

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALAMO CHAPTER



THE



LARIAT

Volume 31, Number 8

“Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter”

August 2011

National MOAA Annual Meeting - Oct 26-29 Marriott River Center San Antonio, Texas



President's Message

I hope that this finds all of you having a wonderful, if warm, summer. There has been much upon my mind of late. The 50th anniversary celebration of the Alamo Chapter; getting ready for the Annual Meeting in October; working with the Alliance for Veterans and Families and so forth.

One of the biggest things that Randy Hoff, our membership Vice President, and I worry with constantly is our membership and the retention of that membership. This is not unlike what we did when we were on active service and had a unit to worry about!

While the Alamo Chapter is the largest Chapter in the state, with a membership hovering at 1300, it could be so much more. I don't believe that most members of our Chapter realize that we have a potential membership in the New Braunfels, San Antonio/Bexar County area of about 10,500 members. There are only about 35,000 National members in the state. The problem that we face on the membership side is multi faceted:

- The number of potential members is too large for just a small number of us to work on.
- We need our present members to be constantly in a position where they can explain the value of belonging to MOAA and the Alamo Chapter. Then we need them to sign up potential members!
- We have a large number of potential active duty officers and warrants who haven't heard of MOAA, don't know what it is or what it does for them and have never been asked to join.

(Continued on Page 8)

Save The Date!

Thu Aug 18

Luncheon

Spkr: Tom Palladino
Tx Vet Commission
Ft Sam Golf Club

Fri Sept 16

Dinner

Spkr: MGen Joe Lynch
MOAA
Petroleum Club
50th Anniversary
Celebration

Inside This Edition:

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Remember - Buy these Scratch Off Lottery tickets and help support Texas Veterans!

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VETERANS CASH
JOHN WAYNE

Chapter News & Notices



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.

Maryada Artiglia
 Ruth Baliram
 Irene Collier
 Frank and Delores DeVille
 Nita Felder
 Susan Filipini
 Marge Fraley
 Joe and Adele Genualdi
 John Gibbs
 Ed and Sue McCarthy
 Mac and Lori McDonald
 Lolly Orłowski
 Jan Rund
 Cheryl Smith
 Lou Strong
 Susie Tolman
 Dot Wise
 Tom and Evelyn Woods



A big thank you to the following who have generously contributed to either the Scholarship Fund or to the Operating Account. We appreciate it very much:

Ruth Balliram
 Col Nicholas Barron
 Col Wilfred Cassidy
 Elizabeth Goetz

Membership Directory Corrections

Col Graham Aitken USAF (Ret)
 Address: 154 Alondra Lane, Spring Branch, TX 78070

LTC Richard Delaney USA (Ret)
 Update: Deceased

Col Matt Eichinger USAF (Ret)
 Spouse Name: Judith
 Phone Number: (210) 496-7627

CW3 Michael Gates USA (Ret)
 Spouse Name: Dagmar

LTC Richard Holzman USA (Ret)
 Last Name: Holzmänn

LtCol Marshann Kessenick USAF (Ret)
 Last Name: Kessenich

LTC Brenda McBride USA
 Address: 422 Nueces St, San Antonio, TX 78258
 Phone: (210) 221-9674

LTC Randolph Meade USA (Ret)
 Spouse Name: Diane
 Phone Number: (210) 653-0645

CPT Slade K. Smith USA
 Rank: MAJ

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:

Dixie Ann Harris Flory
 Spouse of Col Alan Flory USA (Ret)
 5/18/2011

Mary Betal Giovannini
 Spouse of Col Max Giovannini USAF (Ret)
 5/22/2011

Volunteer Opportunities

The Alamo chapter has the following positions open that we would love to have some help! You can spend as much or as little time as you have available. Call the office at 210-228-9955 to volunteer.

Photographer at Social Functions

Volunteer Coordinator

Legal Counsel

Greeters at Social Functions

Floater Duty Officer

Members for Calling Committee

Members for Program Committee

Transportation Coordinator

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said,
 people will forget what you did,
 but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

- Maya Angelou



100% Tax Exemption to Surviving Spouses Pass Texas Legislature

In May 2011, the Legislature unanimously passed measures that, if approved by Texas voters, will extend the 100 percent property tax exemption to totally disabled or unemployable veterans to their surviving spouses.

Senate Joint Resolution 14, by Sen. Leticia Van de Putte and Senate Bill 516, by Sen. Dan Patrick, will allow tax appraisal districts to provide to the surviving spouse of a 100 percent disabled veteran the 100 percent property tax exemption that the veteran had been receiving at their residence homestead.

The measures received significant backing from veteran service organizations, which made the exemption their top initiative for the 82nd Legislative Session.

