



PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Greetings

What a great year with more to follow! For those who did not attend last month’s dinner meeting, you missed an excellent presentation by Waco’s Chief of Police Sheryl Victorian -- lots of positive progress in crime prevention and reduction for the Waco community. Impressive!

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.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.” – John Adams

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” – Thomas Jefferson

"If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin." – Samuel Adams

Stay in informed with military active/retiree news and advocacy information

Be sure and read the MOAA Aug 24 Newsletter. Some key articles in this issue include:

- Caring for Survivors Act – ask your lawmakers to co-sponsor this bipartisan bill
- New rules could change payment methods for some VA beneficiaries

- What current VA beneficiaries should know about the PACT Act
- Exclusive MOAA vacations discounts will save you thousands of dollars

THINGS TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

- Sep 1 1939 – Germany invaded Poland
- Sep 2, 1864 – Sherman captured Atlanta
- Sep 3, 1783 – The Treaty of Paris signed
- Sep 9, 1943 – The invasion of Salerno
- Sep 11, 2001 – Terrorists attack the US
- Sep 13, 1814 – Battle of Fort McHenry
- Sep 15, 1776 – Gen Howe captures New York
- Sep 17, 1787 – U.S. Constitution approved
- Sep 17, 1862 -- Antietam
- Sep 18, 1947 – U.S. Air Force established
- Sep 19, 1994 -- U.S. troops invade Haiti
- Sep 22, 1776 – Nathan Hale executed
- Sep 22, 1862 – Emancipation Proclamation
- Sep 24, 1957 – Nat’l Guard to Little Rock
- Sep 25, 1798 – Bill of Rights ratified
- Sep 26, 1918 – Battle of the Argonne began
- Sep 29, 1789 – U.S. Army created
- Sep 30, 1949 – The Berlin Airlift ends

EVENT REMINDER

The Importance of Civil Discourse - Prof. Akhil Amar Speaks at Baylor Law's 2023 Starr Federalist Papers Lecture Series at 4:00PM on Sep 28, 2023 in Room 127 of the Baylor Law School. Yale University Prof. Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science, will discuss the historical role civil discourse played in Texas’ formation and the importance of the First Amendment right to free speech is critical. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP: baylor.edu/law/StarrFederalistLecture. For more information, contact Katherine Sims, 254-710-3239 or Katherine_Sims@baylor.edu.

Duty/Honor/Country---Always Serving

v/r

Michael Slavens

THURSDAY DINNER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 AT MCLANE
STADIUM – MEDIA ROOM ON 5th 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 & Recognition of the remaining scholarship award winner, Madison Kirkwood.**

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

**** 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings & Guest Speaker, Dr. Moshinske talking on life change planning and preparation.**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Dr. Pepper Pork Loin, Chicken Picatta, Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, 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, 14 September 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: Summer dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, collared shirts and pants, coat and/or tie optional and ladies attire as desired.

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING GUEST SPEAKER, DR. JIM MOSHINSKE

Throughout Dr. Moshinske's life, he has strived to follow God's advice that service to humanity is the

best walk in life. You can see this in the roles he has undertaken: Paramedic, Funeral Director, Performance Improvement Technologist and Bible Teacher. He is the funeral director at Oak Crest, Pecan Grove & Grace Gardens.

He has been a MIS professor at Baylor University for 28 years. He is the president and founder of Certified Performance Technologist (DPT) through International Society of Performance Improvement (ISPI) since 2000. He has received many major performance improvement awards from both ISPI and ASTD. He established e-learning weekly, an award-winning corporate-wide on-line University for training all employees on all topics in 1998. Dr Moshinske has a BA in Journalism for Arkansas State University and a PHD in Health Education from Texas A&M University, College Station.

2023 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

*** 19 October, Thursday dinner meeting in Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Guest speaker will be David Bonner, who is a military historian.

