Greetings! April is here and spring is in the air. I remind each of you of our annual Fiesta Picnic on April 15 at Randolph Air Force Base, Eberle Park. Details can be found in the reservation slip on the back page of this newsletter. Please attend. It will be fun with great Fiesta music, good food and a great MC, our very own Josh Welch.

This month I would like to recount a recent trip that took me back to my “roots” in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. I would also like to visit about our chapter and its mission, and congratulate our Volunteer of the Year honoree.

First, I would like to make reference to a trip that my son and I made back home, the place where I grew up and spent 22 wonderful years of my life. My days were involved in dairy farming, hunting, fishing, trapping, i.e. doing all those things that are important to the country kind of people.

While I was there we had an opportunity to reflect a good deal on the area and on our great country, the United States of America. That’s the essence of my thoughts. Many times we take things for granted, it seems. We take our country for granted. That is not as it should be. My reflections/emotions caused me to think through this.

While we were there we had the opportunity of visiting gravesites of ancestors and seeing our flag prominently placed at the grave markers of great Americans who have served our country in the past. I couldn’t help but think as we attended an old fashioned gun show in the small rural town of Morris, Pennsylvania. These great Americans who participated in the gun show – it was a small volunteer fire department that hosted this annual event. By the time we got there (only 15 or 20 minutes after the starting hour of 0900 hours) this parking lot (which most of the time is a ball field) was completely filled with cars even though the day was extremely rainy and miserable. But the weather was the only deterrent.

Other than that it was such an uplifting experience to once again go into the fire hall and through the various rooms at the fire department which had been put up with volunteer raised money.

Observing these great Americans that live in that part of the country, who I know live all across our great land wearing hats that evidence their (Continued on Page 13)
Cookie Angels
Grateful thanks to those who either baked and or brought items to the wounded soldiers at Ft Sam Houston’s Warrior and Family Support Center. If you were able to give this month on behalf of the Alamo Chapter please call Susie at (210) 654-0351, so we may add your name to our list. Thank you.

Irene Collier
Nita Felder
Susan Filipini
John Gibbs
Ed & Sue McCarthy
Mac & Lori MacDonald
Lolly Orlowski
Jan Rund
Susie Tolman
Dot Wise
Tom & Evelyn Woods

TAPS
We received the news that the following members have passed away. We wish to convey our sincere condolences and best wishes to their family and loved ones:

Col James Sinclair, USA (Ret) 2/16/10
Col George Weinbrenner USAF (Ret) 3/7/10
Harry Sinco 3/23/10

Grateful thanks to the following who have kindly donated to the Chapter and/or Scholarship/Outreach Fund:

Doweene Dillingham
CAPT Byron Heisel
Joan Lyman
CW2 Barry Martin
LtCol Edward Marvin
Hebe Milburn
Col Ian Natkin
Helga Parks
MAJ Eric Platzner
Col Russell Sanders
Col Thomas Tredici

Directions to Eberle Park
Enter RAFB at main gate (Pat Booker Rd & FM 78)
Make a left at the second intersection onto New B St. East (opposite Base Service station on right)
Make a left onto 5th St. East, follow to end of street toward East Gate and FM 78. Turn right before departing East Gate onto Perimeter Rd. and follow for approximately 2.3 miles
Eberle Park will be on your left.
I was forced to slow down this past month due to a bout with pneumonia that laid me pretty low. I did, however, succeed in getting some things done which will have great affect on our veterans and their families.

As a Vice Chairman of the Texas Coalition of Veterans, we began looking at potential legislation for the 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature. Among the early things that we are looking at is law that would enhance the 100% disabled veteran property tax exemption so that it would pass on to the spouse or children in their homestead with the passing of the veteran. In addition, we are examining the possibility of changing and enhancing the way that exemptions are computed for veterans who are less than 100% disabled. This has not been adjusted in many years and really isn’t realistic for home values as they exist today. The Coalition has also started a new website that you can look at, which will tell you many of the things that we are trying to do for the Texas Veteran Community. The website is:
http://www.texascoalitionofvetsorganizations.org/

The Veterans Community Action Team has had several meetings. We are moving forward with good speed to begin filling out committees that will be put into place to begin the task of building an organization which will act as a clearing house for veterans and their families to go to in the San Antonio/Bexar County Area for information on any and all issues that they may have. One of our big tasks is to arrive at a new name for the organization. If any of our membership has an interest in getting involved with this process, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss with you how you might be able to help now and in the future.

