



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

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May 2022

Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

I wish each of you a blessed Mother's Day on May 8th. Additionally, did you know that there more than 14 other events that occur in the month of May? Lest we forget, these include VE Day, Military Spouses Day, Founding of Women's Army Corp, Armed Forces Day, National Maritime Day, and Memorial Day. Locally, on May 27th, the Annual Sunset Memorial at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial starts at 6 PM when we honor those fallen in the Vietnam War. The names of the 83 Waco area Military Members who were **Killed** or **Missing in Action** will be read by members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1012. Then on May 30th a Memorial Day remembrance will be held in Hewitt Park at 9am. The sacrifices our brothers and sisters must not be forgotten!

Last month I had the pleasure of presenting our HOT MOAA cash award, MOAA medal and certificate to Baylor Army ROTC Cadet Micah Warwick. There were more than 100 army cadets and military staff present. Very impressive! This month we will present HOT MOAA cash awards, MOAA medals and certificates to selected JROTC cadets from Connally, La Vega, Midway, University and Waco High Schools. Additional grants will be provided to the HOT Young Marines and Civil Air Patrol. We will also assist the Greater Dallas Chapter by providing a MOAA medal and certificate to a selected Corsicana JROTC cadet.

We had 39 attendees at our April dinner meeting who were updated on our scholarship fundraising efforts and the need for more support. We heard an excellent presentation on Habitat for Humanity about their mission and successful work in improving housing for Waco citizens. Our guest speaker was John Alexander, the Executive

Director of Waco Habitat for Humanity. I think we all learned a lot about the good work Habitat for Humanity is doing for the Waco community.

This month guest speaker is guest speaker will be Captain Kahlil El-Halabi of the Woodway Public Safety Department. Captain El-Halabi has been with the Woodway Public Safety Department since 2008 and is an Adjunct Professor at Baylor University, where he teaches Criminal Law and Community Law Enforcement. Let's have a large turn-out for our May 19th **lunch meeting** in the **President's Suite at McLane Stadium**.

Save the Date! June 10th is rapidly approaching and our fundraiser team still needs your support as we strive to exceed our previous fundraising efforts. I hope you will volunteer and/or contribute to the program's success. It is critical that we support the best and brightest future leaders. The success of our last fundraiser in 2019 allowed HOT MOAA to provide over \$15000 in scholarships and grants to deserving future leaders; 34% of our membership donated over 42% of that total. Think what we could achieve if more members contributed. To date only 17.8% of our membership has contributed \$7,300 to our current fundraiser. Three businesses have contributed \$800. We need your continued support to grow and support our ongoing charitable veterans programs. What can we do?

- Have at least 50% of the membership contribute to our fundraiser
- Increase the number of business that support our fundraiser

We will also need volunteers to support the golf venue on June 10th. Please contact Vince Tobola to participate.

(Continue next page)

Upcoming Events and Information Items

One of our smaller fundraising efforts is our HOT MOAA Challenge Coin. They 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 our next meeting.

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, the people of Ukraine and the United States of America. They need our support.

Keep up the good work. Enjoy our **lunch meeting** on May 19th!

Duty, Honor, Country – Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

P.S. Beau Crosby will be your host at the May luncheon as Marsha and I will be on vacation. I will be back the first of June to support our fundraiser. See you then.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The next Board meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 24, 2022; 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ and located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

MAY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Bob Corwin, Sandy Corwin, Robert Powers, Russell Swann and Sam Wright.

Anniversaries: Tim and Nancy Pfanner, Ray and Rosemary Sancton, Elmer and Norricia Speights and Doug and Pat Young.

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.

THURSDAY LUNCH MEETING MAY 19, 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 past the Baylor Club entrance and Founder's Club entrance and find the last 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 & Guest Speaker Presentation**

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

GUEST SPEAKER – Captain Khalil El-Halabi, Woodway Public Safety Department. He was recently the recipient of the International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 award that recognizes forty Law Enforcement Professionals from around the world.

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, 12 May, 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: 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

- **10 June, Annual fundraiser golf tournament, Friday lunch and afternoon at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco. Information is on the hotmoaa.org website.**
- **21 July, Thursday, dinner meeting in Media Room** at McLane Stadium. Presentation of educational scholarships and “Sing Along Patriotic Songs”.
- **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,** lunch or dinner and location under review, with guest speaker or entertainment to be announced.

