



PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Greetings

It’s February, and things are heating up at HOTMOAA. Our annual fundraiser golf tournament is just a few months away on Saturday morning, June 8. I am asking you to please consider making a financial contribution to the fundraiser. Last year we got \$6,700.00 from just member donations. Let’s see if we can beat that. I already gave my cash donation. Only \$150.00 will make you a hole sponsor. Also, if you have a favorite restaurant, please consider asking them for a donation, either cash or gift cards. You all have a bank that you deal with; consider asking them for a donation. I have already approached Chase. Sponsor and donation forms are on the website: hotmoaa.org and also the golf registration form.

The Scholarship Committee will be gearing up soon. If you know of a deserving and qualified student in need of assistance, please encourage them to apply for our scholarships. Once again, the application is on the website, hotmoaa.org.

We recently voted in 5 new Emeritus members: Fr. John Wells, Robert Rochell, William Bower, Robert Baugh and Stanley Brubaker. These are in addition to the existing Emeritus members: Jimmie Hanes, Jr. and Harold Rafuse. Beau Crosby was nominated, but since he is a director and has a vote on the HOTMOAA Chapter Board, he was not given emeritus membership, but we all know that he is deserving of this honor and, in the future, will be elected an emeritus member.

If you know or any military officers that would be potential members of HOT MOAA, please contact Lew Arend, our membership director: lewerend66@gmail.com.

We will continue the give an additional raffle ticket for non-perishable donations.

Thank you, and happy February.
 v/r

Kenneth Ratajczak

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. - Benjamin Franklin

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

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations. - James Madison

Source: <https://www.happybetterwiser.com/quotes/founding-fathers-quotes/>

EVENTS TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

Feb 1, 1960 – The space shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas – seven killed.

Feb 3, 1870 – 15th Amendment to the Constitution ratified, guaranteeing citizen’s right to vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude

Feb 7, 1795- The 11th Amendment to the Constitution ratified, limited the powers of the Federal Judiciary over the states by prohibiting Federal lawsuits against individual states.

Feb 9, 1943 – US troops capture Guadalcanal – over 2,000 American and 9000 Japanese killed

Feb 13, 1945 – Bombing of Dresden, over 130,000 German civilians killed

Feb 15, 1898 – Battleship Maine blown up – 260 crew killed

Feb 19, 1942 – President Franklin Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 led to relocation and internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans

Feb 27, 1950 – 22nd Amendment to the Constitution ratified

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

**“THIRD THURSDAY DINNER MEETING,
FEBRUARY 15, MEDIA ROOM AT MCLANE
STADIUM – 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. 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, Matthew Maley from the Border Patrol**

MENU: Fresh fruit salad, tossed salad with balsamic and ranch dressings, artisan bread, Chicken Fried Steak, Chicken Picatta, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables, 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, 8 February Noon for sign-ups.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER will be Matthew Maley, a Border Patrol agent from Crawford, Texas. After four years at the Rio Grande Valley Weslaco station, he realized his ranching background could boost his contributions. Transitioning to the Horse Patrol Unit, he spent the next four years training horses and enhancing his skills, including obtaining an EMT certification. He continues to serve with the Horse Patrol Unit,

Early RSVP’s are welcome and appreciated. After the 8th, 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, slacks, collared shirts and coat and optional on tie and ladies attire as desired.

HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 20, 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 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, does have the chapter membership application form plus copies of newsletters. Newsletters are sent to members monthly, by e-mail or regular mail.

OUR JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER -STAN PARKER



Our guest speaker at the January 18th dinner was Stan Parker. He oversees the Parker Foundation and its various support activities for veterans. One of these is the annual Veterans Day

Luncheon. He is also involved in a project to add veterans housing at the Doris Miller VA Center. He explained it is still ongoing, but is working through some funding issues.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION

Birthdays: Norm Beu, Bill Bewley, Pam Holmes, Jim Igleheart, Terri Ker, Bob Lull, Jim Milam, Nancy Pfanner, Diana Ramey, Claire Raineri, Anne Ratajczak, Bob Rochell, Ennis Sullivan, Vince Tobola and Su Wells.