JROTC award ceremonies are lining up over the rest of this month through May. I need volunteers who would be willing to go to the schools in the San Antonio Area to present our MOAA medal and certificate to cadets who have been recognized by their instructors. These are fun events to attend and would only take a little time out of your day or evening. It is always gratifying to see the appreciation of these young cadets and to further label MOAA to these youngsters and their families. Again, let me know should you be interested in doing this and I will talk with you about the schools that are available. Alamo MOAA presently serves approximately 60 High Schools and 5 Universities. At the ROTC’s for our universities, in addition to the MOAA award, we also give out Gold Bars to the graduating seniors who are being commissioned.

In April, I will be joining our Texas Council delegation for the “Storming of the Hill”. This is where each state Council goes to capital hill and visits with all the Representatives and Senators from the state. At those meetings, we present the goals of MOAA for 2010 and beyond with a Texas twist. These meetings have proven to be very fruitful and are well received by almost all of our representatives.

Have a great April and I will report in the May issue of the Lariat on all of these activities.

MAJ Jim Cunningham (Ret)
Bits & Pieces

**Ft Sam Tax Center:** Provided by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate there are two Military Tax Assistance Centers open on Ft Sam this tax season. One is located in Bldg 158 in the Trial Defense Services Building and another is in BAMC’s lower level. Call 295-1040 for an appointment.

Submitted by LTC Summer Hudson USA (Ret)

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**NEISD Surplus Store:** Surplus property from North East’s ISD campuses and officers are sent to this store to sell to the public. Items typically sold include laptops, televisions, VCRs and other electronic equipment. The store is open Thursdays from 8am to 1pm (except for 2nd Thursdays which is open from 3-6pm) at their warehouse on 8758 Tesoro Drive. All payments must be made in cash. Additional information can be found on their website at www.neisd.net/pure/suplus.html or call the manager Jesse Luna at (210) 805-5218.

Source: NEISD Community Info

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**USAA Membership:** USAA has expanded its membership to all veterans of the US Armed forces who honorably served in the military, regardless of their years of service.

Source SA Business Journal

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**Home Improvement Warehouse Discounts:**

The Home Depot offers a year-round, 10 percent discount, up to a $500 maximum, to all active duty military personnel, reservists, retired or disabled veterans and their immediate families. Discounts are offered to thank them for their outstanding service to this nation and to help make their homes more comfortable and safe. Customers requesting the discount should present a valid military ID. This discount is not available for online shoppers or in addition to existing discounts or promotions.

Lowe’s Companies, Inc. will expand its support of the military by offering an all day, every day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card.

All other military veterans will receive the discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends. The discount is available on in-stock and Special Order purchases up to $5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards.

Submitted by LTC John Gibbs

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**VA Pharmacies “Among the Best”**

J.D. Power and Associates, a firm specializing in consumer surveys, has given VA pharmacies some of the highest customer satisfaction scores in a national sampling of pharmacy customers. J.D. Power surveyed about 12,000 pharmacy customers who use pharmacy retailers, including independent and mail-out pharmacies, chain drug stores, mass merchandisers and supermarkets. VA received an "Among the Best" ranking for the mail order category, the same overall ranking as Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy and Prescriptions Solutions. Among the factors examined in the 2009 National Pharmacy Study were pharmacy environment, price and value of prescription drugs, experience with online ordering and mail delivery, and experience with pharmacist and non-pharmacist staff.

Source: VetJobs Veteran Eagle Newsletter

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**Operation Iraqi Freedom:** On 1 SEP 2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) will officially become Operation New Dawn (OND) to recognize the continued progress that is being made in the country. In a 17 FEB memo approving the name change to Gen. David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. Central Command, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the change sends a strong signal that "our forces are under a new mission. It also presents opportunities to synchronize strategic communications initiatives, reinforce our commitment to honor the Security Agreement, and recognize of evolving relationship with the Government of Iraq."

Source: VFW Washington Weekly

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**Campaign Stars:** The Department of Defense announced 11 March that additional campaign stars are authorized for wear on the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM). The campaign stars recognize a service member’s participation in DoD designated campaigns in Iraq. Service members who have qualified for the ICM may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated. The stars will be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the campaign medal. Service members should contact their respective military departments for specific implementation guidance. The additional campaign phases and associated dates established for the ICM are:

- Iraqi Sovereignty - Jan. 1, 2009 through a date to be determined.

