



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

Volume MMXXII, Issue XII

December 2022

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings,

I wish you and your families a blessed holiday season. During this time, we should reflect on and be thankful for the blessings we have received. Let's not forget the progress and sacrifices made since the founding during the month of December. To name a few:

- December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama.
- December 4, 1991 - The last of 15 American hostages held in Lebanon was released. Three hostages; William Buckley, Peter Kilburn and Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, were killed during their captivity.
- December 5, 1933 - The 18th Amendment (Prohibition) to the U.S. Constitution repealed.
- December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified abolishing slavery.
- December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor attacked – over 3500 casualties.
- December 13, 1862 - The Battle of Fredericksburg occurred. Estimated losses were Union - 12,653, Confederate - 5,309.
- December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights became effective following ratification by Virginia.
- December 16, 1944 - In World War II, the Battle of the Bulge began that resulted in an estimated 77,000 Allied and 130,000 German casualties.
- December 17, 1777 - The Continental Army settled in for the winter at Valley Forge.
- December 17, 1903 - Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights at Kitty Hawk.

- December 21, 1988 - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed.
- December 22, 1783 - George Washington appeared before Congress and voluntarily resigned his commission.
- December 24, 1814 - The Treaty of Ghent between America and Britain was signed, officially ending the War of 1812.
- December 25th - Christmas Day, traditional date commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.
- December 25, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington led a surprise raid on Trenton capturing nearly 1,000 prisoners while suffering only six wounded.
- December 25, 1868 - President Andrew Johnson granted general amnesty to all those involved in the Civil War.

What does this mean? Our history and the sacrifices our brothers, sisters and citizens made since our founding must not be forgotten!

At last month's luncheon we had a very unique and insightful presentation of that history by ladies from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on letters/love letters from the front lines. I know all those attending enjoyed their presentation. Special thanks to Gerry and Bill Milnor for arranging this presentation.

This month we have our Dinner/Dance in the McLean Stadium President's Suite - music by The Morticians. We will also propose our slate of 2023 officers and Board of Directors for your consideration/approval.

Continued on next page.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

2022 scholarship articles. Please see our HOT MOAA (<https://hotmoaa.org/>), the Texas Council of Chapters (<https://www.texas-moaa.org/>) and MOAA websites for articles on this year's scholarship winners. New article included in National MOAA newsletter and may be view at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/texas-chapter-continues-its-tradition-of-supporting-local-students/>

Save the Date - 2023 Golf Fundraiser - Our golf tournament fundraising committee is actively planning this event. This is a **HOT MOAA team** event and volunteers are needed to assist with contacting businesses and at the event! Please be ready to assist us again in making our 2023 fundraiser a huge success. Please contact Vince Tobola to learn how you can help.

Save the Date - February 25, 2023 Freedom Ball. Our board of directors has funded a "Bronze Table", 10 seats, to show case our HOT MOAA brand. If you would like a chance to win a seat or two, please contact Vince to have your name entered into the drawing. Winners will be chosen at our December 15th dinner/dance. You must be present to win!

Challenge Coins. We still have HOT MOAA challenge coins available. These coins herald organization membership and show organizational camaraderie. As always, our 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! Pick up one or two at the luncheon registration table.

Finally, please continue to pray for our leaders to support and defend the Constitution and the United States of America. They need our support 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 December 15th dinner and dance - come out and enjoy!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

THURSDAY DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 15, 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 to the end of parking lot 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.

DINNER SCHEDULE

**** 6:00 P.M. Registration and Social Period**

**** 6:35 P.M. Call to Tables**

**** 6:40 P.M. Intro & Announcements & Chapter Election for 2023**

**** 6:55 P.M. Dinner**

**** 7:55 P.M Multiple Drawings for Door Prizes & Entertainment by the Band, The Morticians**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad, artisan bread, Dr. Pepper Pork Loin, Marinated Sirloin Steak, Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables, Red Roasted Potatoes and Desserts, Fresh Brewed Iced Tea and water will be on the tables. Coffee will be available.

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, 8 December, 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 dinner meeting. Dinner cost may be charged for missed attendance depending on the count and the guaranteed number.

NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, regular attire with coat and tie and ladies attire as desired. For this event, military uniforms are welcome.

