

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ALAMO CHAPTER



THE



LARIAT

Volume 29, Number 11

"Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter"

November 2009



President's Message

Nothing could be more appropriate than saying thank you for your service to your country. Thank you for being a great and patriotic American, God fearing and forever loyal to these great United States of America. Happy Veteran's Day.

On this occasion we think back over the many years of service that we have unselfishly given to our country, and with each passing year become more and more proud of doing that.

Recently, Ruby and I had occasion to travel to San Diego, California on a business trip. Accompanying us was a fellow chapter member, Col Fred Walters USAF (Ret), and his delightful wife, Jo. During our stay Ruby and I took a walk down the Greatest Generation Memorial Walkway.

It is located near the USS Midway which is retired in the San Diego port. As each tour boat went by I listened to the people talking about the USS Midway and its service to our country. It was a great moment of reflection for me thinking again of the wonderful heroes of the Greatest Generation, our WWII compatriots. Colonel Walters proudly served in that war. So on this occasion, I want to highlight the celebration with solemn feeling.

As you visit our national cemeteries and look down those ever so straight lines of markers, always be in remembrance and in gratitude for those that rest there who have made the supreme
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Oktoberfest 2009



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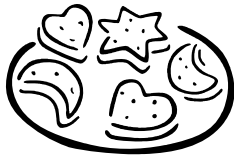
Save The Date!

November 7 - Event
Retiree Appreciation Day
Ft Sam Houston 8am

November 19 - Luncheon
Speaker: Jim Nier
Texas Veterans Commission
RAFB Parr Officers Club

December 11 - Christmas Party
RAFB Parr Officers Club

Chapter News & Notices



Cookie Angels

The cookies angels were hard at work again last month. Many thanks to the following who either baked goodies, brought fruits or provided other much needed personal items to our wounded soldiers at Ft Sam Houston's Warrior and Family Support Center.

If you are able to donate to the WFSC please call Susie at (210) 654-0351, so we may add your name to our list. Thank you.

Aina Blake
Irene Collier
Frank and Dolores DeVille
Nita Felder
Susan Filippini
Dotty Foote
John Gibbs
Ed & Sue McCarthy
Mac and Lori McDonald
Bo Mills
Lolly Orlowski
Helga Parks
Keith Pregler
Jan Rund
Phyllis Smith
Bill Strout
Susie Tolman
Dot Wise
Tom and Evelyn Woods

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have some spare some time?
Please help us make this the best chapter ever. Currently we are looking to fill the following positions:

VP Programs
Assistant Programs
Active Duty Liaison Officers
Chaplain
Transportation Coordinator
Legal Counsel
Historian
Duty Officers

Job descriptions are available. Please call Dale Vande Hey at the MOAA-AC office (210) 228-9955.

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:

LtCol SantiagoGuzman
8/19/2009

LtCol Monard Weems, USAF (Ret)
10/3/2009

VA Hospital Hospice Ward Decorating



In the spirit of Christmas, the chapter will again be decorating the Hospice Ward at the VA Hospital on Friday, December 4th at 9am.

Please call the office at (210) 228-9955 if you would like to participate in this wonderfully heart-warming event.

Business Associate Program

The following Business Associate(s) have generously contributed to the MOAA Alamo Chapter enabling us to carry on our important mission. We encourage each of you to remember these important contributors in you business and your daily activities because we truly appreciate their support.

If your business or organization would like to join these much appreciated sponsors as a Business Associate of the MOAA Alamo Chapter, please contact David Walker at (210) 228-9955. Thank you for your consideration.

Spectrum Technologies, Inc

Contact Don Shrum (210) 260-8781 www.spectrum-tx.com
Thanks for providing continuous back up service to the office computer



Grateful thanks to the following folks who have kindly donated to the Chapter:

LTC Sumner Hudson USA (Ret)

Bad Information

In recent weeks, there has been an upsurge in erroneous and misleading e-mails talking about the demise of Tricare and Tricare for Life as a result of the efforts going on in the Congress for Health Care Reform. Well, that is just what they are "Bad Information"! Unfortunately they continue to be disseminated by well meaning veterans and in turn cause concern by whomever receives them.