Four other phases include:

- Iraqi Governance &#150; June 29, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2005.

The "National Resolution" phase, which began Dec. 16, 2005, has been determined to end Jan. 9, 2007.

Source: DoD News Release No. 193

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National Legislative Update

Congress has been largely preoccupied with the pending healthcare legislation, the full details of which have not been disclosed to the public. However, there have been some limited favorable developments.

With respect to the 21% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors, Congress has “kicked the can down the road” by delaying the cut until April Fools Day. The Senate has passed legislation that would delay payments until October 1; but, as of mid-March the House still had not passed such legislation. The October 1 date is just prior to the November election, almost assuring that the cut, if delayed until October 1, will be delayed again beyond the election.

Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) has been appointed Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services. His father was a career Air Force officer and his son and son-in-law are Marines who served in Iraq. There is no question that he has a strong empathy with the military community. The Republican ranking member of the Subcommittee stated that he is currently the “most qualified [senator] to lead this Subcommittee.” We are fortunate to have a Senator of such stature chairing this important Subcommittee.

In early March both Senate and House Armed Service Committees sent bipartisan letters to their respective Budget Committees requesting budget allocations to meet FY2011 military needs. The Senate Armed Services Committee requested Senate Budget leadership to support in particular the Administration’s proposal to phase-in over five years full concurrent receipt of retirement and disability compensation for those medically retired. The House Armed Services Committee requested House Budget leadership to support a number of matters that are top MOAA priorities, including:

- Concurrent receipt for all medically retired servicemembers,
- Elimination of the offset for survivors entitled to both the Survivor Benefit Program and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation;
- A pay raise increase of 1.9% (0.5% above the Employment Cost Index) for servicemembers,
- Retroactive credit for early retirement qualification for guardsmen and reservists deployed since 9/11/01, and
- Improved education programs for the Selected Reserve.

These timely requests for funding are much needed and appreciated, and need our strong support. In contrast, almost magically, stimulus payments and massive welfare payments to those who have never served their country, either do not require fixes for funding or such fixes seem to present no problems.

As was mentioned in last month’s Legislative Update, DoD abruptly suspended the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program, which provides up to $6,000 in educational assistance for military spouses who are pursuing license, certificate, credential or degree programs to help offset employment and promotion challenges suffered by military spouses in complying with military directed relocations.

DoD originally stated that MYCAA was halted for “program review,” giving little further explanation. On March 13th, DoD announced that the program would be reinstated for the 136,000 active duty spouses already enrolled. No information was given with respect to spouses not yet enrolled. DoD has acknowledged that the program was suspended because unexpectedly large participation by enthusiastic military spouses might exceed the funding allocated. It is unfortunate that DoD’s reaction was to suspend an obviously much needed program rather than to promptly seek funding to support it. Led by VADM Ryan, MOAA’s initiatives have led to 67 legislator signatures on a Family Caucus letter that went to DoD in early March urging complete reinstatement of this important program.

On another matter, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness Clifford Stanley reported, in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, that recruiting and retention program successes have resulted in the maintenance of an all-volunteer force of top quality, even after eight years of combat. However, he cautioned that personnel costs could adversely affect readiness. Even though DoD officials must surely recognize that personnel costs for salary and benefits make possible a volunteer force of high quality, the blame for any shortfall in readiness seems to be placed solely upon personnel costs, without regard to government expenditures elsewhere, such as, rapidly increasing social welfare costs and earmarks of dubious value.

The above described problems of funding reasonable benefits for military personnel, and attacks on such benefits by DoD, illustrate the continuing need for strong grass roots support of MOAA and Military Coalition legislative goals.

In a favorable development, the national newspaper for America’s associations, the Association TRENDS, honored MOAA President VADM Ryan as “association Executive of the Year.” It was the first time a military or veterans’ association leader had been so recognized. We are fortunate to have a leader of VADM Ryan’s quality to lead us in our critically important legislative efforts. (See article on Page 10)

Col David Briggs (Ret)
Texas Council of Chapters Legislative VP

The Lariat April 2010
Coffee Drinking lowers Mortality Risk in Women

For people who enjoy their daily java, recent findings on coffee’s health effects have been largely reassuring. For one thing, older studies linking coffee drinking to health problems such as pancreatic cancer and heart disease were found to be flawed because they did not take into account the real culprit: smoking, a habit once common among coffee drinkers.