Because the change requires amending the Texas Constitution, Texas voters must approve the proposal by a majority vote in the November 8, 2011 statewide election.

The change would rectify a problem currently experienced by spouses when a 100 percent disabled veteran passes away. Under current law, surviving spouses of a 100 percent disabled veteran must not only deal with the grief of their loss, but with a daunting tax bill as well. The median Texas homeowner pays \$2275 per year in property taxes. This tax hit, in conjunction with the loss of much of the monetary benefit the family had received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, can threaten the financial security of military families.

If approved by voters, the legislation would entitle the surviving spouse to the 100 percent property tax exemption if:

- the property was the surviving spouse's homestead when the veteran died;
- The property remains the surviving spouse's homestead, **and**
- The surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the disabled veteran.

According to the legislation, the spouse is not obligated to remain in the original home so long as the new home is designated a homestead and the spouse does not remarry: "If the surviving spouse subsequently qualifies a different property as a residence homestead and has not remarried, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a property tax exemption on that homestead of the same dollar amount received on the former homestead that qualified for the surviving spouse homestead exemption."

If passed by Texas voters, the new exemption would take effect on January 1, 2012. According to the latest VA

statistics, there are approximately 53,000 unemployable or 100 percent disabled veterans in Texas.

MOAA Alamo Chapter has worked closely with the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations and MOAA Alamo Chapter President, Jim Cunningham, has been a frequent visitor to the Capitol in Austin speaking before subcommittees on the veteran related bills.

John Miterko of the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations released this statement earlier last month:

"My thanks to every veteran who attended Committee hearings, made our presence known by attending House and Senate public sessions, made phone calls, sent emails, and personally visited their State elected officials in their home districts to promote our veteran related legislation.

Because of your direct involvement was the level of our success possible during this legislative session. In all there were 43 veteran related bills that were sent to Governor Perry."

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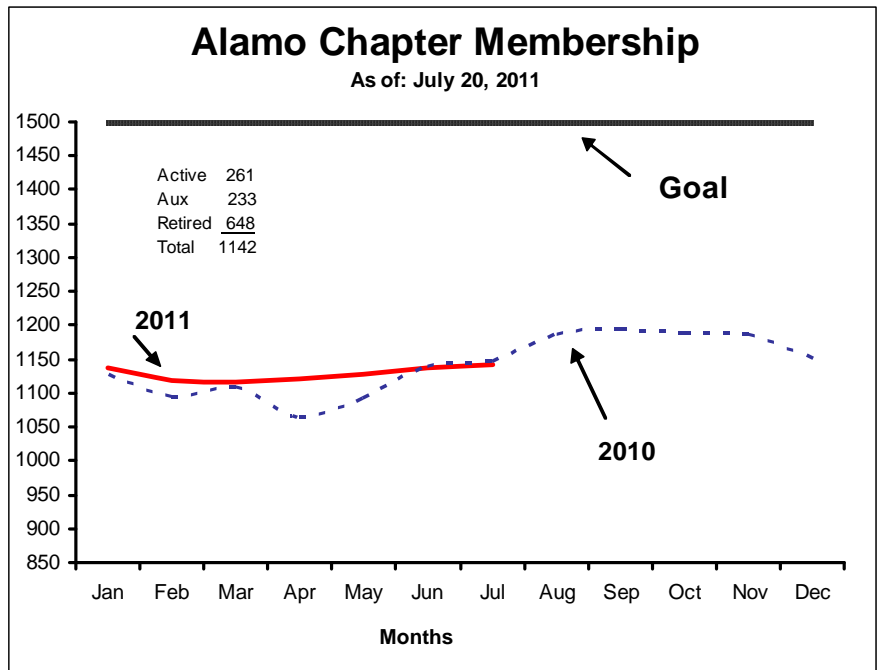
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Welcome New Members!