VETERANS HOME CARE BILL

A bill introduced to the House in February could improve health care services for veterans who have caregivers.

The Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act aim to improve and expand the current home and community health care services for disabled veterans being cared for through the VA’s family caregiver program.

If passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden, H.R. 6823 would:

- Raise the cap from 65 percent to 100 percent on how much VA pays for veteran’s home care.
- Establish a VA pilot program to address home health aide shortages.
- Provide respite care – time off – to caregivers of veterans enrolled with in-home care programs.
- Expand access to home and community-based services for veterans living in territories of the U.S. and to veterans enrolled in the Indian Health Service or tribal health programs.

However, the bill is in the first steps of the legislative process and is now just starting to go through various committee reviews before it can then be presented to the House for a vote. It then would have to go to the Senate for consideration.

VETERAN RELATED EVENTS FOR MAY

- **Thursday, May 5th,** Free breakfast at the Waco Veterans One-Stop, 2010 LaSalle, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- **Friday, May 13th,** Free Legal Advice for Veterans at the Veterans One-Stop, 2010 LaSalle, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:** call 254.710.4244.
- **Friday, May 27th,** Annual Sunset Memorial at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial starting at 6 p.m. This local event is to honor those fallen in action in the Vietnam War. Names of the 83 Waco area Military Members who were killed or missing will be read by the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) 1012 Members. Other Military Members may also be recognized by attendees.
- **Monday, May 30th,** Memorial Day Holiday.
- **Monday, May 30th,** There will be a Memorial Day Remembrance at Hewitt Park, 801 S. Hewitt Drive. It will begin at 9 a.m. To assist with the reading of names of veterans who have passed since 2021 Memorial Day, Norma Thronburg would welcome the receipt of names of those who have passed in the year since the last Memorial Day. Her contact info is phone 254-749-2146 or nthronburg@sbcglobal.net.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN MAY

- **May 1, Law Day**
- **May 1, Loyalty Day**
- **May 6, Military Spouses Day**
- **May 7, Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed, 1945**
- **May 8, Mother’s Day**
- **May 8, V-E Day Declared, 1945**
- **May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day (Flag at half-staff until sunset)**
- **May 15, Women’s Army Corps Founded, 1942.**
- **May 21, Armed Forces Day**
- **May 22, National Maritime Day**
- **May 30, National Memorial Day**

GUEST SPEAKER – CAPTAIN KHALIL EL-Halabi

Captain Khalil El-Halabi was born in Beirut, Lebanon and immigrated to the United States as a child during Lebanon's Civil War. He is married to Callie El-Halabi and they reside in the Woodway area. They are members of Highland Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

Captain El-Halabi has been with the Woodway Public Safety Department since 2008. He is currently a Captain with the Woodway Public Safety Department and oversees the functions of approximately 30 police officers that serve the community; he is also Dual-Certified as Fire-Fighters with the state of Texas. Captain El-Halabi holds a Master's Degree from Purdue University Global and also holds a Master Peace Officer License through the State of Texas. Lastly, Captain El-Halabi is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Public Administration from Liberty University.

Captain El-Halabi is an Adjunct Professor at Baylor University, where he teaches Criminal Law and Community Law Enforcement. He also instructs at the police academy, where he trains cadets on health and nutrition, professional policing, police ethics, physical and mental well-being, cultural diversity and many other topics. He was recently the recipient of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 40 Under 40 award that recognizes forty Law Enforcement Professionals from around the world who demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment to their profession.

LOCAL EVENTS

- May 1 and May 15, Brotherwell Brewing, 400 E. Bridge Street, Waco. Phone number 254-301-7152. Starting last month, the Eastside Market hosted by Brotherwell Brewing will be on the first and third Sunday afternoons in their courtyard area. It is free to attend and park. There will be various craft vendors and food trucks on site.
- May 7, KidZoobilee at Cameron Park Zoo. Kid-friendly activities such as rock wall, inflatables and a zip line are part of the fun, which is geared to children ages 2-12. The event is from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Food trucks are available. Cost is \$20 per adult and child. Online: cameronparkzoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 10TH

The **June 10, 2022** annual scholarship golf fundraiser information has been placed on the chapter web site, hotmoaa.org. This information has also been distributed to the membership recently. Copies of the forms will also be available at the May 19 lunch meeting.