What we, as members of the Military Officers Association of America need to remember is that MOAA's Legislative staff has their finger on these matters and before we blindly accept these e-mail messages as being the gospel, we need to check and see what MOAA says. Then, as responsible members, we need to point out to the senders of these messages that they are wrong and ask them to do the same for those that they have forwarded these message to.

The best sources to get the up to date information that MOAA has on this or any issues is the MOAA National website, www.MOAA.org and in addition the MOAA blog site:

www.moaablogs.org/battleofthebilge/2009/

Following is an example of one of the most recent e-mails and what MOAA had to say about it:

Subject: FW: Tricare for Life

To: All Military Retirees:

This is a "Heads Up" on a battle we are facing now and down the road with the new Administration. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has already drafted proposed legislation that would basically reduce our TRICARE for Life benefits to a system whereby we pay deductibles and co-pays up to \$6,301 the first year for you and your spouse, with future years being indexed to increase with inflation.

What can we do? The article below, obtained from an Air Force Association and written by BG Bob Clements, best describes what we can do. Please read it and check the links for CBO language and do what Bob says-Send this email to every Military Retiree you know and write and email your Congressman often. For those of you that might have voted for "Change", you should do it more than often!

TRICARE FOR LIFE'S FUTURE....

TRICARE For Life was instituted to correct the broken promise that military retirees would receive free health-care coverage for life and it covers the Medicare co-pay..Now a heavy assault has begun on Veterans'/Retirees' benefits to pay for other programs our President promised during the campaign. An it is a high priority of his Administration.

The one item of most interest to Retired Military is in Article 189. If approved by Congress the first assault wave would hit in 2011 and would hit hard. It would initiate cost sharing to require retirees to pay the first \$525 of medical cost and 50% of the next \$4,725 for a first year cost of \$2,888 per person. It would be indexed to increase

with inflation. A reason given for this action (for PR effect) is "overuse" by Retirees.

In any case, on page 189 of the Congressional Budget Office report, see the note below on how to get to that spot, there is a strong recommendation to eventually eliminate the program as it is too expensive.

Just another move to slight those of us who dedicated much of our adult lives to the defense of our country.

Strongly recommend that you contact your elected officials and register your strong opposition to the elimination of the TFL program.

The Official Response from MOAA:

Unfortunately, things sent out on the internet acquire lives of their own that go on long after the origin has been overcome by events.

The message refers to a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) options list that was prepared last year. It provided a list of options (not recommendations) that government leaders might consider if they wanted to increase or cut spending in various areas of government – health care in this case.

The reality is that the CBO puts out this kind of list after every congressional election. In most cases, nothing comes of the recommendations – at least those on military health care.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Welcome New Members!

Col John Blumentrist USAF
Col Monty Brock USAF
Col Louis Eldredge USAF
Col William Foote USAF
Col Lori Friend USAF
Col Michael Hutchison USAF
Col Gerard Jolivet USAF
Col Kevin Martin USAF
Col Randall Moore USAF
Col Vickie Moore USAF
Col Richard Reusch USAF
Col Steven Robinette USAF
Col Terry Ross USAF
Col Gerald Talcott USAF
Col Philip Vaneau USAF
Col Robert Williamson USAF
LTC Claudia Carrizales USA
LtCol Todd Daggett USAF
LtCol Tal Gaither USAF
LTC David Hubbard USA
LtCol Erik Larson USAF

LtCol Roy Lozano USAF
LTC Carson Mayo USA
LtCol Bruno Melton USAF
MAJ Carol Haertlein Sells USA
Maj Joel Heft USAF
MAJ John McMahan USA
Maj Mike Olive USAF
Maj Craig Slebrch USAF
Maj Norm Ayotte USA
CPT Julian Cuerdo USA
CPT William House USA
CPT Kelly Pajak USA
1LT Kristin McBride USA
2LT Brandon Allen USA
2Lt Fernando Ortega USAF
2LT Sherry Kwasnik USA
CW1 Christina Follett USA
CW1 Katherine Turner USA
CW2 Katrina Adama USA
CW4 Damon Collier USA

Veterans Scratch-Off Lottery



The week of November 9th, the Texas Lottery Commission will roll out the first Veteran's Scratch-off lottery ticket.