Col David Brooks USAF (Ret)
 COL Shane Dietrich USA
 Col Carol Habgood USAF (Ret)
 Col Kenneth Leffler USAF
 Col John Mayer USMC
 COL Thomas Rozanski USA
 COL Scott Simmons USAR
 COL Ermine Todd USA (Ret)
 LtCol Jerry Anaya USAFR
 LTC Linda Blackman USA
 LTC Blake Burslie USA
 LtCol Russell Coleman USAF (Ret)
 LtCol Nancy D'Silva USAFR
 LTC Leah Eubanks USAR
 LTC Laura Feider USA
 LTC Paul Ferici USA (Ret)
 LTC David Guarriello USA
 LTC Darry Hurst USA
 LtCol David Jones USAF (Ret)
 LtCol Paul Kellner USAF
 LtCol Eileen Lentz USAR (Ret)
 LtCol Melinda Morrell USAF (Ret)
 LTC Jeremy Olson USAR
 LtCol David Schafer USAF
 LTC David Senese USA
 LTC Robert Setlik USA
 LTC Cheryl Sofaly
 LtCol William Wakefield USAF (Ret)
 MAJ Brent Donmoyer USA
 Maj John Duggan USAF (Ret)
 MAJ Ellen Fielden USA
 MAJ Allen Hahn USA
 Maj Monica Hamilton USAF
 MAJ Stefan Kochis USA
 MAJ Maita Jarkewicz ANG
 MAJ Daniel Martin USA
 MAJ Loweel Mix USA (Ret)
 MAJ Leslie Moskowitz USA
 LCDR Juanita Neil USN
 MAJ Patrick O'Neil USA
 MAJ Rodolfo Quintana USA
 MAJ Sharon Rosser USA
 MAJ Susan Wedell USAR
 CAPT Linda Beltra USN

Year to Date Membership Stats



CPT Asmar Calvery USA
 Cpt Jasmine Cook USAF
 CPT German Irizarry USA
 CPT Charles Johnson II USA
 CPT Lee Johnson USA
 CPT Amanda Love USA
 CPT Amy Martino USA
 CPT Pete Norton USA
 CPT Will Pitt USA
 CPT Gary Phillips USA
 CPT Derral Prowant USA
 CPT Sean Spanbauer USA
 CPT Marlo Urrutia USA
 1LT Patricia Adams USAR
 LTJG Jennifer Chojhacki USN
 LTJG Linda Geisaka USN
 1LT Nikki Boynton USA
 1LT James Houston USAR
 1LT Reina Johnson USAR
 1LT Brett Pinero USA
 2LT Michael Honsberger USA
 2LT Nikita Logan USA
 CW3 Jim Manzo USA
 CW2 Justin Clemit USA
 Anthony Foat USA (no rank given)
 Will Kingdon (no rank given)

AND....Thank You Renewing Members!

MGen Bruce Smith USAF (Ret)
 Col Ben Alford (Ret)
 COL John Alvarez USA (Ret)
 COL Ann Ashjian USA (Ret)
 Col Edwin Banner III USAF (Ret)
 COL Nicholas Barron USA (Ret)
 Col Joseph Bevilacqua USAF (Ret)
 Col Wilfred Cassidy USAF (Ret)
 Col James Council USAF (Ret)
 Col Bruce Creller USAF (Ret)
 Col Matthew Eichinger USAF (Ret)
 Col Clarke Ehrlich (Ret)
 COL Damian Heaney USA (Ret)
 COL Stanford Hickman USA (Ret)
 COL Richard Lantry USA (Ret)
 Col Peggy Matarese USAF
 COL Nickey McCasland USA (Ret)
 Col David Snodgrass USAF (Ret)
 Col Thomas Spruiell USAF (Ret)
 Col John Tucker USAF (Ret)
 LTC William Cosgrove USA (Ret)
 LTC Bill Goforth USA (Ret)
 LTC Jerry Gonzales USA (Ret)
 (Continued on Page 5)

Health, Benefits & Welfare

New Coast Guard Academy Superintendent

The Uniformed Services Journal identified RDML Sandra L. Stosz as the Academy's next superintendent. Admiral Stosz is a 1982 graduate of CGA, has 12 years of sea duty and is the first woman graduate of the Coast Guard to be promoted to Flag rank. RDML Stosz will be the first woman to lead a U.S. military service academy. The Coast Guard was the first Service to admit women as cadets at its academy in New London, CT, in 1976.

Source: Uniformed Services Journal - NAUS,

Sign Up For Electronic Payments

The US Treasury Department's new regulation states that paper benefits checks must be phased out by March 2013.

On May 1, 2011, the new regulation stated that anyone receiving VA compensation or pension payments for the first time will automatically receive their benefits through electronic payment.

VA will stop issuing paper checks

Renewing Members

(Continued from Page 4)

LtCol Loretta Henderson USAFR
(Ret)

CDR Paul Martin USN (Ret)
LTC Lawrance Maul USA (Ret)
LtCol Winston Shaffer II USAF
(Ret)

CDR Brenda Tobey USN (Ret)
Maj Jeff Bradley USAF
MAJ Fred Dufault USA

Maj John Markovetz USAF (Ret)
MAJ Robert Roedel USA (Ret)
MAJ Joseph Topinka USA
Maj Ben Winters USAF (Ret)
CAPT Robert Lynch USN (Ret)

Cpt Faustino Rodriguez USA
CW2 Bill Strout USA (Ret)
Ruth Balliram
Hedi West

altogether on March 1, 2013, and veterans and survivors who have not signed up for electronic payment of benefits by that time will receive a prepaid debit card instead.

