



**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

Greetings

I hope everyone is having a blessed lent season.

We are getting closer to our annual golf fundraiser. Please consider contributing to the cause. Every little bit counts. Let’s make this a banner year for the fundraiser. If you have a relationship with a local business or eatery, please consider asking for a donation of cash or gift cards. The forms are available on the website: [hotmoaa.org](http://hotmoaa.org).

Speaking of the website, Vince Tobola and Mike Slavens are working hard to update the site.

Lew Arend is working hard to recruit new members, but he needs all of us to help. Last month, he added 2 new members. If you know of anyone who would make a valuable member of HOTMOAA, please let me or Lew know.

I hope that everyone took advantage of early voting or voting on super Tuesday, March 5. Voting is a privilege of our constitutional democracy and a way to make our voices known.

Last month, we had a great presentation from Charles Maley on the Border Patrol. His son, Matthew was scheduled to appear, but he could not get away from his duties. Charles was a prior Border Patrol agent and informed HOTMOAA about the crucial jobs that the Border Patrol do.

Our next dinner meeting is in the Media Room at the Baylor Club, and the scheduled speaker is Gerald Powell who will speak on his books, the Catfish Calloway series. Dr. Powell is a professor at Baylor University, and he was September 2023 *Wacoan*. Registration starts at 5 p.m. with the meeting schedule details shown on page 2. Please bring a non-perishable food item and receive an additional ticket for the raffle drawings.

I will bring a few of my books, *The Wrong Man Out*, that I will be giving away. So, if you want one please see me at the meeting. I don’t know, but Dr. Powell may have some of his books for sale also.

v/r

Kenneth Ratajczak

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS**

“I own I am not a friend to a very energetic government. It is always oppressive.” –Thomas Jefferson, Letter to James Madison, 1787

“Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.” - Thomas Jefferson

“Crisis is the rallying cry of the tyrant.” - James Madison

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech." — Silence Dogood (likely pseudonym of Benjamin Franklin)

"Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper, truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle." - Thomas Jefferson to John Norvell, June 11, 1807

Sources: <https://www.happybetterwiser.com/quotes/>  
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/thomas-jefferson-papers>  
<https://www.freedomforum.org/freedom-of-speech-quotes>  
<https://www.azquotes.com>  
<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/founders-quotes>

**EVENTS TO REMEMBER IN MARCH**

**Mar 2, 1943** – Battle of Bismarck Sea began when a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers ending Japanese efforts to reinforce New Guinea

**Mar 4, 1861** – President Lincoln inaugurated

**Mar 6, 1770** – The Boston Massacre occurred

**Mar 6, 1836** – The Alamo fell to Generalissimo Santa Anna

**Mar 15, 1781** – The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

**Mar 16, 1968** – The My Lai Massacre

**Mar 19, 2003** – Operation Iraqi Freedom begins

**Mar 21, 1918** – Battle of the Somme begins

**Mar 23, 11775** – Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

**Mar 30, 1981** - Attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan

*Sources:*

<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/february.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/civil-war-timeline.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanrevolution/timeline.htm>

**THIRD THURSDAY DINNER MEETING,  
MARCH 21, MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE  
STADIUM – 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. 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 Tables.**

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

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

**\*\* 6:50 P.M Multiple Drawings. Guest Speaker, Professor Gerald Powell**

**MENU:** Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Salisbury Steak, Grilled Tilapia, Red Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, Iced Tea and Water. Coffee will be available at the beverage bar.

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

**The dinner cost for 2024 is \$40 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 March 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, attire with collared shirts and coat and tie are optional tie and ladies attire as desired.**

**GUEST SPEAKER BIO**

Professor Powell graduated number one in his class from Baylor Law School and served as a partner in a trial law firm in Dallas. Professor Powell moved back to Waco with his wife Barbara to teach at the Baylor Law School in the practice court program. He was very popular with his students. Now, he is using his lifetime of legal experience to write courtroom thrillers in his home time setting of Waco. He has written the "Catfish Calloway for the Defense" series which includes "The Sporting House Killing" and "The Suspension Bridge Robbery." He has spoken to numerous groups in Waco, and now he has added our organization to his list.

**HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024**, 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Dan's BBQ that is located at 1001 Lake Air Drive. Our thanks to Uncle Dan's for providing the corner meeting room at no charge.

**2024 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Chapter member dues are still be \$25 for renewing members in 2024. 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 Lew Arend or Vince Tobola, with prospect names.

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

Please note the Heart of Texas Chapter of MOAA is a member of the National MOAA organization of over 400 chapters and together we are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

**OUR FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER**

Our scheduled guest speaker, Border Patrol Agent Matthew Maley was unable to attend due to a Border Patrol operational requirement. His father, Charles Maley, former Border Patrol Agent, filled in for his son and provided an insightful and well received presentation.

### **MARCH SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** Liz Arend, Doug Baldwin, Bill Bauer, Linda Beu, Roland Duty, Mike Flynn, George Holmes, John Jacques, Will Rogers, Al West and James Wilson.

**Anniversaries:** George and Christine Brinegar, Randy and Diana Ramey, and James and Shirley Wilson.

### **CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

#### **2024 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

**18 April 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Date is open for guest speaker or entertainments.

**16 May 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium.** Date is open for guest speaker or entertainments.

**8 June 2024, Saturday morning,** Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Scramble at Waco Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** Please bring a non-perishable food item to our dinner meeting and receive a free drawing ticket. Collection is being made for donation to the Veteran's One Stop. We will continue collections each month in 2024.

### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT –JIMMIE HANES, -- FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT**



Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes Jr, USAF (Ret.), was born and raised in Enon, Ohio. He graduated from Greenon High School where he was a student athlete and in 2019 was elected to the school's Hall of Fame. After graduation he attended Hiram College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science. At Hiram, he was an NCAA and conference hurdle champion, winner of the first Athlete of the Year award and in 1992, selected for the college Athletic Hall of Fame. Following graduation from Hiram, He joined the Air Force. While in the Air

force, Jimmie earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration and became a Baylor University Alumni by Choice.

Highlights of his 29 year Air Force career include:

- 107 combat missions in the Vietnam War, of these, 100 were over North Vietnam
- Over 3600 hours of flying time primarily in bomber aircraft
- One of 15 senior officers selected to the highly competitive Air Force Research Associates program
- United States Defense/Air Attaché to the Sultanate of Oman
- Deputy Director of Bomber Operations at Strategic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters and Deputy Chief of Staff of the SAC Command Post during Operation Desert Shield, the precursor to Operation Desert Storm
- Base Commander, Wurtsmith AFB, MI.
- Military awards include: the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with ten oak leaf clusters, Defense and Air Force Meritorious Service Medals

Upon retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Hanes was a City Manager in two Michigan cities, earning two State of Michigan outstanding service awards, as well as recognition by the Harvard University, JFK School of Government, for innovative leadership.

Jimmie moved to Waco, TX to be the Director of Aviation Services at Waco Municipal Airport and then spent several years as Director of Development for Advanced Concepts and Technologies International. He has served as President of the North Bosque Water Supply Corporation, Chairman of the Board of Lutheran Sunset Ministries, President of Ridgewood Country Club, President of HOT MOAA Chapter, and serves on several other Boards or committees, including the Baylor University Bear Foundation, Lady Bears Tip-Off Club, First United Methodist church, Veteran's One Stop and various other civic organizations.

Jimmie married a former Baylor coed (Mary Hoel: BA 1966) and he and Mary have two children and six grandchildren. After 22 relocations in Jim's career, he and Mary are settled now and live in Crawford, TX.

## 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 MOAA memberships. This is separate from the chapter membership.

## AUSTIN SPECIAL REACTMENT EVENT

On March 9-10th at 1:30 p.m. each day, rain or shine, there will be Civil War reenactments at Camp Mabry, 2200 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX. The event is free admission and free parking. A photo ID will be needed for entry to the post via 35<sup>th</sup> Street. There will firing demonstrations of the war's famous weapons (including small arms and cannon), see how soldiers lived during the Civil War, watch infantry drill and experience a skirmish between Union and Texas troops. Website for more info is at [www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org).