This is a new lottery ticket that will be dedicated to the funding of the Texas Veterans Assistance Fund. This fund was created by the Texas Legislature during the 80th Session and is to be administered by the Texas Veteran's Commission.

Even though the fund was created by the 80th Legislature, it was never funded and has only been receiving money through gifts. There has never been more than \$10,000 in the fund, greatly limiting its usefulness to veterans in need.

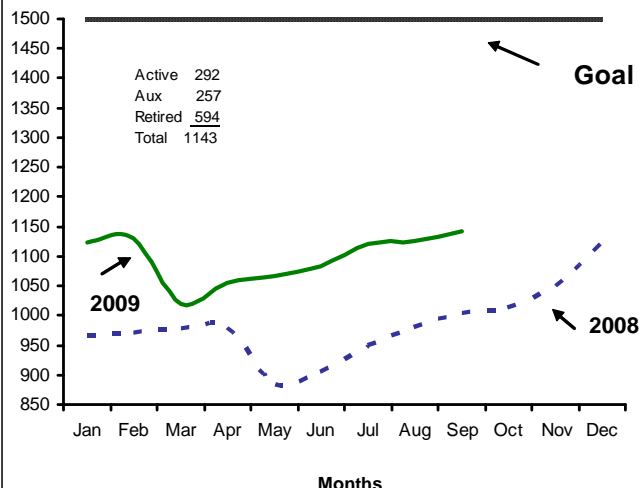
The Texas Veterans Coalition, with the help of Senator Leticia Van de Putte and Representative Chris Turner developed the idea of funding through a scratch-off. This was then coordinated through the Lottery Commission.

Research has shown that this type funding, occurring in other states, has generated a steady and continuous flow of funds that will benefit veterans. It has further been shown that purchase of this type of veteran's scratch-off ticket has also generated additional sales of other types of scratch-off tickets that have benefited educational funding. After a hard

(Continued on Page 10)

Alamo Chapter Membership

As of: October 15, 2009



MOAA-AC Financial Report
As of September 30, 2009

Outreach Fund

Revenue	
Donations	\$5,263.00
Golf Tournament	<u>4,723.62</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,986.62
Outflows	
Charities	\$2,325.00
Scholarships	<u>3,300.00</u>
Total Outflows	\$5,625.00
 Increase in Outreach Fund	 \$4,361.62

Operations Account

Revenue	
Donations	\$1,780.23
Membership Dues	15,500.00
Non-dues income	7,202.22
Social Events	<u>(406.31)</u>
Total Revenue	\$24,076.14
Outflows	
Contractor	\$6,474.00
Lariat	7,141.27
Phone/internet	873.29
Postage	3,230.97
Other	<u>2,681.42</u>
Total Outflows	\$20,400.95
 Results	 \$3,675.19

Bank Balances

Operations	
Eisenhower Checking	\$8,987.49
USAA Certificate	<u>\$15,411.79</u>
Total Operations	\$24,399.28

Outreach	
RBFCU - Savings	\$1,025.00
Money Market	5,336.83
Checking	680.85
Certificates	<u>8,682.22</u>
Total RBFCU	\$15,724.90

Bad Information

(Continued from Page 3)

Worries that such initiatives would show up in President Obama's budget proved unfounded. The new budget proposes fully funding TRICARE for the first time in four years – with no proposed benefit reductions or fee increases.

That said, we do think it's only a matter of time before there are new efforts to cut back on military health care spending – including TRICARE For Life.

The most likely immediate challenge will come on Medicare, which is costing significantly more than current payroll taxes can sustain. We expect that fixing this situation will be a major focus of the Administration and Congress in the coming few years. MOAA will be tracking that issue closely to ensure any changes reflect fairness for all.

In the longer term, we believe Congress will eventually try to shift more costs to beneficiaries for TFL, most likely in the form of an enrollment fee, which MOAA doesn't support. We believe strongly that Congress did the right thing in enacting TFL in 2001, and that nothing has changed during the last 7 years of war to make military retirees any less deserving of this crucial health coverage. If and when any such proposals arise, MOAA and our members will lead the charge to ensure it's protected.