There is no evidence that coffee drinking itself causes cancer. And recent investigations have found that although coffee temporarily boosts blood pressure and heart rate in some people, moderate consumption (two to four cups per day) doesn’t increase the risk for heart disease.

Better still, mounting evidence suggests that coffee drinking, sometimes in large quantities provides some health benefits, including improvement in memory and performance and a reduced risk for liver cancer, type 2 diabetes, gout, Parkinson’s disease, and atherosclerosis (in women only). Now, a large investigation by researchers in Spain and at Harvard Medical School suggests that drinking coffee decreases the risk of premature death, especially in women.

There are biological reasons why coffee could benefit health, especially cardiovascular health. Coffee contains many plant substances and antioxidant properties that may help reduce inflammation and protect blood vessel walls.

Research into the mechanisms of coffee’s health effects is still in the early stages, and it will be some time before we know whether coffee has a role in health promotion and disease prevention. But the new findings are consistent with accumulating evidence that for most people, regular coffee drinking isn’t harmful.

Adapted from: Annals of Internal Medicine, British Journal of Nutrition

Col Irene Collier (Ret)
HAVE YOU HEARD?

Military Wisdom

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." — Infantry Journal.
"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." — US Air Force Manual.
"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons." — General MacArthur.
"You, you, and you... Panic. The rest of you, come with me." — U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.
"Five second fuses only last three seconds." — Infantry Journal.
The three most useless things in aviation are: Fuel in the bowser; Runway behind you; and Air above you. — Basic Flight Training Manual.
"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once." — Maritime Ops Manual.
"If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him." — USAF Ammo Troop.
"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3." — Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot).
"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire." — Unknown Author.
"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter — and therefore, unsafe." — Fixed Wing Pilot.
"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash." — Multi-Engine Training Manual.
"Without ammunition, the USAF is just an expensive flying club." — Unknown Author.
"If you hear me yell; 'Eject, Eject, Eject!', the last two will be echoes. If you stop to ask 'Why?' you'll be talking to yourself, because you're the pilot." — Pre-flight Briefing from a 104 Pilot.

Solitaires

Not only do April showers bring May flowers, it also brings Easter, Fiesta and eggs. Who better to explain eggs to us than our own Susie Tolman? Egg decorating goes back to antiquity, through the Romanov's and Faberge eggs to our present day festivities.

Before the advent of writing, eggs were a medium to record geographical location, history, and culture. Family crests were created. Certain signs inferred a block of meanings. Color had meaning. Initially men did the art work on eggs. Later it became the work of women and was passed down the matrilineal line. Today the art work is preserved through ethnic clubs and conventions where the works of art are displayed. Through a demonstration of techniques, the culture is passed down and preserved for future generations.

It is a slow painstaking process. First there is the delicate art of emptying the contents of the egg through two tiny pin holes at either end of the egg. Next the washing and drying of the egg may take days. The coloring comes next followed by possible waxing and applying decorations or "scratching" a pattern on the egg.

We all got to practice "scratching" a design on an egg with a special little knife. "Don't crush the shell" was an admonishment we heard, often too late, as you heard the crunch of a breaking shell. That colorful egg you admire may have taken a month of preparation.

We Texans have a historic love of guns and weapons. Having a weapon infers that you understand gun usage and gun safety. Some of us have inherited a weapon from a husband, brother, father or grandfather but aren't comfortable handling it. One of our own comes to the rescue. Bill Stout is a gun aficionado. He has offered to help any of us who own a weapon and would appreciate some instruction. Not only will he explain laws, the working and safety features of the weapon but will go with us to the firing range to learn how to use it safely. Call Bill if you need some help.

An elderly woman had just come home from a Bible study class at her church. As she entered her house she was startled by an intruder who was robbing her house. She yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38". The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and said what she had done. As the officer cuff ed the man to take him to jail, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture at you."
"Scripture," yelled the burglar, "she said she had an axe and two Thirty-eights." (For those of you who just have to know, Acts 2:38 says "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ that you may be forgiven.").

The next meeting of the Solitaires will be Sunday 28 March at the Kendrick Club on Randolph AFB. In April; we have a talk on Border Patrol by our own Robert Blake. He has first hand experience. May will be a tour of the Pearl Brewery and a River barge tour. Saturday 6 June will be pot luck at the home of Susie Tolman. It is an interesting program. Y'all come!

