



PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Greetings

What a great country! Marsha and I could not be with you last month as we are on our fall road trip visiting our family and friends on the east coast and mid-west. Fall colors are definitely on display in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. We look forward to seeing you at this month’s dinner meeting. Special thanks to RoseMary Rafuse for quickly filling in at the last minute when our guest speaker could not attend last month’s meeting.

Do not forget - Our planning for our June 8, 2024 fundraiser has begun with the goal of increasing membership and Waco community support for the event. This requires a full team effort. New ideas are always welcome on how to attain success and to make 2024 the best year yet!

Our Board Nominating Committee is still seeking nominees to replace Board Directors whose terms of service will expire at the end of this year. I encourage those interested serving on our Board of Directors to contact Bill Milnor. New Board members are needed to bring fresh and innovative ideas to keep our organization dynamic and viable.

We received a request to support the 2023 Baylor Vets 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Battle of the Branches. After consideration and discussion, the Board determined that excess funds were not budgeted to support this program. However, I think supporting the “Battle of the Branches” is a worthwhile effort and I personally plan to make a donation. If you would like to join me in supporting the Baylor Vet 2023 “Battle of the Branches”, please let me know.

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS**

“It will not be denied that power is of an encroaching nature and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it.” – James Madison, *Federalist* 48, 1788

“To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught

alike, especially when young, how to use them...”- Richard Henry Lee

“The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.” – John Adams, “A Defense of the Constitutions of the Government of the United States of America”, 1787

Sources: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/founders-quotes>  
<https://thefederalistpapers.org/us/10-essential-quotes-2nd-amendment-founding-fathers>

**THINGS TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON IN OCTOBER:**

- Oct 2, 1789** - The United States Bill of Rights is sent to the States for ratification
- Oct 3, 1993** - Mogadishu: Eighteen US soldiers and over 350 Somalis die in an American attack of a Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aideed
- Oct 7, 2001** - Operation Enduring Freedom -The United States and Great Britain invaded Afghanistan in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US.
- Oct 8, 1918** - Sgt Alvin York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre
- Oct 10, 1845** - The U. S. Naval Academy opens with 50 students.
- Oct 13, 1792** - George Washington laid the cornerstone of the White House
- Oct 16, 1859** - John Brown and followers seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry
- Oct 17, 1777** - The Battle of Saratoga – British General Burgoyne surrenders to General Gates
- Oct 19, 1781** - The British surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown.
- Oct 21, 1967** - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C.
- Oct 23, 1983** - Beirut, Lebanon: terrorists exploded a truck loaded with TNT in the U.S. / French

headquarters killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

**Oct 25, 1983** - Grenada invaded by the U.S. to restore "order and democracy."

**Oct 26, 1944** - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, ends

**Oct 27, 1787** - The first of 85 Federalist Papers appeared in print arguing for the adoption of the new U.S. Constitution.

**Oct 29, 1929** - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed in America

**Oct 31, 1952** - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at Elugelab in the Eniwetok Atoll

**Oct 31, 1968** - President Johnson ordered a halt of the bombing of North Vietnam.

### **EVENT REMINDER**

**Salute to Heroes** - Calling all Baylor University Veteran Alumni! Baylor University departments are teaming up to host a day of celebration and appreciation for all of our students, faculty and staff, and alumni who have or are serving in the United States military. We hope you and your families (spouses and children) will join us on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Exact time of game and rehearsal meetup is TBD. Typically, participants are asked to arrive at least 2 hours before the Anthem so that a rehearsal can be conducted on the field. The event will include:

- Pre-game tailgate at the large pavilion by the Law School with FREE food (menu will be finalized once game-time is announced)
- On-field experience – unfurling the massive American on the field for the National Anthem!
- Free premium seats up close to all the action!!

Registration required. Register at:

[https://baylor.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4O4cdKhp\\_g4gHO7Q](https://baylor.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4O4cdKhp_g4gHO7Q)

**Duty/Honor/Country---Always Serving**

v/r

Michael Slavens

**THIRD THURSDAY DINNER MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2023 AT MCLANE STADIUM –**  
**MEDIA ROOM ON 5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR.**

- Enter stadium parking lot thru gate 1, off of MLK Blvd and bear right. Continue on I-35 side and for

double door with Media Entrance located above door. This is before the Baylor Club main entrance. Go thru door and take elevator to the fifth floor. There is normally placard sign at the white column.

As before, you can park in any numbered space.