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically, will be unaffected by these changes. More information about the federal government's change to direct deposit or to change VA benefits to direct deposit, go to <http://www.godirect.org/>. You may also call 1-800-333-1795.

Along with payments for VA benefits, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management.

Source: Uniformed Services Journal-NAUS

Memorial Day vs Veterans Day

The US Department of Veterans Affairs clarifies that Memorial Day is for honoring military personnel who DIED in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or of wounds sustained in battle. Veterans Day, however, is intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service.

Retiree Appreciation Days

RADs are a great source of the latest information for retirees and their Family members in the area. RADs vary from installation to installation but generally provide an opportunity to renew acquaintances, listen to guest speakers, renew ID cards, get medical check ups, and various other services. The Joint Base San Antonio RAD is scheduled for November 5, 2011. Contact (210) 221-9004 for more information.

Never Too Late

Now 99, a World War II veteran and retired postal worker from western New York recently married 86 year
(Continued on Page 10)

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We encourage each of you to remember our Corporate Partners in your business and daily activities because we truly appreciate their support. If your business or organization would like to join us as a Corporate Partner, please contact us at (210) 228-9955. Thank you for your consideration.

A Conversation with LTC Sumner Hudson

Last year, the *Lariat* ran a series of interviews with LTC Sumner Hudson in which he talked about his military career.

Late last year, because this chapter turns 50 in 2011 and will be hosting the MOAA national convention in October, we asked him about his experiences with the Alamo Chapter of MOAA (formerly SAROA) and how it has changed over the years of his membership.

LTC Hudson died in April, but his spirit lives on in those of us who were privileged to meet him.

LTC Hudson joined SAROA in 1982, recruited while he was in the hospital by the then president of SAROA, COL Clarence Torrey. Hospital visits were common during that period, LTC Hudson said, both for recruiting and for maintaining contact with members. He lamented the fact that today's MOAA doesn't seem to carry on that tradition: "There's nobody that actually visits the hospital, say if a member's in the hospital. . . . Maybe a half hour or something like that so the guy can know that at least somebody was thinking about him other than his family."

Because hospital visits were an important part of the SAROA membership recruiting and retention program, LTC Hudson said, "the president always appointed three people. They would be given the name of whoever was in the hospital. Sometimes they'd go individually; sometimes they'd go together. I think that was a big help for anybody who was sick. . . I remember that so well. When the president came in to see me, we got to talking and he asked me if I wanted to join, and I said, well, I don't know anything about it. And he told me what it was. I said sure, I'll join. I didn't even know they had the organization at that time."

Almost immediately, LTC Hudson became a hard-working member of the

SAROA leadership team. As chief of supply, he was involved in bringing the first computers to the SAROA office. In later years, he served as a member of the Alamo-MOAA Board of Directors.

.....

What sort of changes have you seen [from SAROA to Alamo-MOAA]? Have they been positive? Have we grown into a better organization?

"They have, definitely [been positive]. . . . I think that there [are] more definite meetings that we have as Board of Directors. . . . Ed Marvin did a strong job [as president]. Before, it was just strictly friendship. . . . We all had good friendships during the old regime. Everybody tried to help everybody else. . . . I enjoyed the old outfit. We were all very friendly. And we always had good groups when we had the meetings. People liked to be seated with each other and enjoy the conversation and all that. The company. I can't exactly say they don't do it now, but a lot of those people come in now who are members, but they don't participate in ideas or suggestions and all that."

When the organization opened up to active duty personnel, LTC Hudson added, "I think that there was a tremendous drive for the people to help or be asked to serve in a specific job. . . . I don't know how we're doing on active duty, young officers. I tried to recruit the ones at the hospital because my wife [Dr. Wanda Hudson] was involved with the Red Cross at the hospital, and all of the volunteers."

So, [what do] you think [is] one thing keeping some people from joining?

"That's one of the things that I believe the majority of us old timers often wonder: 'why don't they join?' I don't know the answer."

What ideas do you have on how to recruit and retain more members?

"I think somehow or another, if they can mix the tables at the luncheons. That's one thing. Before, you'd walk in and there'd be a table there and they'd say 'hi, join us,' and we enjoyed moving around and sitting with different couples. Friendship, that's the way I would put it. . . . We all got along real well. . . ."

So you would say that one of the things we're missing now is that sort of camaraderie that you all had?

"Yes. Yes."

So how do we get it back? What do you think we need to do?