Col Irene Collier (Ret)

— If you are a single man or lady and like to eat, chat, make new friends, experience or provide sometimes brief impromptu or scheduled interesting demonstrations, talks, or discussions, whether you are: visiting the area; active duty or retired; widowed or divorced; the SOLITAIRES is the group for you.

— This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy camaraderie with other single men and ladies whose backgrounds and experiences are or have been with the military. Call the office (210) 228-9955 for more details.
Chapter Activities
March Luncheon

L-R Deputy Legislative Affairs LtCol Ed LeFebvre, Legislative Affairs Col Al Cote and President, LtCol Ed Marvin

L-R VP Membership & Recruitment LTC Randy Hoff, Chapter member Mark Sweeney, and unidentified luncheon attendee

Speaker Judge Nelson Wolff

L-R Editor Col Kerry Green with VP Advertising LtCol David Walker
Go ahead. You’ve earned it.

Air Force Village, San Antonio’s exciting living choice for distinguished officers, of all military branches, age 55 and over, is pleased to announce our Building on Success expansion.

Be among the first to learn more. By participating in our Expression of Interest program and attending an Expansion Preview event, you will not only get an early VIP glimpse of the community’s distinctive design, plentiful amenities and competitive pricing, you will learn about the lifestyle and home you can have at Air Force Village!

AIR FORCE VILLAGE
4917 Ravenswood Drive,
San Antonio, Texas 78227
5100 John D. Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78245
(888) 252-9224
WWW.AIRFORCEVILLAGES.COM

AIR FORCE VILLAGE

Call us at
888-252-9224,
or visit our website at
www.airforcevillages.com
Following Ryan’s suggestion, TRENDS Executive Editor Jill Martineau Cornish, IOM, encouraged the audience to thank servicemembers even in little public ways as she has done many times.

Both Ryan and Gen. Richard I. Neal, USMC-Ret., chairman of MOAA’s Board of Directors, commended the association’s staff and membership of more than 370,000, without whom the organization could not be a success in supporting the troops.

The national trade publication’s award recognizes Ryan’s leadership of MOAA, including effective advocacy on critical military issues such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, military pay and force levels, and meeting the healthcare needs of military and VA beneficiaries; hosting well-attended symposia that explored solutions on key military issues; and providing more than $9 million to military children in the form of scholarships and grants, among other accomplishments.

Cornish said, “It is also a big deal to me personally, my father and TRENDS founder, Col. Frank Martineau, USAF-Ret., was a member of MOAA. I am honored to recognize an association executive who has done so much for the military of our country.” This is the first time this award has been given to someone in the military community.

Association TRENDS is the national newspaper for association executives and suppliers, providing the latest news, information and analysis in association management for the professional staff of international, national, state, regional and local voluntary groups. The awards were held at the Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

MOAA is the nation’s largest and most influential association of active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former military officers and their families and survivors. It is an independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organization with more than 370,000 members from every branch of service. MOAA promotes a strong national defense by advocating equitable treatment of those who serve and have served their country in uniform.
It’s time to change the way you think of USAA. We’re more than just an auto insurance provider. For nearly 50 years, we’ve offered retirement advice and planning with a full range of investment, banking, life insurance and health-care solutions.

- More than $42 billion in managed assets as of 12/31/2009
- Strategies for asset growth and preservation, protection from unexpected health-care costs, and estate planning
- Managed account fees up to 39% lower than the industry average, with no hidden costs
- A tradition of honesty, integrity, loyalty and, above all, service

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Investment and insurance products are not deposits, not insured by FDIC or any government agency, not guaranteed by the Bank. Investments and certain insurance products may lose value.

† Cerulli Associates Quantitative Update Managed Accounts 2009. An investor will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the underlying funds in addition to direct fees and expenses charged by the portfolio as applicable.
USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. Managed Accounts is a service of USAA Investment Management Company (USAA), a registered investment advisor and broker dealer. Investments provided by USAA Investment Management Company and USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., both registered broker dealers. Financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California) and USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. © 2010 USAA, 109154-0310
Benefits of Membership of MOAA and the local chapter

- Our monthly newsletter, *The Lariat*, which includes a calendar of events, is sent to each member (or made available on-line), and includes both MOAA and Alamo Chapter news. Stay informed!