ENTERTAINMENT – THE MORTICIANS

The Waco-based Morticians have been a mainstay of the Central Texas music scene since the band was formed by five high school students in 1965. Devoted to classic rock from the '50s, '60s and '70s, the group earned "Best Oldies Band" for 2006, 2007 and 2008 from the Music Association of Central Texas and has been voted "Best Band" in Central Texas in the Waco-Tribune Herald's Annual Reader's Poll several times. Band members have come and gone over the years, but The Morticians' distinct sound has always remained. A dance area will be included in the banquet room area

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 & 2023

- **19 Jan, Thursday, Dinner in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be B J Elliot Prior. She was a flight attendant for Continental Air Lines during Vietnam. She wrote a book, "Behind My Wings".
- **Feb 16, Thursday, Lunch in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Mrs. Frank Gentsch, who will talk about her father, Colonel Robert Howard, who was a Medal of Honor recipient.
- **Mar 16, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **Apr 20, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **May 18, Thursday, Lunch or Dinner at McLane Stadium,** depending on guest speaker or entertainment.
- **Save the Date, The** annual scholarship golf fundraiser will be on June 10, Saturday, registration start 6:45 a.m. and shot-gun start at 8:00 a.m. Location is City of Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco.

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD

The Veterans Land Board is here to serve Texans. For more information on benefits, go to vlb.texas.gov.

FEB 25 2023 FREEDOM BALL TICKETS

The Board approved purchase of a Bronze Table with ten seats at the Feb 25 2023 Freedom Ball to be held in the Waco Convention Center. There will be dinner, open ball, entertainment and a silent auction.

The Board also agreed that there would be a free drawing at the December 15 dinner/dance for the five pairs of tickets, **but actual winners would need to be present at the Dec. 15 meeting to win.**

If interested, please submit your name to Vince Tobola, vtobola@aol.com or call 254-709-5795.

PROPOSED 2023 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE DECEMBER 15TH MEETING AND ELECTION

Officers

President: Michael Slavens
1st VP: Ken Ratajczak
2nd VP: Bill Porter
Treasurer: Vince Tobola
Immediate Past President: Bill Milnor
Secretary: George Littell (Appointed)

Directors

Joe Augeri
Jim Milam
Barbara Purselley
Don Speed
Norma Thronburg
Bill Easley
Beau Crosby
Bill Hulsey
Ennis Sullivan
Jon Ker
Carol McHaney
Gary Urban

Directors Emeritus

Jimmie Hanes (Appointed)
Harold Rafuse (Appointed)



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HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

There will be no Board meeting in December. The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

DECEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Christine Brinegar, Beau Crosby, TJ Huntinghorse, Ken Mays, Carol McHaney, Larry Pennington, Barbara Purselley, Rusty Rowe, Marsha Slavens, Ann Speed, and Gary Urban.

Anniversaries: Jim and Joan Alexander, Michael and Teresa Flynn, John and Nora Householder, Harold and RoseMary Rafuse, Don and Pam Schreiber, and Russel and Renee Swann.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

2023 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

2023 chapter dues are coming and can be paid early at the December meetings or sent in.

Chapter member dues are still \$25 for renewing members. 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. Note the MOAA National Basic Membership is free.

Dues for the chapter and MOAA are separate from each other.

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.

WACO WONDERLAND

Waco rings in the holiday with this downtown event 2-4 December. It opens 5 – 1- pm Friday with tree lighting ceremony and fireworks show at 7 pm. Saturday runs from 10 a.m. to 10 pm and includes the holiday parade. Sunday activities are from noon to 6 pm. For more info, go to wacowonderland.com.

BUDGET TIME TABLE

When Congress returns from its Thanksgiving holiday, there will be 12 days left this year with both chambers scheduled to be in session. Over those dozen days, legislators face an overwhelming agenda which includes, but is not limited to:

- Finalizing and passing the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- Passing a federal budget to fully fund the government, or passing yet another continuing resolution.
- Increasing the national debt limit – failure here would degrade our nation's ability to operate even at reduced levels.
- Passing other legislation critical to the uniformed services and veteran communities.