Anniversaries: Joe and Karen Augeri, Jim and Jerrie Buehrig and George and Helen Littell.

CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

JANUARY 18 DINNER AND TRANSFER OF PRESIDENT'S POSITION

At the January 18th dinner after the installations ceremony, Michael Slavens congratulates the incoming President, Ken Ratajczak and also provides him with the President's pin. Michael Slavens will now serve as the Past President at Board Meetings. .



From left to right: Michael Slavens, Ken Davis of Baylor Vets and Frank Michael, MOAA. One of morning stops for Frank Michael to show local programs.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The installation ceremony for the 2024 chapter officers and directors was conducted at the Jan18th dinner. President Michael Slavens performed the installation ceremony; those present were Ken Ratajczak, Bill Porter, Lew Arend, Vince Tobola, Bill Hulsey, Gene Lednicki, Don Speed, Mike Strain, Barbara Purselley, Ennis Sullivan, Norma Thronburg, Gary Urban and Jane Winston.

2024 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

21 March 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker will be Gerald Powell, author with talk on Catfish Calloway Series on his legal thrillers set in 1890's.

18 April 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker is pending.

21 May 2024, Thursday dinner meeting in the Media Room at McLane Stadium. Guest speaker is pending.

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 –BILL HULSEY, CHAPTER BOARD MEMBER



Bill Hulsey attended Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, and received a Bachelor of Science in Theoretical Mathematics. While a senior, he entered the U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program & Submarine Service from 1976 through 1981.

As a Naval Officer, Bill was a nuclear-qualified submarine officer on the pre-commissioning and sea trials crew, for the construction, testing, and preparation for sea of the USS Jacksonville (SSN699). After his active duty service, he worked for four years as a physical scientist and electronics engineer for the U.S. Army in the development, design, and testing of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR) systems for the Army Materiel Command for advancing the development of various top-secret electronics intelligence projects. As a naval reserve officer, Bill concluded his naval career as commanding officer of Submarine Repair Unit 409 at Pearl Harbor Submarine Base with his annual active-duty reserve station in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Continuing his education, Bill earned a Masters of Arts in Economics from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA and in 1987 received his Doctor of Law (JD) – Corporate and Intellectual Property from Vanderbilt University Law School.

He has served as a Fellow of the Innovation, Creativity & Capital (IC2) Institute of The University of Texas and has taught as an adjunct professor of intellectual property law in the IC2 Institute's M.S. Degree Program in Technology Commercialization, including teaching engagements world-wide. He is a recurring sponsor of entrepreneurship programs at Rhodes College,

UT Austin, and Baylor University. He judges the Baylor University New Venture Competition at Baylor's Hankamer School of Business and mentors students in UT Austin's McCombs School of Business Entrepreneurship and Incubation curriculum.

In 2003, he founded Hulsey PC which specializes in intellectual property law. The firm is a Certified Veteran-Owned Small Business approved by the Texas Attorney General for representation of various higher education universities and the University of Texas System. Bill has written at least 50 patents for aerospace and space technologies, including at least one invention for an Apollo Space Program astronaut. He also created the U.S. Patent Office's Pro Bono Inventor Assistance Program for qualified inventors in Texas.

Bill is also an experienced tenor and has performed more than 130 significant choral works in concert with the Austin's Grammy Award winning Conspirare Symphonic Chorus, the Austin Symphony Chorus, the Austin Civic Chorus, St. Albans Episcopal Church of Waco, TX semi-professional choir and other semi-professional regional and national choruses, including singing in the Austin performance of Italian operatic tenor Andrea Bocelli. He has obtained the only U.S. patent for teaching a singing vocal methodology, the Throga® Technique.

In addition to his distinguished business career, Bill is a dedicated member of Rotary International, having served as president of the Austin Westlake Chapter and as a board director of the Waco Texas Rotary Club and Rotary International's Economic Development Cadre.

Bill has been married to Donna Bell for 44 years and has three daughters, Carolyn, Evelyn, and Mary Virginia.

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 MOAA memberships. This is separate from the chapter membership.