### **DINNER SCHEDULE**

**\*\* 5:00 P.M. Registration Table Opens and Social Period.**

**\*\* 5:35 P.M. Call to Table.**

**\*\* 5:40 P.M. Intro & Announcements &**

**\*\* 5:50 P.M. Dinner.**

**\*\* 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings & David Bonner, military historian with presentation 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team**

**MENU:** Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Chicken Fried Steak with gravy, Grilled Tilapia, Red Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, Desserts with Fresh Brewed Iced Tea, water and coffee.

A bar will be available and payment will be credit card payment only due to Baylor Club policy.

**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, 12 October Noon for sign-ups.**

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated. After the 14th, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if you are planning to attend and we will update the attendee list to accommodate you at the dinner meeting.

**NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, collared shirts and coat, optional for tie and ladies attire as desired.**

**OCTOBER DINNER MEETING GUEST SPEAKER, DAVID BONNER**

David Bonner is the Chief Historian of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and is Director of the History Programs Office for the Squadron Officers School, Air Command & Staff College, and the Air War College. After graduating from Texas Christian University, David was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Air Force and served on active duty as an ICBM Missile Crew Officer at FE Warren Air Force Base. Since beginning his career as an historian, David

has published articles through the Army University Press, as well as his first book *Nisei Spirit* about the soldiers of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. He is the Silas Palmer Fellow of Military History at the Hoover Institution and is completing his PhD in History at the University of Edinburgh.

### **2023 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

**\*16 November, Thursday dinner meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be Ashley Millerd, Waco Solid Waste Administrator talking on recycling.

**\*14 December, Thursday dinner meeting in the President's Suite at McLane Stadium.** Election of chapter officers and directors will be held; guest speaker will be MOAA Rep. Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (ret) followed by live entertainment by the band, the Morticians.

### **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

### **OCTOBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** Lew Arend, Teresa Flynn, Elizabeth Garcia, Bill Hearn, Nora Householder, George Littell, Penny Lull, Don McErlean, Scott Pitzer, Richard Sweeney, Norma Thronburg, Doug Young, and Pat Young.

**Anniversaries:** George and Pam Holmes, Rusty and Susie Rowe, Michael and Masha Slavens, and John and Su Wells.

### **Congratulations to All**

### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – VINCENT J. TOBOLA, PAST PRESIDENT AND CURRENT TREASURER, HOT CHAPTER MOAA**



In his distinguished United States Air Force (USAF) career, Vince Tobola served as a commissioned officer. During his 24 year career from 1975 to 1999, he held varied civil engineering staff positions at base and headquarters levels, including at 12h Air Force, Headquarters USAFE, and Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency and command as Base Civil Engineer. Vince held posts in Michigan, Germany, Texas (twice),

Republic of South Korea, New York and Florida (twice).

He is a graduate of both Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff School. Vince has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and a Master's Degree in Management from Troy University. He is a Texas licensed professional engineer.

After the Air Force, Vince began a second career with the City of Waco has the Facilities Program Administrator and Facilities Manager from 1999 to 2018. He was responsible for daily maintenance, repair and operations of over 80 City buildings and related major renovation and construction of facilities. He coordinated with City Departments on building requirements as well as Architect and Engineering firms and Contractors on major renovation and construction projects.

During his City career, he oversaw and managed many varied projects. Major renovations included Riverside Administrative Building, Central Library, West Waco Library, East Waco Library, Waco City Hall, Waco Convention Center, South Waco Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Center, Dewey Recreation Center, Bledsoe Miller Recreation Center, Harrison Community Center, Drug Enforcement Unit Building, Streets Building, Solid Waste Office Building, Vehicle Maintenance Building, Mt. Carmel Lab Area, Water Office, Sul Ross Recreation Center, Fire Station 8, Fire Station 9 and Fire Station 4. New construction projects included the Parks and Recreation Building, Fire Station 10, Fire Station 3, Fire Station 12, Fire Station 14, and South Waco Library. Major interior renovation projects included the former Hillcrest Medical Support ten-story high rise for Waco Police Headquarters and major interior renovation of former Police Building for Emergency Management and Information Technology.

Vince has lifetime memberships in MOAA, the Society of American Military Engineers, the NRA and the VFW. He also is a member of American Legion Post 121, VFW Post 4819, Waco Founder Lions Club, and National Association of Professional Engineers. He was past president of the HOT Chapter for two years and is the current

chapter treasurer. Vince is also treasurer for the Texas Council of Chapters MOAA.

Vince enjoys regional travel, trying out local area and new restaurant venues, photography, reading and visiting historical sites. He previously enjoyed his two long-time hobby cars, a 1981 Corvette and a 1968 Mustang, but had to recently find new homes for both vehicles.

### **SEPTEMBER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECAP**



Madison Kirkwood was the last of six scholarship award winners to be recognized. She was awarded \$2,000 and is currently attending Baylor

University. Her parents, Todd and Deena Kirkwood also attended. Harold Rafuse presented a chapter coin to Todd Kirkwood in recognition of his 38 years of service with the Air National Guard.