"How to get it back? Well, I think in a way that Jim might be able to [ask] three or four men to join a group at the luncheons and become companions with them. . . . There should be a way to get members to reach out—not the directors. If a member had the time to go to an organization that has a lot of people who are eligible and have not joined. The hospital, for instance. I think also there are some organizations of retired military that probably don't know about [Alamo-MOAA]. . . . Personal contact—this is the organization, this is what we do --- let them understand from a person who belongs what they would like them to do, what is being done. Say we have good meetings like at the golf course and so on. Just to get together on a friendly basis. Let them know that there is a combination of active and retired members.

"Colonel Torrey used to brag at our meetings. He would say, 'I got Hudson to join when he was in the hospital.' I got Tom [his brother-in-law] to join. When my scholarship was announced, I told the board he would be a good addition, and he's now going to be on the board. That's just an example of bringing a person in that another person knows to be a member of the organization. . . . If each person brought

(Continued on Page 8)



Medical Minute

Senior Moments?

Do you have cognitive problems? Are you or a friend or family member disorganized, forget where you put things, forget where you put your keys? That may be normal cognitive minimal impairment (CMI) or senior moments. But if you can't remember what the keys are for - you may have serious problems.

The Alzheimer's Association has provided a checklist of symptoms of AD that people begin to display. The 10 warning signs are:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
2. Difficulty with planning or solving problems.
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks.
4. Confusion with time or place.
5. Trouble understanding visual images or spatial relationships.
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing.
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
8. Decreased or poor judgment .
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities.
10. Changes in mood and personality.

If one is showing any of these symptoms he should get an early evaluation. The problem may be as simple as eye disease- macular degeneration or glaucoma. It may be hearing impairment. If these causes are ruled out then one should seek medical help.

Getting early evaluation and treatment may not lead to a cure but it can provide advice and support. It also puts patients in the pipeline for new treatments as they become available.

Source: Mind, Mood Memory, Massachusetts General Hospital, May 2011

Col Irene Collier (Ret)



(Editors Note: The following is a run on from the June Solitaire's article entitled Unsung Heroines/Mothers Day)

Father's Day

Mother's Day in the U.S. is as popular as Mom and Apple Pie. Anne Jarvis had little trouble getting a national day to honor mothers.

But fathers didn't fare as well. Fathers are essential but they did not get the universal recognition for a holiday as mothers did. They get a lot of phone calls on Father's Day--usually collect. It was once assumed he was essential for creating a new human life. However, today with the sperm bank, this is no longer true. Look at the large number of single mother families in the U.S.

So what does father contribute to the rearing of a human offspring? When God created Adam he also created Eve. Together they were to rear generations of God's children. Father is supposed to be the head of the household. He is the provider of food, clothing and necessities for the family. Today he isn't always the breadwinner.

In some households Mom brings in more money than Dad. With high unemployment he doesn't always "bring home the bacon." He is expected to be the disciplinarian, although Mom is more often the one with the switch or who metes out "time out" for punishment. From Father we expect a model for citizenship for the children to follow.

He is firm, honest, brave, supportive, understanding, a leader, strong, intelligent-someone to look up to. But he isn't there all of the time. There are many work related absences: travel, long work hours, deployment to the military. But as a child you hold up a

Solitaires



mental image icon of Dad even when he is absent. The hero worship diminishes with the teen years, but returns with adulthood. As an old aphorism goes, "When I was 14 I thought my father was the dumbest man on Earth. When I was 21 I thought he was the smartest man. Never did figure out how he learned so much in seven years." (Mark Twain).

In 1909 when Anne Jarvis started her successful crusade for Mother's Day, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington started a campaign to establish a national Father's Day to honor her father. She was 16 when her mother died giving birth to their sixth child. Her father, a Civil War Vet, reared the children alone.

In 1910 with the help of Reverend Dr. Conrad Bluhm, Ministerial Alliance, and the YMCA, the young people took one Sunday in June to honor their fathers. They wore a red rose if he were alive, and a white rose if he were dead. Sonora traveled through the city in a horse drawn carriage carrying gifts to fathers who were confined by illness.

Although Mothers Day was popular Fathers Day didn't quite rank high in the opinion polls. Usually it was met with derision and jokes. In 1913 a bill was introduced in Congress to establish a national Fathers Day. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson went to Spokane Washington to speak on Fathers Day.

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge recommended the date be made official. In 1957 Maine Senator Margaret Chase recommended recognition of the date. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation that the 3rd Sunday in June be called Fathers Day. It wasn't until 1972 that Congress made the date official.

(Continued on Page 13)

Conversation

(Continued from Page 6)

in just one person, it would practically double the membership. . . . And there's no reason why people can't do that. At least invite one or two people and let them know what's going on."