LOCAL EVENTS

A new exhibit opens at the **Mayborn Museum** on January 27th through April 21st. It is themed Journey to Space. Explore the extraordinary environment of space, from awe inspiring sights to the challenges astronauts brave on their missions. Step inside the immersive space station exhibit, hear the sounds, and witness the sights astronauts encounter daily. The Mayborn Museum is located at 1300 S. University Parks.

Baylor's People's Law School will be held on February 10, 2024 from (:00am – 12:25pm. Attendance is free. You need to register online at: <https://law.baylor.edu/why-baylor-law/pro-bono/peoples-law-school>

VINCE'S LOCAL DINING NOTES

Shorty's Pizza Shack started at its original location in 2011 at 1712 S. 12th Street and near Bagby Avenue intersection. It is obvious by the interior décor that serving Baylor students is part of business plan. They have interior dining and large outdoor patio. There menu specials on a board. They have thin crust pizza and serve 14 inch and 18 inch pizza pies plus serve by the slice too. Other items are salads, wings, hot dogs, pizza pillows (like calzones) and appetizers and drinks. The phone number is 254-235-2646.

There new location that opened this year is off of Hewitt Drive behind the Good Will Store. The address is 8640 Lavillage Drive, Woodway. It also has large dining area and patio plus large outdoor area covered with Astroturf for large and small kids to play. It has same menu and drink offerings. The phone number is 254-224-6117.

A new restaurant in the local news recently is Black Pot Cajun that opened at 417 N. Lacy Drive in Lacy Lakeview. The TV show "America's Best Restaurant" filmed an episode there on January 17. They interviewed the owner, Stacy Mitchell.

Fish City Grill opened in Legends Crossing at 5401 Crosslake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712. Phone number is 254-339-1063. This is at end of building next to Salt Grass Steakhouse. The restaurant continues to stay busy after a year in business serving seafood with its regular menu plus daily specials that are listed on the wall to your left as you enter.

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

Texas' primary election day is coming up, and so is the deadline to register to vote. Texas is one of 16 states with an open primary, which means registered voters can cast a ballot in either party's primary.

Texas will hold Republican and Democratic primaries on March 5 to determine who will be on the ballot in November. If needed, runoff elections will be held on May 28 for races where no candidate wins over 50% of the votes.

Key dates:

- Feb. 5 - Last day to register to vote or update your information
- Feb. 20 - Early voting begins
- Feb. 23 - Last day counties can receive applications to vote by mail
- Mar 1 - Early voting ends
- Mar 5 - Primary election day

Early voting locations follow: McLennan County Elections Administration Office, Records Building (Basement), 214 North 4th Street, Suite 300, Waco; Waco Multi-Purpose Community Center, 1020 Elm Avenue, Waco; Hewitt City Hall/Library, 200 Patriot Court, Hewitt; Robinson Community Center, 106 W. Lyndale Avenue, Robinson; and First Assembly of God Church, 6701 Bosque Blvd, Waco.

The dates and times of Early Voting are: Tues., Feb. 20 through Fri., Feb. 23, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sat., Feb 24, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Sun., Feb 25, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Mon., Feb. 26 through Fri., Mar. 1, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

March 5 is the Joint Primary Election. Election Day polls are open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, the McLennan County Election Office's website and phone number: www.mclennanvotes.com and 254-757-5043.

THIRD GOVERNMENT FUNDING EXTENSION SIGNED

President Joe Biden signed legislation Jan. 19 to temporarily extend federal funding into March, averting a partial government shutdown. The House and Senate approved the continuing resolution in bipartisan votes after congressional leaders reached a broader agreement on spending levels through

September 2024. The stopgap measure buys lawmakers additional time to finalize the \$1.59 trillion appropriations legislation.

The continuing resolution finances federal operations at current levels through March 1 for most agencies and March 8 for others, including DOD. This marks the third short-term extension since September.

The latest continuing resolution staves off imminent funding disruption while negotiations proceed on the broader spending package. Lawmakers will utilize the coming weeks to translate the agreed budget framework into detailed appropriations language needed to keep the government running past March. Congress must reach a funding deal by April 30 to avoid an automatic 1% across-the-board budget cut, as required by the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act.