- Monthly luncheons, which rotate between the Randolph, Fort Sam Houston, and Lackland service clubs, feature informative speakers and are also open to guests.

- Benefit information of all kinds is provided through the Alamo Chapter. We have an experienced Vice President of Personal Affairs who can give quick answers to your and family members’ questions, or who can research the more complex issues.

- The opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of meeting fellow chapter members and their guests. We also plan for various social events, open to families and guests. In addition, our chapter features a singles group called the Solitaires, some of who are surviving spouses. The Solitaires have a busy social calendar.

- Make your voice heard on proposed state and national military legislation which may affect you and your family. Both the Alamo Chapter and MOAA national welcome your views!

- Enjoy many benefits, discounts, and services, to include career planning. The Alamo Chapter also provides college scholarships to those who qualify. MOAA Travel helps you plan that great getaway, and is available for members.

### Membership Application

(Annual Membership)

*Are you a member of MOAA National? _______

**Military Officers Association of America**

**Alamo Chapter**

Circle Status: Commissioned & Warrant Officers of all services - Active, Reserves, Former, Retired, National Guard, NOAA, PHS, Surviving Spouse.

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* May we have your permission to publish this information in the Chapter Membership Directory? _______

(*This directory and your e-mail address are exclusively for the use of the chapter and will not be sold or used for any other purpose than chapter communications and/or board approved activity.)

I would like to receive my monthly newsletter (The Lariat) by email versus having a hard copy mailed to me _______ (Only $15 a year)

Would you be interested in being active in a chapter volunteer activity? _______

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**CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of: $ ______ to (check one)

Outreach Fund* ______ As designated by the Alamo Chapter ______

* a fund for a yearly college scholarship and other charitable programs and services.

**Send applications to:**

MOAA-AC, P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, TX 78208-0037

For questions please call (210) 228-9955 or e-mail: moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net

Also visit our chapter’s website at www.alamomoaa.org

Please feel free to copy and provide this form to prospective members.

12-15-09
love of country, wearing clothes that probably they had worn on their military active duty days and so many other trappings of what the veteran movement is all about.

In the crowded condition of the location it was more important for me to get in an area where it was a little less crowded and observe these great Americans; the very fiber of our country there looking at guns, making deals, swapping, and doing whatever else goes on at a gun show. For the most part many of them were veterans and love our country.

To continue our visit and our memory jogging trip we went to a small town American Legion Post to have lunch and a glass of cold beer. Once again I was amongst people that love our country, love our flag and are proud to have served our country. I enjoyed looking around the America Legion Post and seeing pictures of people that I knew had made the supreme sacrifice. There were pictures of those that I remember my Dad talking about in years gone by that had served out country in most honorable ways. I guess what I am saying is that I was taken aback that many times we do take our country for granted. It is the greatest country in the history of mankind. I know that I am preaching to the choir but don’t intend to or want to because I know each of you who read this feel the same way about America. Let’s all continue our motivation and love of country as we say the Pledge of Allegiance with great pride, as we sing the Star Spangled banner with great gusto, as we sing America the Beautiful let the tears continue to flow from our eyes because of our great emotion and great love of country.

Along those lines I would like to continue by emphasizing perhaps something that probably many of you read over on a month to month basis in our Lariat. That is our Mission Statement. What follows is our mission statement:

- “To be a major source of information, support and social engagement for the membership;
- to provide programs and services for the common good of our military community;
- to be a powerful voice supporting MOAA at local state at national levels”.

All I can really ask is that each reader read each word carefully. This is what your leadership works on every day of every month. Ours is a very valued mission. It is one in which we are proud to do our best to accomplish.

Of course we never will, given our personalities, accomplish perfection but what we can always do is try to do it better. Along those lines I ask each of you in your own respective way to help us accomplish our mission and to make sure we hit the target to the best of our ability by moving our chapter ever forward.

Continuing, this is the time of the year in which the United Way sponsors a Volunteer of the Year program for our city. Our host base, Ft Sam Houston, participates in this Night of a Thousand Stars Award ceremony and has its own volunteer recognition service at the post which is scheduled for April 15th at the Sam Houston Club. I encourage each and every one to attend as your schedule allows.

I am very proud to announce that Irene Collier, a lady with unbounded energy and who does more for our chapter than any of us can really realize is our recognized volunteer. She totally is an unsung hero in our view and by a vote of her peers she is the chapter’s nomination for Volunteer of the Year in this prestigious program.