In the meantime, we will continue to remind the administration that TFL is an earned benefit and an important retention tool. And when the time comes, we'll be asking for your support in writing your legislators to help preserve these important earned benefits.

An example of how well MOAA is keeping on top of these things, is the recent announcement, completely out of the blue, that some Tricare deductibles would be increased on October 1. MOAA went into action and this was blocked by the Congress and rescinded by Tricare management.

The whole point is, be very careful of what you read and believe from the internet regarding our benefits. If you have any doubt go to reputable sources such as MOAA to get the correct information and don't fall into the trap of forwarding erroneous information before you find out if it is true or not.

Maj Jim Cunningham (Ret)



Legislative Update

Although Congress often delays until late in the year before enacting a fiscal year's National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA"), the Senate and House Conference Committee has announced the terms of the final FY2010 NDAA Bill (the "Bill"). As might be expected the Bill has some good and some significant bad news. First the good news:

- the Bill Authorizes a 3.4% pay raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve members (vs. the budgeted 2.9%),
- Bars the Pentagon from implementing any TRICARE inpatient care copay increases for FY2010,
- Authorizes an extra 30,000 troops for the Army (15,000 above the budget request), and an additional 30,000 in FY2011 and FY2012, provided DOD budgets for the increase,
- Authorizes premium-based TRICARE coverage for "gray area" reserve retirees who haven't yet attained age 60,
- Mandates a list of initiatives to protect absentee voting rights for military members and families,
- Provides various limited benefits for wounded warriors, military families, and Guard/Reserve.

Now the bad news - which unfortunately is very bad - the Bill, among other things:

- Drops the House plan to phase out the disability offset to retired pay for medically retired (Chapter 61) members, reneging on the President's promise to disabled veterans (the President's budget had included this measure, and House leaders had found funding for the first year); some in the Senate objected to the specific funding sources identified by the House, and leaders could not find other offsets to comply with Senate budget-scoring rules,
- Drops the Senate initiative to repeal the deduction of VA survivor benefits from military SBP annuities, again for lack of funding offsets,
- Reduces the Senate-approved Army manpower level by 15,000 for

FY2010 (though it did provide extra increases in 2011-12); MOAA had urgently supported the extra increase for FY2010 to provide much needed relief for Army families affected by grievous over-deployment of a too-small force,

- Drops a Senate-approved provision to authorize retroactive Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service since September 11, 2001 (current law credits only service since January 28, 2008), again for lack of funding offsets, and
- Drops a Senate-passed provision expressing the sense of Congress that military retirement and health benefits are the primary offset to the extraordinary demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career, that career members deserve a health benefit commensurate with their sacrifices, and that DOD needs to look at other ways to reduce health care spending than shifting more costs to beneficiaries.

The items dropped were, of course, among MOAA's highest priority goals.

It is clear that Congress is routinely waiving so called budget rules for politically expedient big-ticket items while selectively applying these same waived rules to more deserving groups whose military service on behalf of their fellow citizens has cost them their health, their livelihood and the very lives of their loved ones.

MOAA and the Military Coalition have pledged to keep working until these arbitrary barriers come down. The American Legion has been particularly incensed. Its President has vowed, "It is time for a new bill to be introduced – Lest We Forget Act – to address the nation's unfinished business concerning the military community.

If Congress won't budge, then it's time for the Commander-in-Chief to take care of his troops – past, present and future service members. The American Legion is not about to let this go."

There was one bright spot in the Conference Committee process which illustrates once again the power of MOAA member communications to Congress. Having been assured by Secretary Gates earlier this year that DOD would not seek any TRICARE fee increases for FY2010, MOAA was shocked and disappointed by the announcement on September 30, that DOD was raising the inpatient copay for retired TRICARE Standard beneficiaries by \$110 per day (from \$535 to \$645) as of October 1.

MOAA immediately contacted Secretary Gates, the White House and Hill leaders to reverse the plan; MOAA members generated almost 20,000 messages to Congress. As a result, the provision mentioned above, barring such TRICARE fee increases for FY2010 was included in the Conference Committee Bill. There is no substitute for grass roots support in coordination with MOAA's Washington efforts!