2024 MEDICAL PART B PREMIUM CHANGES

After falling, the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium will increase by \$9.80 in 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced Oct. 12. Last year's decrease came after Medicare limited its coverage of a new, expensive Alzheimer's drug, CMS said. This year's increase comes primarily from "projected increases in health care spending," according to the announcement. The annual deductible for Part B beneficiaries will be \$240 in 2024, up from \$226 this year.

The standard premium applies only to individuals with a modified adjusted gross income of \$103,000 or less, or joint filers with income of \$206,000 or less, on their 2022 tax return. Other beneficiaries pay Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA), which vary by income level.

These rates also increased for 2024, and the rate brackets have been updated:

- Those with income from \$103,001 to \$129,000 on an individual return or from \$206,001 to \$258,000 on a joint return will pay **\$244.60 per month**, up from \$230.80 in this bracket in 2023.
- Those with income from \$129,001 to \$161,000 on an individual return or from \$258,001 to \$322,000 on a joint return will pay **\$349.40 per**

month, up from \$329.70 per month in this bracket in 2023.

- Those with income from \$161,001 to \$193,000 on an individual return or from \$322,001 to \$386,000 on a joint return will pay **\$454.20 per month**, up from \$428.60 in this bracket in 2023.
- Those with income from \$193,001 to \$500,000 on an individual return or from \$386,001 to \$750,000 on a joint return will pay **\$559 per month**, up from \$527.50 in this bracket in 2023.
- Those with income above \$500,000 on an individual return or above \$750,000 on a joint return will pay **\$594 per month**, up from \$560.50 in this bracket in 2023.

Married beneficiaries who lived with their spouses during at least part of the taxable year but file separate tax returns have their own payment scale: Those with modified adjusted gross income between \$103,001 and \$397,000 pay a \$559 monthly premium, while those with income at or above \$397,000 pay \$594 per month.

Because the 2024 income-adjusted rates are based on 2022 tax records, they may not accurately reflect the financial situation of all beneficiaries. If your income level has decreased in recent years, you can file Form SSA-44 with the Social Security Administration to request an adjustment. Applicants must identify a "Life-Changing Event" connected with the income reduction. Examples include marriage or divorce, the death of a spouse, change in work status, or a lump-sum payment or settlement from a previous year resulting in a temporary income increase.

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.

AUSTIN DEERS/ID CARD LOCATION

The Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database and the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) client application provides a means of gathering and storing personnel and benefits eligibility information for Department of Defense (DOD) employees and dependents including

military members, civilian employees, contractors, and more.

One location to consider for use on renewing ID cards is the Camp Mabry at 200 West 35th St., Austin TX, 78703. The phone number is 512-782-6841 (Opt. 1). Camp Mabry is home of the Texas headquarters of the Texas Military Forces, which are made up of the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas State Guard. This location is typically less busy than Fort Hood or other bases plus it has a military museum on site. It is also home of the Texas Military Forces Museum, which documents history of Texas military from 1830's to current status with displays, exhibits, vehicles and equipment. Admission is free and need to check times when open. Phone number is 512-782-5659 and website

<https://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org>.

Address is 2200 West 35th Street, Bldg. 6, 3039 W 35th St, Austin, TX 78703.

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD

The Veterans Land Board (VLB) is present to serve to serve Texas veterans. You can go to website vlb.texas.gov to see all the benefits.

Since the days of the Republic, Texas has always supported its Veterans. In the early days, it was in the form of land given by the state for military service during the Texas Revolution. In 1946, this tradition was formally recognized with the creation of the Texas VLB to administer benefits exclusively for Texas Veterans.

Since then, the VLB continues to expand the programs and services available to Texas Veterans, Military Members and their families. The VLB offers land, home and home improvement loans; nine long-term care homes; four Texas State Veterans Cemeteries; the Voices of Veterans Oral History Program and the VLB Call Center.

The Texas VLB is proud to serve Veterans, Military Members, their families and supporting organizations throughout Texas. VLB Outreach Specialists are available for one-on-one or group meetings via Zoom, telephone or in-person with proper safety precautions. Please feel free to contact the following in Central Texas. **Travis Willis** | Central Texas | Travis.Willis@glo.texas.gov .

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

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

2nd Vice President

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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