Irene, we thank you publicly and do appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for our chapter. Without your services, we certainly would not be able to accomplish our mission nearly as well. Your presence and your services in the leadership capacity have been truly outstanding.

In passing I would also like to congratulate recent awardees in our Volunteer of the Year Program, and that would be Mac McDonald, our past Program Director and now Board member; David Patrick, Secretary of our chapter and of the State Council; Rhoda Philby who has moved away from town but who will be remembered always and forever for her great contributions to the chapter and, of course, Gil Rodriguez who served in so many capacities in the MOAA organization and did great yeoman service for our chapter. I also congratulate Ed McCarthy who served as your President of the chapter for 9 years and who also served as President of the Texas Council.

Being one of those Volunteers of the Year so aptly selected and supported.

So with that my friends, it has been an event filled month – we have a busy April planned and a busy May programmed. You will see information on that later in The Lariat.

I thank each of you for your responsiveness in paying dues which are so critical to your chapter. And thanks for your charitable scholarship and chapter donations.

I thank each of you for being members of the chapter, and I do ask each of you to try your best to recruit a member for your chapter because that is how we will continue to achieve our mission.

God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

LtCol Ed Marvin (Ret)
## Chapter Events Calendar

### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Volunteer Hours Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Easter Sunday - Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Board Meeting 10:00am MOAA-AC Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 10am Sam Houston Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Chapter Fiesta Picnic Eberle Park 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing: Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior &amp; Family Support Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please call the office for details (210) 228-9955</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Events **bolded** are for the **general membership** and *italicized* are for staff, though members are always welcome.

### MAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Volunteer Hours Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Victory Day in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mother’s Day - Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Health Care Advisory Council Meeting 11:30am Sam Houston Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lariat Article Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day – Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chapter Luncheon LtGeneral Swan Gateway Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Brunch 11am Randolph AFB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Memorial Day - Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ft Sam Houston Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ongoing:
Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior & Family Support Center

### JUNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Volunteer Hours Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Veterans Administration Volunteers Mtg 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Pot Luck Luncheon at Susie Tolman’s House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FlagDay – Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>US Army Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Father’s Day - Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Brunch 11 am Randolph AFB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)</td>
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### JULY

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Volunteer Hours Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day - Fly the Flag!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day Ceremony Ft Sam Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Solitaire’s Brunch 11am Randolph AFB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)</td>
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Note: no chapter luncheon this month
Statement of Publication

The Lariat is the newsletter of the Military Officers Association of America—Alamo Chapter. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all. MOAA-AC is a non-profit organization within the state of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National.

Advertising contained in the newsletter is not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

MOAA-AC P.O. Box 8037 San Antonio, TX 78208 (210) 228-9955 moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net

Receiving The Lariat Online?

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We will notify you by email when the new issue is available for viewing.

Save paper, save postage, read it sooner, AND with color!!
Thursday April 15th, 2010

Fiesta Picnic Supper
Randolph AFB
Eberle Park

Social Hour begins at 5:30pm - Supper served approx 6pm

Menu
Catering by: La Pasadita
Chicken Enchiladas, Crispy Beef Tacos
Rice & beans, chips & dip
Includes Ice tea, sodas and beer & wine

Musical Entertainment by Armador Mariachi Band
Cost: $20 per person
Enclosed: $_____

RSVP by Noon Monday 12 April
Reservations not cancelled by noon Tuesday 13th will be billed
Guests welcome with paid reservations

Name ____________________________________________________________

Guest: __________________________________________________________

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC at P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, TX 78208
Or rsvp by email to moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.

Thursday May 20th, 2010

Chapter Luncheon
Lackland AFB Gateway Club

Speaker: General Swan

Social Hour begins 11am - Lunch served approx 11:45am

Menu (Indicate Choice)
A) Sliced Roasted Sirloin
B) Chicken Picatta with white
   of Beef
   wine sauce & angel hair pasta
   Spring Salad with House dressing
   Mashed potatoes with Vegetable of the Day
   Pineapple Upside Down Cake
   Coffee & Tea Service and $3 per glass honor wine bar
   Cost: $17 per person
   Enclosed: $_____

RSVP by Noon Monday 17 May
Reservations not cancelled by noon Tuesday 18 will be billed
Non member Officers are welcome with paid reservations

Name ____________________________________________________________

Guest: __________________________________________________________

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC at P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, TX 78208
Or RSVP by email to moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.