The golf fundraiser will be held on Friday, June 10th at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. Registration starts at 11 a.m., lunch is available starting at 11:30 a.m. and players tee-off at 1 p.m.

The golf fee is \$125 per player and includes golf fee, cart, range balls, lunch and a gift bag. There will be various team and hole prizes plus four hole-in-one prizes. More information can be found at the website, hotmoaa.org.

MOAA EARLY COMMENTS ON COLA 2023

The economic indicator responsible for setting the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees, disabled veterans, Social Security recipients, and others has edged even closer to record-setting territory.

Frequent visitors to MOAA's COLA Watch page won't be surprised by this trend, but new figures point to an even larger adjustment in 2023 to combat ongoing inflation.

The March Consumer Price Index for Urban and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), a figure released in April, was 1.52% higher than the February number. It's the largest February-to-March jump for CPI-W since at least 1978, when the statistic underwent a major revision and name change.

While the figures determining the annual COLA won't be set until later in the year – a walkthrough on the math is available at [MOAA.org/colawatch](https://www.moaa.org/colawatch) – predictions point to a major uptick from last year's 5.9% COLA. The Senior Citizens League, a nonpartisan advocacy group, predicted an 8.9% 2023 COLA increase based on the March data. That's up from the group's 7.6% estimate the previous month.

If that figure holds, it would be the third-largest COLA since 1975, behind an 11.2% increase in January 1982 and a 14.3% boost the previous year. No other increases topped 10%.

NEW DIRECTOR AT NOAA

Rear Admiral Nancy Hann was confirmed as the new Director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in November 2021, which has a cadre of 329 officers.

VA ADD OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES FOR THOSE HAVING SERVED IN SOUTHWEST THEATER OF OPERATIONS

As part of President Biden's Unity Agenda commitment to support the nation's Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

The following list of rare respiratory cancers will be added to VA's regulations through an Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2022:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the **Southwest Asia theater of operations** beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply.

Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits.

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit VA.gov or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.

VA WARNING TO ALWAYS BE AWARE OF SCAMS

Veterans Affairs officials are warning about an uptick in scam attempts targeting veterans' pensions that could result in serious financial problems for elderly or infirm individuals. "Fraudsters are getting smarter, more deliberate and more engaged. They're getting better," said Charles Tapp II, chief financial

for the Veterans Benefits Administration. "We are seeing a lot more instances where veterans — particularly seniors — are getting fraudulent calls ... So we certainly are making our senior veterans more aware about pension poaching."

Earlier this year, the Federal Trade Commission reported that about 2.8 million Americans filed fraud complaints in 2021, the most on record. The agency estimated that consumers lost more than \$5.8 billion to scams last year.

VA officials said older veterans with military pensions or other regular department payouts can be attractive targets for would-be-thieves. Pension theft can occur when an outside party — a stranger or someone known to a veteran, such as a caregiver — convinces veterans to shift their payouts to a new bank account or a separate financial product (annuities or trusts, for example), preventing them from accessing the money.

Tapp said when veterans' bank accounts are changed without explanation; it triggers an internal check within VA to ensure that fraud is not occurring. But other theft schemes are more difficult to detect and may only be corrected after months of malfeasance have already occurred.

In a series of recent outreach efforts, department officials are reminding veterans that VA does not charge to process applications for benefits and services, and it is against the law for an outside group or attorney to charge claimants for preparing benefits applications

Tapp said if individuals are confused about available services or benefits, they can contact VA's National Call Center at 1-800-827-1000. If someone calls about veterans benefits and asks for personal information, the interaction is likely a scam.

FREE AT HOME COVID TESTS

If you already ordered four no-cost at-home from Covidtests.gov, now you can get four more at-home tests shipped at no charge.

Visit COVIDtest.gov again to place your second order. As before, just enter your name and mailing address (you can also give your e-mail address if you want status updates on your order).

If you have not yet ordered any at-home tests, you can get a total of 8 tests shipped to your home. You will have to place two separate orders — each order equals four tests.

Visit CDC.gov to learn when to test yourself, how to use an at-home test, and what your test results mean.



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

Address label

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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
 127A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 202-224-5922

U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions 401 Austin Ave,
 2204 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 Suite 302 ,Waco, TX
 202-225-6105. 76702

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