***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, September 26, 2023**, 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Ron Benson, Jim Buehrig, Debby DeGraff, Mary Duty, Jerry Gordon, Elizabeth Garcia, Christi Hunting Horse, Susan Perdue, Nancey Pfanner, and Diana Ramey.

Anniversaries: Charles "Doc" and Lyn Anderson, Lew and Liz Arend, Larry and Mary Gee, Pete and Susan Patrick, Billie and Mauve Sawyer, and Matt and Savana Urban.

Congratulations to All

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – DONALD SCHREIBER, PAST PRESIDENT, HOT CHAPTER, MOAA



In his distinguished United States Air Force (USAF) career, Don held a variety of aircrew, staff and command positions. A native Washingtonian, born in Seattle, Washington and raised on Whidbey Island, Don graduated and was commissioned from Washington State University. After graduation, he completed USAF pilot training at Vance Air Force Base (AFB), Enid, Oklahoma. He then completed RF-4C training and was assigned to the fly reconnaissance missions in the European theater. Next, Don volunteered for Viet Nam and from September 1967-May 1968 flew 100 missions over North Viet in RF-4C Phantom.

After his initial Viet Nam tour, he transitioned to the KC-135A Stratotanker and from 1971-1972 flew refueling mission over Viet Nam. After a brief stint in the KC-135A, Don transitioned to the U-2 program and from 1971-1975 flew reconnaissance mission over Viet Nam. All total, from 1967-1975, Col. Schreiber flew 459 combat missions (nearly 800 hours). Don continued to serve with the U-2/SR-71 programs from 1970-1989 in crew positions, staff positions and command positions.

Education-wise, he graduated in residence from USAF Squadron Officer's School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College. In addition to completing a National Defense University National Security Management Course, he also found time to complete two masters' degrees.

For his outstanding service, Col Schreiber was awarded the Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with sixteen Oak Leaf Clusters, 1970 Outstanding Young Men of America award among others.

Don is married to the former Pam Driver and has three daughters, Laura, Kirsten and Erin, and 13 grandchildren. He is active in our Heart of Texas Chapter, and the Order of Daedalians, James Connally Flight 75 in Waco, Texas.

AUGUST SPEAKER RECAP

We were introduced to Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian. Chief Victorian has over 28 years police experience with the Houston Police Department before accepting her current role as the Waco Police Chief. She delivered a very insightful presentation of the policies and procedures she implemented to improve community – police relations that has reduced overall crime in Waco this year.



Photo above: August 17 dinner meeting guest speaker, Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian

The Chief explained the policies she introduced that have improved overall morale within the police department. Chief Victorian's presentation was very informative and well received.



Photo above: presentation of MOAA pen by Chapter President, Michael Slavens to Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian. She also received a chapter coin.

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, does have the 2023 chapter membership application form plus copies of newsletters. Newsletters are sent to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail.

AUGUST 2023 GRANT AND DONATION PRESENTATIONS

Our Chapter presented a \$500 donation to the Stan Parker Foundation on August 9th at the Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. Several chapter members were in attendance. Note: Pictures will be published at a later date.

Norma Thornburg presented our final \$150 grant to a Civil Air Patrol Cadet John Kannon Hendrickson as part of the HOT Chapter MOAA awards program. Cadet Hendrickson is a student at Midway High School.



Pictured left to right are Captain Stephen Wright of the Civil Air Patrol, Cadet Hendrickson and Norma Thronburg

UPDATE ON VA HEALTH CARE MANNING

The Veterans Health Administration in August topped 400,000 employees for the first time with staffing levels pushed higher by months of aggressive hiring practices by federal officials.

Agency leaders say they aren't finished yet. "We're really proud of these results," Dr. Shereef Elnahal, VA Under Secretary of Health, told reporters Aug. 15. "But we're not stopping until we reach our external hire goal for this year." That goal, announced by "VA administrators" in late 2022, is 52,000 external hires for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30. Health leaders have already brought on more than 48,000 individuals so far, including more than 27,000 new hires in high-demand occupations such as physicians, nurses, medical support assistants and housekeeping staff.