### **2023 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Chapter member dues are still \$25 for renewing members. Member renewals can be paid at a chapter meeting or mailed to HOT Chapter MOAA, PO Box 23964, Waco, TX 76702.

We are always looking for prospects to join the chapter; please contact Bill Porter, 254-495-5601 or Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 with prospect names.

Reminder that our website, [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org), does have the 2023 chapter membership application form plus copies of newsletters. Newsletters are sent to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail.

### **FREE BAYLOR LAW VETERANS LAW CLINIC**

This is free legal advice for veterans and their spouses in Central Texas to be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Heart of Texas Veterans One Stop at 2010 La Salle Ave., Waco. This is by appointment only; please call 254-710-4244 or e-mail [LegalClinics@baylor.edu](mailto:LegalClinics@baylor.edu) to make an appointment.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

The list below is the ballot wording for the fourteen state constitutional amendments that will need a majority of voters in order to pass.

**Proposition 1:** Protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.

**Proposition 2:** Authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

**Proposition 3:** Prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

**Proposition 4:** Authorizing the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.

**Proposition 5:** Relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.

**Proposition 6:** Creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.

**Proposition 7:** Providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.

**Proposition 8:** Creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.



**Proposition 9:** Authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**Proposition 10:** Authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.

**Proposition 11:** Authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

**Proposition 12:** Providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.

**Proposition 13:** Increasing the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.

**Proposition 14:** Providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Early voting dates are October 23 thru November 3. Go to website, [www.mclennanvotes.com](http://www.mclennanvotes.com) or call 254-757-5043 locations and times.

### **MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

If needed, there is a MOAA membership form at the chapter website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org). **Basic membership is free** and fees are shown for annual and life memberships.

### **VETSFEST FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 18**

VetsFest luncheon will be on Wednesday, October 18 at VFW Post 6008, 725 Sun Valley Blvd, Hewitt, TX 76643. Menu will be brisket, sausage, buttered potatoes, beans, cookies and drink at donation cost of \$12.50. Lunch will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To place takeout orders, call Henry Gonzales at 254-405-0649 or e-mail at [tophgonzales@gmail.com](mailto:tophgonzales@gmail.com). Cash or check only please for payment. Funds raised help support the McLennan County Veterans Association.

### **FREE COVID TESTS AVAILABLE AGAIN**

Free Covid tests can be ordered again. Four test kits per household are available for free. To order, go to [covidtests.gov](http://covidtests.gov) or contact phone number, 1-800-232-

0233. Orders can be place now and will start shipping through USPS after October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **COLA RELOOK**

Mid-October is when final calculations will be made for the annual cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for military retirees, VA disability recipients, Social Security beneficiaries, and others receiving certain federal payments for 2024 is settling in at a higher-than-expected figure ... one that's still well below last year's adjustment.

MOAA predicts the upcoming COLA will be 3.2%, down 5.5 percentage points from last year's 8.7% increase. It's the smallest figure in three years, but it's just the fifth time in 20 years the adjustment has reached 3% or higher.

### **AREA EVENTS**

- The Heart of Texas Fair runs from October 5 – 15 at 4601 Bosque Blvd. Friday, October 6 has free admission for military with ID; hours that day are 4 p.m. to midnight. For more info on admission, hours and more go to [www.hotfair.com](http://www.hotfair.com).
- The State Fair of Texas in Dallas opened on September 29<sup>th</sup> and runs thru October 22. For information, go to [bigtex.com](http://bigtex.com) or call 469-945-3247. It is located at 925 S. Haskell, Dallas.
- Magnolia Silobration will be 19 -21 October at their location on Webster Avenue between S. 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. Daytime visit to the site and for the expected over 50 venders and small businesses is free and available to 5 p.m. However, Friday and Saturday evening entertainment venues require a ticket. For more information, go to [magnolia.com](http://magnolia.com).

### **MOAA Newsletter Sep 28, 2023 Items to Read**

- MOAA Supports Survivor Advocacy Efforts on Capitol Hill
- MOAA, Other Groups Seek to Protect Key Financial Safeguard for Servicemembers
- More Burial and Funeral Costs Can Now Be Covered by Veterans Benefits
- Total of Overdue VA Disability Claims Balloons to Almost 300,000

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

Address label

**2023 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dr. Harold Rafuse, LtCol, USAF (ret.) (RoseMary)254)-717-8112

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202-228-2856

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz 300 E. 8<sup>th</sup>, Ste 961  
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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

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622

MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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