## VINCE'S LOCAL DINING NOTES

The coming **Jorge's Cantina** is progressing nicely. It is at 4225 Franklin Avenue in the former El Paso Mexican Grill. The restaurant is being remodeled extensively with added space to the building. It will have traditional Mexican food, but special attention will be made on the ingredients and preparation to bring a different experience and flavor to the customer. Some of the dishes will be Al Pastor Brussel Sprouts, Roasted Poblano and Lump Crab Dip, and a Carnitas Spiced Double Pork Chop. Opening date is still pending likely around end of spring.

The coming **Terry Black's BBQ** is continuing on its renovation of the brick building and it is located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Union Hall on Franklin Avenue and the Pivovar Hotel and Restaurant. The restaurant may have an opening around April 1<sup>st</sup> or so. It will serve BBQ dishes and have a companion eatery that is Opal's Oysters. Parking for the restaurant will be at the rear of the building.

## UCOMING BAYLOR CAMPUS EVENTS

**Mar 18, 2024, 7:30pm – 9:00pm** – Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Campus Orchestra present a concert at Jones Concert Hall, McCrary Music Building. Event is free and open to the public.

**Mar, 19- 24, 2024, 7:20pm – 10:00pm** -- Baylor Theater Arts presents "Friends" at the Jones

Concert Hall. Tickets go on sale March 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Box Office for information – 254-710-1865

## CHANGES FOR RECEIVING VA BENEFITS INTO MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS

Veterans will no longer be able to use multiple bank accounts for different Veterans Affairs benefits under new anti-fraud measures being rolled out by department officials over the next two months.

The move is expected to affect about 50,000 current GI Bill users who also receive other veterans stipends, but VA leaders are promising they will not cut off benefits to anyone as a result of the changes. Instead, if veterans fail to consolidate their bank accounts by April 20, department processors will begin sending all of the benefits to a single account. Still, such a move could cause significant financial problems for individuals expecting to find the money in a specific account to cover bills and expenses.

Officials said they will spend the next two months aggressively contacting the thousands of student veterans potentially impacted by the new rule, and explaining the reasons behind it.

Maintaining a single account for the payment of this benefit provides an added layer of security against the increasing threats of fraud we experience as part of our daily lives," VA Undersecretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs told reporters at end of February. "Veterans have earned these benefits through their service to the nation. And ensuring they're safeguarded from those with malicious intent is a significant feature of this single account initiative."

VA officials said veterans may use different bank accounts for different benefits for a variety of reasons, including ease of bill paying and simply forgetting to update old accounts.

But Jacobs warned that such an arrangement makes it easier for fraud or theft and harder for VA officials to provide oversight of the funds. He said the changes come as "we are working to modernize our payment systems so we can protect the integrity of the veterans benefits" across multiple systems.

## **NEW ENROLLMENT COMING FOR PACT**

- Millions of U.S. veterans will be eligible beginning March 5 for health care with the Department of Veterans Affairs under an accelerated effort to provide benefits and services to those exposed to toxic substances while serving. The VA announced at end of February that all veterans who have served in a combat zone since the Vietnam War, as well as those who participated in training or operations and came into contact with hazardous materials, will be able to enroll in VA health care.
- The expansion of health care benefits was mandated by the PACT Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden in August 2022. VA officials said last month the acceleration is a result of a hiring blitz made possible by provisions in the law. Under the PACT Act, more than 100,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care and roughly 760,000 disability claims have been approved. VA officials did not detail exactly how many veterans now will be eligible for care under the expansion but said the figure is in the "millions."
- The expansion allows all veterans who deployed to combat zones in support of the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars to enroll in VA health care. In addition, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to pollutants while participating in a known "toxic exposure risk activity," or TERA, either in the U.S. or abroad, will be eligible.
- That would include exposure while on active duty, active-duty training or inactive-duty training to: air pollutants from burn pits, particulate matter, sulfur or oil well fires; chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, contaminated water or depleted uranium from embedded shrapnel; occupational hazards such as lead, industrial solvents, toxic paint, asbestos and firefighting foam; radiation, including nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, X-rays and occupational exposure; and chemical or biological weapons or nerve agents.
- According to the VA, the department will use service records and other resources to determine whether a veteran participated in a TERA.
- Veterans are not required to have a service-connected disability or file a compensation

claim to be eligible for VA care. New enrollees will have access to a toxic exposure screening provided by their primary care physician and may be referred to specialty care depending on need, Elnahal said during a call with reporters last month.

