi Huntinghorse, John and Dawn Jacques, Bob and Penny Lull, Robert and Lyn Powers, Tony and Claire Raineri, Ken and Anne Ratajczak and Michael and Doris Strain.

## 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.

## AUGUST DATES

Aug 1: Air Force Day  
Aug 4: U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)  
Aug 7: Purple Heart Medal Established (1782)  
Aug 7: Vietnam War Began (1964)  
Aug 14: Japan Surrendered, Ending WW-II (1945)  
Aug 14: National Navajo Code Talkers Day  
Aug 16: National Airborne Day  
Aug 19: Women's Equality Day

## WACO AREA EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

For info, go to website, wacoheartoftexas.com. Also, stop by the Waco Visitor Center and Gift Shop at 106 Texas Ranger Trail, which is adjacent to the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame. It has free maps, visitor guides and numerous brochures.

## THURSDAY LUNCH MEETING AUGUST 18, 2022, AT MCLANE STADIUM – PRESIDENT'S SUITE, FIFTH FLOOR, HOSTED BY THE BAYLOR CLUB.

- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side and go to the end past the Baylor Club entrance and Founder's Club entrance and find the last inset doorway near the column;

- There will be a President's Suite sign above the inset double door entrance located near the white column. There is usually a sidewalk placard against the column with President's Suite name on it. Go thru the doorway and take the elevator to the fifth floor.

- The numbered spaces starting with rows 1-001, 1-025, 1-045 or 1-064 and up are across from the door entrance. You can park in any numbered space.

## LUNCH SCHEDULE

- \*\* 11:00 A.M. Registration and Social Period
- \*\* 11:35 A.M. Call to Tables
- \*\* 11:40 A.M. Intro & Announcements.
- \*\* 11:50 A.M. Lunch
- \*\* 12:20 P.M Multiple Drawings for Door Prizes & Award Ceremony & Guest Speaker Presentation on WWII Hero, Doris Miller

**MENU**: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad, artisan bread, Honey Glazed Salmon, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Roasted Asparagus, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Dessert. Fresh Brewed Iced Tea and water will be on the tables.

**Please note lunch 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, 11 August, 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 to attend 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: 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

- **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 or Dinner** meeting at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker under review since scheduled speaker on B-24 Liberator had to cancel.
- **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.

## GUEST SPEAKER – DR. T. MICHAEL PARRISH

T. Michael Parrish was born on January 5, 1953 in Ada, Oklahoma, United States. He is the son of Thomas Zaner and Frances Emmeline (Thomas) Parrish. His education consists of Education Bachelor, Baylor University, 1974, Master of Arts, Baylor University, 1976, Master of Library Science, University Texas, 1978, and Doctor of Philosophy, University Texas, 1991.

T. Michael Parrish is the Linden G. Bowers Professor of American History at Baylor University where he teaches an undergraduate course on Texas history as well as graduate seminars on the Civil War era. A former president of the Society of Civil War Historians, he is the author of *Richard Taylor: Soldier Prince of Dixie* (1992) and *Brothers in Gray: The Civil War Letters of the Pierson Family* (1997), and most recently, a coauthor of *Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor, and the Birth of the Civil Rights Movement* (2017). He also serves as editor or coeditor for book series on the Civil War era with the University of North Carolina Press, Louisiana State University Press, and the University of Arkansas Press.

On December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, the brave actions of Waco native and Navy messman Doris Miller made him a United States hero and left a lasting impact on the civil rights movement. Dr. T. Michael Parrish, the Linden G. Bowers Professor of American History and author of “Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor and the Birth of the Civil Rights Movement” shares how Miller’s heroism remains felt to this day.

## LOCAL EVENTS

- **Each Saturday**, Farmer’s Market, in downtown Waco across from the County Courthouse. Time is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.
- **Aug. 17, Wednesday**, 11th Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at Lee Lockwood Library & Museum, 2801 W Waco Drive, Waco, (Arrive by 10:30). Free and spouses are welcome. Please RSVP at [stancparkerfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:stancparkerfoundation@gmail.com)
- **Aug. 21, 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. Free.
- **Sep. 2, 3, 4, WESTFEST 2022**, held in the town of West. Friday, gates open at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. downtown West parade, open all day and evening, Sunday, Polka Mass 10 a.m., open all day and evening. Go to: [www.westfest.com](http://www.westfest.com) for detailed schedule, admission fees and directions and parking information.

## EXPANSION OF VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM

With about two months left until a congressional deadline, Veterans Affairs officials, said plans to expand the caregiver support program to veterans of all eras remain on schedule, even if fixes to other aspects of the program are still in limbo.

Currently, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers — which provides a monthly stipend to qualified full-time caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans — is open only to veterans who served before 1975 or after 2001. But per a mandate from Congress, the program must be opened to all families by Oct. 1 of this year.

About 33,000 families are enrolled in the 11-year-old program. Doubts about VA’s ability to expand it have surfaced in recent months amid other caregiver program turmoil.

In 2020, in anticipation of the upcoming expansion, VA officials rewrote eligibility criteria and reviewed about 19,000 legacy participants to see if they still qualified for the benefit. Specific payout totals based on where veterans live, but generally amount to about \$3,000 a month for the full level two stipend and \$1,800 for the partial level one stipend.



### **2022 EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The chapter evaluation committee has completed the evaluation process for 2022 and three scholarships are being awarded.

Two of the scholarship winners are pictured above and their scholarship presentations were made at the July 21 dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.

On the left is Montserrat Abigail Serrano, who received an award for \$2,000. She will be attending Texas A&M University. Montserrat is a graduate of Waco High School. Her parents are Henry and Aracely Dominguez Gonzales.

On the right is Sydney Ryan King, who received an award for \$5,000. Sydney will be attending Baylor University. Her parents are John and Jeffri King. She is a graduate of Salado High School.

The third recipient was not available on July 21 so his award will be presented at the coming August 18 luncheon in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium. The award will be presented to Scott Harton, who will receive an award for \$3,000. Scott is currently attending Baylor University and is an Air Force ROTC cadet.

### **NEW 988 VETERANS CRISIS HOTLINE**

VA announced veterans now have the option to Dial 988 then Press 1 to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. "During a crisis, every second counts," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care." While Dial 988 then Press 1 is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or by texting 838255.

### **WOMEN VETERANS AND VA BENEFITS**

Women veterans are the fastest growing veteran demographic and they are eligible for a wide variety of VA benefits. These benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. VA has improved care and services for women by establishing the Center for Women Veterans and providing Women Veteran Coordinators who are trained on the specific needs of women veterans, including care and assistance for survivors of military sexual trauma. The Women Veterans Call Center can assist with further information through their online chat, text, or call 1.855.VA.WOMEN.

### **GULF WAR MEMORIAL**

In July after 30 years since a U.S.-led international military coalition expelled occupying Iraqi troops from Kuwait, planners have broken ground on the long-simmering plans for a Gulf War memorial. It will be located at the corner of Constitution and 23<sup>rd</sup> streets. It will be known as the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial.



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

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 Website: [www.Cornyn.senate.gov](http://www.Cornyn.senate.gov) 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020  
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U.S. Senator Ted Cruz 300 E. 8<sup>th</sup>, Ste 961  
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 Washington, D.C. 20510  
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions 400 Austin Ave,  
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