Those new employees coupled with stronger-than-expected retention of existing workers have grown the agency — the largest within the Department of Veterans Affairs — to its highest staffing level ever. Elnahal insisted that the growth is needed to keep up with increasing demands from patients.

At least part of that stems from the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act — better known as the PACT Act — signed into law one year ago. Provisions in that sweeping military toxic exposure benefits legislation have allowed more than 100,000 new veterans to sign up for VA medical care in the last year.

Department officials have projected more than 7.4 million in-house patient visits next fiscal year and nearly 140 million outpatient appointments, both up about 1% from fiscal 2023 levels. "We're going to take a close look at our hiring goals for next year on particular types of staff for which we are short," Elnahal said. "Our teams now are working to see what our revised goals will be based on trends. But for sure, we will still be on a hiring agenda next fiscal year."

The VA health care chief said that part of that work will also include continuing improvements to the federal hiring process for his agency and bringing on more human resources specialists. "We can't hire enough of them," he said. "We want as many HR specialists in our system as possible, because that will help reduce times to onboard and hire employees, which are really the main challenge that we're faced with right now."

Congressional appropriators have backed preliminary plans for a \$320 billion budget for VA in fiscal 2024, the largest ever. Lawmakers have warned that they'll scrutinize hiring practices to

ensure that department growth makes sense in light of the slow decline in the veteran population in America over the last few decades.

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE UPDATE

The July 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released Aug. 10, was 299.899, **2.7%** above the FY 2023 baseline of 291.901. The next CPI-W release is set for Sept. 13.

The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2023) will be compared to the FY 2023 COLA baseline to calculate the 2024 COLA in October.

LOCAL EVENT ITEMS

Baylor University will have four home football games in September; these will be on Saturdays the 2nd, the 9th, the 16th and the 23rd. Side note on these events, the Mayborn Museum will be closed due to the football games.

The downtown Waco Farmers Market continues every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in parking lot at 500 Washington Avenue across from the County Courthouse and between 5th and 6th Street. More info can be found at wacodowntownfarmersmarket.org.

The Backyard Bar and Grill features 10 notable music acts this month. For example, John Michael Montgomery will appear on Saturday, September 9 at 8:30pm. For tickets see: <https://www.stubwire.com/venue/thebackyard/waco/2020/>

WACO LOCAL EVENT SCHEDULES AND ATTRACTIONS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Texas Collection. The Texas Collection at Baylor's Carroll Library features a special exhibit "Texas, Your Texas: Celebrating 100 Years of the Texas Collection. Check the following for dates and times <https://wacoheartoftexas.com/events/texas-your-texas-celebrating-100-years-of-the-texas-collection-at-baylor/>

The Waco Civic Theater will host the musical Oklahoma September 21st to October 1st. For more details <https://wacoheartoftexas.com/events/oklahoma-waco-civic-theatre/>

Southern Roots Brewing Oktoberfest will be held on September 28-30 from 5-10pm. See : <https://wacoheartoftexas.com/events/southern-roots-brewing-oktoberfest/>

More information on other events this month in Waco can be found at website: wacoheartoftexas.com.

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, September 8, 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 to make an appointment.

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON PROPERTY TAXES

There will be 14 amendments on the ballot in the coming November 7, 2023 election.

Of special interest will be Proposition 4. This authorizes 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.

More info will follow on the other amendments. A majority of Texas voters must approve each ballot proposition in order for the legislation to take effect.

MOAA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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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2nd Vice President

Bill Porter, COL, USA (ret) 254-495-5601

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Jimmie Hanes, COL, USAF, (ret) (Mary) 254)-848-5493

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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 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

USEFUL NUMBERS

MOAA Capital switchboard hotline 1-800 272-6622
MOAA Membership 1-800 245-8762

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(<https://www.moaa.org/>) click on Legislative Action Center or call (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) to get the information.

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