- They also will be assessed for placement in the VA's priority-based health system and referred to the Veterans Benefits Administration if they qualify for additional benefits.
- Priority group placement determines whether a veteran is required to make copayments for appointments or prescriptions, depending on treatment or the medications.
- During a press conference, Elnahal said that, by law, veterans receiving treatment for exposure-related illnesses will not make copayments for appointments related to that care.
- The Veterans Health Administration has set a goal to hire 52,000 employees this fiscal year, which, when factoring in attrition, should grow its workforce by 3%. Elnahal said the increases could help to absorb new patients, meet demand and standardize or even improve wait times.
- The VA is encouraging veterans to apply for care or benefits by visiting the [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT) website or calling 1-800-MYVA411.

Read more about requesting this change, including where to file the form and how to find answers to any questions about your personal financial situation, at the Social Security Administration webpage or by calling (800) 772-1213.

## **MAYBORN MUSEUM SPACE EXHIBIT AND MAMMOTH UPDATE**

The Journey into Space Exhibit opened on January 27<sup>th</sup> and continues to April 21<sup>st</sup>. It has various exhibits and videos showing the extraordinary efforts needed to survive in space and astronaut related essential support items. Admission fee to the Museum is \$10. Museum phone is 254-710-1110 for more info. The website is [www.baylor.edu/mayborn/](http://www.baylor.edu/mayborn/).

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

Address label

**2024 H.O.T. MOAA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Ken Rataczak, Col, USA (ret) (Anne) 254-776-4804

**1st Vice President**

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

**2nd Vice President**

Arend, Lew, 1LT, USA (Liz) 713-254-1334

**Secretary**

George Littell, 1LT, USA (Helen) 713-254-0972

**Treasurer**

Vince Tobola, Lt Col, USAF (ret) 254-709-5795

**Immediate Past President**

Michael Slavens, Lt Col, USAF (ret) (Marsha) 703-898-9173

**Chaplain**

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

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Vacant

**Legislative Liaison**

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

**Directors**

Don Speed, CAPT, USAF (Ann) 254-366-5528

Jane Winston, Lt, USAF 979-777-8076

Ennis Sullivan, CAPT, USAF (Kay) 214-797-1464

Barbara Purselley 254-716-4572

Beau Crosby, COL, USAF (ret) (Kathy Endres) 254-709-9588

Norma Thronburg 254-749-2146

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

Bill Hulsey, LTCDR, USN (ret) (Donna) 512-658-7173

John Jacques, MAJ, USA (Dawn) 254-394-2373

Bill Milnor, COL, USA (ret) (Gerry) 972-533-7874

Gene Lednicki, CPT, USMC 254-206-1097

Mike Strain, Capt., USAF 281-565-3110

**Directors Emeritus**

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](http://www.Cornyn.senate.gov) 512-469-6034, FAX 512-469-6020  
202-228-2856

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

**Free Weekly E-mail Legislative Updates**

Subscribe to MOAA's Free Weekly E-mail Legislative Updates:  
(<https://www.moaa.org/>) click on Legislative Action Center or call (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) to get the information.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**
- **MARCH 21 THURSDAY DINNER MEETING IN THE MEDIA ROOM, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, MCLANE STADIUM**
- **GUEST SPEAKER, GERALD POWELL**
- **UPDATES ON THE VA PACT PROGRAM**
- **VA CHANGES ON OPTION FOR MULTIPAYMENTS**
- **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JIMMIE HANES**