I appreciate your talking with me. And you certainly have helped me.

"Well, I've tried to help a little bit."

.....

Even now, LTC Hudson continues to contribute via a scholarship fund managed at MOAA headquarters.

Memorials can be made to the MOAA Scholarship Fund in the name of LTC Sumner Hudson, Jr. (Ret) and Dr. Wanda L. Hudson Endowed Scholarship, Attn: Shelly Marshall, Director, 201 North Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2539.

Janice K. Edgerson
COL, US Army (Retired)
Alamo-MOAA Historian

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

- This is particularly true of our medical service officers. We need the help of our present active duty members to recruit them!
- On the retention side of the coin, we also have problems that we need to address:
- The Alamo Chapter wants to be relevant to the needs and wants of its membership.
- We need the help of, particularly our active duty members, to volunteer some time to help us develop volunteer opportunities and programs which will involve the member and their families. We need help in adding value to the career goals of the active duty members through educational programs, career development programs

and the like.

- While we want to continue having our monthly luncheons and speakers, we also want to have other activities beyond those to help our membership grow more knowledgeable and be able to involve their families.

All of the aforementioned takes work and the volunteer efforts of our membership. I hope that some of you will identify yourselves as being able to give some time to this effort and help the Chapter realize greater membership and retention through making the Chapter better.

The Alamo Chapter has a wealth of history, having been a part of the Ft. Sam Houston community for over 55 years. As a Chapter, we have been chartered by the National MOAA for 50 years this year. The Chapter was headquartered at the old USAA building on Grayson for almost 50 years until moved to make way for Army North. We are now co-located with our friends the American Red Cross.

As part of our celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we will be having an anniversary dinner on September 16 at the Petroleum Club. Our speaker for the evening will be Major Gen Joe Lynch, USAF-Ret, and MOAA's General Counsel. We would like to have as many of our members come be a part of this celebration as possible. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

As you should all know by now, the MOAA Annual Meeting will be held from October 27-29, 2011 here in San Antonio. Alamo MOAA will be recognized for its 50th anniversary during the proceedings. There will be several activities attendant to the meeting beginning with the MOAA Career Job Fair on October 27th. This job fair is open to job seekers and future job seekers, of any rank on active duty or veteran or retired individuals. If you know anyone seeking a job, I would encourage you to tell them about this

and encourage them to attend it.

MOAA is also identifying Community Heroes who have worked with our Wounded Warriors. Categories include individuals from the military and also the civilian community. Military and Civilian organizations will also be recognized. These Heroes will be recognized during a special event on the evening of October 28th.

Information and registration information regarding the Annual Meeting can be seen on the MOAA.org website or in the Military Officers Magazine. Please call the Chapter office at 210-228-9955, if you have any questions regarding the meeting.

I also want to report to you on our involvement with the Alliance for Veterans and Families, a new 501c3 that we have helped stand up in San Antonio. The AVF's mission is to "assist veteran service providers in the Alamo Region by sharing information and increasing opportunities to work together." In doing this AVF has assisted in the formation of different working groups that have brought many different service providers together to develop and execute projects that will help veterans and their families.

Several members of the Alamo Chapter have been instrumental in getting some of these projects developed and implemented. David Patrick, our Chapter Secretary and Regional TOPS Officer has led and helped develop the Veterans Information Program. This was an effort to develop six self contained educational modules that could be presented, in the evening, to veterans and, in particular, their spouses. These informational programs are relative to employment, benefits, education, etc. The first module having to do with education was presented at the end of June and was very well received. This module and

(Continued on Page 12)

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August Speaker Bio



Col Thomas Palladino USA (Ret)
Executive Director Texas Veterans
Commission

Tom was born in Boston, MA and graduated from Providence College, Rhode Island in 1982 with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. Tom Palladino earned a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Texas State University in 1994 and a Texas Teaching Certificate in 1995. Additionally, he possesses a Texas Public School Principal's Certification.

Tom Palladino is a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Army ROTC Program at Providence College and was commissioned as an Armor officer in the Regular Army in 1982. He served as Scout and Tank Platoon Leader, Border Officer, and Tank Company Executive Officer in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany patrolling the East-West German Border from 1982 to 1985. He then served as a Squadron Logistical Officer, Cavalry Troop Commander and Regimental Operations Officer in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Bliss, TX, from 1986 to 1990. He was assigned as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Texas at Austin from 1990 to 1994.

Tom Palladino joined the Texas Army National Guard in 1994 and served as the commander of the State Officer Candidate School, the Operations Officer for the Texas Military Academy, the Public Affairs Officer for the Texas Adjutant General Department, and the Executive Officer for the 3/112

Armor Battalion in Brownwood, Texas. During this time he taught in the Austin and Pflugerville Independent School Districts as a High School and Middle School Social Studies teacher from 1995 until 2000.