From the beginning, the 117th Congress has been rife with political divisiveness, environmental uncertainties, appropriations and debt ceiling challenges, and ever-growing threats to the long-term viability of an all-volunteer force. Our elected officials face a nearly impossible agenda, and it is unclear whether they will be able to complete it all before noon on Jan. 3, 2023, when the new Congress is scheduled to begin.

From now through the remainder of this Congress, MOAA's top priority will remain the well-being of service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. We will do everything we can to ensure Congress honors the oath that every service member takes when they pledge to serve and protect our country. That starts with passage of the FY 2023 NDAA.

HOLIDAY OVERSEAS MAIL DEADLINES APPROACHING

The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: **Dec. 9** for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and **Dec. 16** for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip 093).

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

It has been 40 years since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The dedication was held on Nov. 13, 1982. However, the gratitude the Wall elicited from Col. Pete Peterson Jr., USA (Ret), remains as powerful today as it was when he first laid eyes on it in the mid-1980s.

Made of polished black granite, the Wall is inscribed with the names of the more than 58,000 service members who lost their lives during the war, listed in chronological order by date of casualty.

Since the Wall's 1982 dedication, four components have been added to the memorial site: the Three Servicemen statue, a flagpole, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, and the In Memory plaque, honoring those who died after the war ended.

While his purpose for the memorial was to honor those who fought and died, Vietnam War veteran and Wall founder Jan Scruggs never dreamed the structure would elicit the response it still does four decades later. Even today, the former Army specialist 4 (E-4) often travels from his Maryland home to the memorial, paying his respects and informally educating tourists.

The idea of a memorial was conceived by Scruggs in the late 1970s. After a design competition, the jury selected the minimalist design of then 21-year-old Yale University senior Maya Lin. But the memorial was never a sure thing as many powerful organizations and politicians opposed the idea right up to its construction date, said Scruggs.

"The Secretary of the Interior in March of 1982 had the construction permit, but he wouldn't give it to me," Scruggs said. "Thirty-two congressmen had called in within a period of 45 minutes and said do not give them the construction permit." However, with support from inside the White House, the Wall was constructed. According to Scruggs, former Army officer and then White House Fellow Tom Shull told the Department of the Interior not to hold up the permit despite its 11th-hour opposition. "We took the permit, ordered bulldozers and heavy equipment, and I told the bulldozer guy, 'just rip the Mall up,'" Scruggs said.

LOCAL RESTAURANT OPENING

Oak & Ivy Wine Bar Bistro, 13701 Woodway Drive, Suite #619 opened in June. It is in the Outlook Bosque Ridge Center along Highway 84 nest to the Midway ISD Administration Building. It is open Thursday – Saturday, 5 – 10 pm. Brunch is Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Website is www.oakandivywinebar.com. The menu is varied for fine dining. A unique feature of the dining room is an open-kitchen concept. Guest may site at the raised "chef's table" near the cooking area to watch the chef and other cooks prepare the meals. Phone number is 254-615-3111.

CHAPTER SUPPORTS THE VETERANS ONE STOP

(The following is the press article the Veterans One Stop released)

"HOT Chapter MOAA has long been a supporter of Veterans One Stop activities. The Chapter was chartered in 1971 and serves Waco, McLennan County and adjacent counties. The chapter members engage active military, veterans, surviving spouses and their families through social activities and advocacy at the state and local level.

This year, HOT Chapter MOAA presented the Veterans One Stop with a check for \$1,000 on November 10th to support the then upcoming 9th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Scheduled November 16th from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum in Waco, Texas. Veterans and their families will enjoy camaraderie, a festive meal, and entertainment. This event is something veterans look forward to each year and is an opportunity for the community to express gratitude and thanks for each military and veteran's service and dedication to the protection of each of us and our country!"

The photo shows on left Michael Slavens, President; in center Melinda Bonds, Associate Director for HOT Behavioral Health Network Veterans One Stop; and Vince Tobola, Treasurer.





Heart of Texas Chapter TX07, MOAA
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Address label

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

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

Surviving Spouse Liaison

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

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Directors Emeritus

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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 300 E. 8th, Ste 961
 127A Russell Senate Office Building Austin, TX 78701
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions 400 Austin Ave,
 2204 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 Suite 302
 202-225-6105. Waco, TX 76702

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