In 2000 Tom Palladino became Active Guard Reserve in the Texas Army National Guard and was assigned as an Associate Professor of Military Science at the University of Texas at Austin. Subsequently, he served in numerous positions in the Texas Army National Guard including the Recruiting Commander for Central and South Texas, Civil-Military Relations Officer, State Family Program Director, Commander of the 149th Personnel Services Battalion, and the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Adjutant General's Department.

Tom Palladino retired as a Colonel from the US Army in September 2009 after 27 years of total service. Additionally, he has taught as an Adjunct Associate Professor in Government at Austin Community College from 1995-2010.

Tom Palladino is married and has two daughters: Christa and Kate. His wife, Susan, is originally from El Paso, Texas and teaches elementary school in Pflugerville ISD. They live in Round Rock, Texas.

Health, Welfare & Benefits

(Continued from Page 5)

old Virginia Hartman, a widow who raised five children. Gilbert never got married because he never met the right woman - until he turned 98. He met Virginia in 2010 in a hall at Monroe Community Hospital, the nursing home where they both live. He started visiting her every day. They wanted to share a room, but the facility's rules would not allow it unless a couple is married. Virginia asked him if he wanted to tie the knot, he said yes and they were married on 6 June with her extended family on hand.

DVA Handbook

The 2011 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors Benefits book is now available online. Go to www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

Protests at Funerals

The Senate Affairs Committee is considering new legislation to keep protesters away from military funerals after the Supreme Court ruled that such protests are protected under the First Amendment. The new bill, Sanctity for Veterans Act would ban protests with 120 minutes of funeral services, create a 300ft buffer zone and keep them from 500 feet from access routes.

Chapter Vision & Mission Statement

Vision: To be the primary advocate for the military community

Mission:

- 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 the local, state and national levels.



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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 through TOPS (The Officer Placement Service). The Alamo Chapter also provides college scholarships to those who qualify.

Referred by: _____

The Give Me 10! Campaign Options:

1. Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve officers of all services, who are not past or present members of MOAA national are eligible for a one year **free** national and local MOAA (MOAA-AC) membership.
2. Retired Officers or Auxiliary (surviving spouses), and lapsed members of MOAA national, can receive a 2 year membership for \$30.00 (The usual yearly membership rate is \$31). You will then receive a one year local MOAA-AC membership **free**.
3. Those already members of MOAA national need to complete this application to receive a 1 year **free** local membership to MOAA-AC.

Normal Dues: MOAA national \$31 per year, MOAA local \$25.00 (Auxiliary \$15)

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, or Retired, National Guard, NOAA, PHS, Surviving Spouse.

Name _____
(Print) Last First MI Spouse

Residence Address City State Zip

Rank/Grade Service Date of Birth

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Civilian/Military Occupation _____

Firm/Unit _____ E-mail* _____

* 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.)

Would you like to access our monthly newsletter (The Lariat) at our website versus having a hard copy mailed to you? _____ (Dues reduce to \$15 per year).

Would you be interested in being active in chapter volunteer activity? _____

Signature Date

CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of: \$ _____ to (check one)
Outreach Fund* _____ As designated by the Alamo Chapter _____

*a fund for annual college scholarships and other charitable programs and services.

Send applications to:

MOAA-AC, P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234

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.

1-17-11

Solitaires

(Continued from Page 7)

In 1972 President Nixon's proclamation finally made it official. Dad finally got the recognition he so justly deserved.

The Solitaires are on a summer schedule. We are having one event per month instead of the usual bimonthly luncheons. May was the Pot luck, June a speaker from Oasis, July the Harlequin dinner Theater, and in August a field trip to the Food Bank.

In September we resume our regular schedule. Enjoy your summer and keep cool.

Source: Library

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

President's Message

(Continued from Page 8)

others will be presented at various times and locations throughout the region in coming months. I want to salute and thank David for his hard work in getting this program organized, developed and off the ground.

Chapter member and retired Major, Jim Palmer, USA, has been working on the development of a Spiritual Health Initiative along with members of much other faith based organizations serving veterans and their families to initiate church based programs that congregations can develop to serve their veterans members and family members. This program will be moving forward to implementation during August.

Lt Col Cheryl Smith, USAF (Ret), our Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing for the Chapter, has been working with other providers to develop public relations efforts for the various activities of the AVF.

I was privileged this past week to attend the signing by Governor Rick Perry of an important bill that we helped pass that had been put forward by Senator Leticia Van de Putte during the past session of the Texas Legislature. The signing was at St. Phillips College and was for SB1736, the College Credit for Heroes bill. This will grant college credit to veterans on the basis of their military jobs, without cost to them and give them a leg up on

getting their higher education degrees.

The Senator also informed me that the constitutional amendment granting tax relief to the surviving spouses of deceased 100% disabled veterans will be Proposition One on the November General Election Ballot. I want to encourage all of our membership to vote for this proposition in November and also encourage their family, friends and neighbors to do the same. In providing this benefit, we will be insuring that surviving spouses will not be put in a position of losing their homes as a result of the death of their spouse and attendant loss of income.

For our August luncheon, we will have the new Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission, Colonel Tom Palladino, USAR (Ret) as our speaker. I have asked the Colonel to speak to the general activities of the TVC across the state of Texas and also to specifically talk about new initiatives that will be coming about as a result of this past legislative session. Also to address how the Veterans Assistance Lottery fund is developing and helping our veterans and their families. Details of the meeting are in this Lariat. It should be an interesting meeting.

Have a great month and hope to see you at our meetings.

Jim Cunningham
USAR

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Other classes offered at various locations.

Call 210-221-3355 for class information or to volunteer.

Chapter Events Calendar

AUGUST

1 Volunteer Hours Due

**8 Purple Heart Memorial Rededication 9:30am
Cadena-Reeves Justice Center**

9 HCAC Meeting Sam Houston Club 11:30am

11 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

14 Victory in Japan Day

17 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

18 Board Meeting 9am Ft Sam Golf Club

18 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Houston Golf Club

30 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

**31 Solitaires Tour of San Antonio Food Bank
9:30am**

SEPTEMBER

1 Volunteer Hours Due

1 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

1 Veterans Administration Volunteers Mtg 1pm

5 Labor Day – Fly the Flag!

6 Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

8-9 MOAA Chapter President’s Symposium Kansas City

11 Patriot Day – Fly the Flag!

16 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Petroleum Club 6:30pm

18 POW/MIA Recognition Day

21 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

25 Solitaire’s Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

27 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

Note: Events **bolded** are for the **general membership** and *italicized* are for *staff*, though members are always welcome. Please call the office for details (210) 228-9955

Ongoing:

Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior & Family Support Center

OCTOBER

1 Volunteer Hours Due

4 Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

6 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

10 Columbus Day - Fly the Flag!

19 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

23 Solitaire’s Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

25 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

26-29 MOAA Annual Meeting Marriott Riverwalk San Antonio

28 TCC Q4 Meeting

NOVEMBER

1 Volunteer Hours Due

1 Solitaire’s Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

3 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

5 Retiree Appreciation Day Joint Base San Antonio

10 Marine Corps Birthday

11 Veterans’ Day Ceremony Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery 9:30am. Fly the Flag!

16 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

17 Board Meeting Randolph Parr Club 9am

17 Annual Business Meeting Kendrick Club

24 Thanksgiving - Fly the Flag!

27 Solitaire’s Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

28 Decorate VA Hospital Hospice Ward 9am (tentative)

29 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

Receiving The Lariat Online?

If you would prefer to read your Lariat on-line rather than receive a printed copy, send us an email with the subject line as OLLO and we'll gladly remove you from the printed version mailing list.

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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.

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(210) 228-9955 moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net

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ALAMO CHAPTER

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Thursday August 18, 2011

Chapter Luncheon
Spkr: Col Tom Palladino, USA (Ret)
Executive Director Texas Veterans Commission

Ft Sam Houston Golf Club

Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch served approx 11:45am

Menu (Indicate Choice)

- A) Beef Burgundy B) Mango Chutney Chicken
- Tossed Salad
- Scalloped Potatoes, Sautéed Yellow Squash
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Cherry Cobbler

Water, Coffee & Tea Service and \$3.50 per small bottle wine

Cost per person \$20

Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by Noon Monday 16 May

Reservations not cancelled by noon 17 Tuesday will be billed
Non member Officers are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.



Friday September 16, 2011

**50th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner**
Spkr: Maj Gen Joe Lynch
MOAA's General Counsel

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels #700 San Antonio, TX 78217
Cocktails 6:30pm (Cash Bar) - Dinner served approx 7:30pm

Buffet Menu

- Carved Steamship of Beef, Chicken Gratinée
- Oven Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Rolls/Butter
- Desert Selections: New York Cheesecake w/ fresh berries,
Italian Cream Cake and Chocolate Raspberry Cake
- Coffee & Tea

Cost per person \$30

Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by Noon Monday 12 September

Reservations not cancelled by noon 13 Tuesday will be billed
Non member Officers are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.