In a bit of good news, the Senate and House passed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act authorizing Congress to approve veterans' medical care funding one year in advance to better meet the anticipated demand for veterans health care services.

The advanced funding will give the Department of Veterans Affairs up to a full year to plan for the most effective and efficient way of delivering medical care.

Additionally, this would require the Government Accountability Office to audit the budget development process to ensure that sufficient funds are included. The Bill is now headed to the White House where it is expected to be signed into law.

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

Medical Minute



Traffic & Anger Strain the Heart

What could be the connection between traffic and heart attacks? Two leading theories involve anger or stress, and air pollution. Stuck in traffic makes some people angry, especially if they are surrounded by drivers who cut in and out, weave through lanes, honk horns, or tailgate.

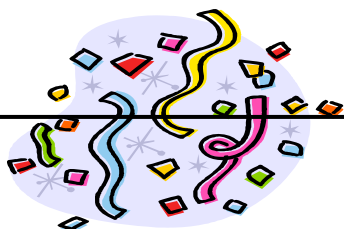
Others get stressed. Anger and stress have been linked to spasms of coronary arteries the sudden disruption of cholesterol-filled plaque, the initiation of unstable heart rhythms, any of which can trigger a heart attack.

Air pollution is another possible culprit. Tiny particles from automobile and truck exhaust can fire up inflammation, promote the formation of blood clots, increase the fragility of cholesterol-filled plaques, and contribute to heart rhythm abnormalities.

In most cities, traffic is an inevitable part of travel. The odds it will provoke a heart attack are really quite low, so this study (from Augsburg, Germany) should not be cause for alarm.

To counteract this it is suggested that you play soothing music on your car radio, think pleasant thoughts, and get off the freeway at the first exit. If you have chest pain--see your doctor ASAP.

Source: American Heart Association Epidemiology Meeting 2009



Veteran's Day, 11 November is a day the nation sets aside to commemorate those members of the Armed forces killed during wars. It has been expanded to honor veterans of all wars who died or served in the service of our country. On the 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month ceremonies are held in all national cemeteries to honor those who served.

At the Tomb of the Unknowns, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms". The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath and the playing of "Taps". At the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery there is a ceremony with speeches, music and flowers to honor our dead. Red ribbon Loops prepared by volunteers for the Red Ribbon Corps are affixed to most headstones.

Veterans Day was formerly known as Armistice Day. On 11 November, 1918, an armistice was signed between seven countries (allies and Germany) for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front. Sporadic fighting continued for seven more months. It was officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles on 26 June 1919 in the Palace of Versailles in France.

In November 1919 President Wilson proclaimed 11 November as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. In 1920 he deemed that on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day services should be held in the interest of international peace. In 1938 Congress voted Armistice Day an official federal holiday.

In 1954 Congress changed the name to Veterans Day to include all wars. On 28 June 1968 the Uniform Holiday Bill

Solitaires



ensured three-day week end holidays for four national holidays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and Columbus Day. But not all states agreed. So in 1975 President Gerald Ford changed Veterans Day back to 11 November regardless of which day of the week it fell on. So each year on 11 November we honor our fallen heroes and veterans for their sacrifices while serving our country to keep it great.

The November luncheon meeting will be Tuesday, 3 November at the Ft Sam Golf Club and brunch will be Sunday 22 November at Randolph Parr Officers Club. Our guest speaker will be an author of two books, Laura Jasinski, a free lance writer.

Source: Adapted from U. S. Embassy-Veterans of Foreign Wars, Library of Congress.

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 SOLITAIRE 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 Annual Report

President – LtCol Ed Marvin

We are pleased to present the Annual Report to the membership especially given that your chapter was recognized again with a Chapter of Excellence award as a Five Star Chapter. Jim Cunningham and I will have the honor of being presented the Five Star Banner in literally two days at MOAA's Annual Meeting in San Diego.

This status did not just happen. It happens because of a continuing and growing membership and the important role that each member plays in the chapter dynamics. It happens because of the chapter leadership and the hard work of those reporting below, including their respective leadership teams. It is a great privilege to serve our honored membership and to work with such a dedicated team of volunteers.

Additionally, let me acknowledge, in addition to our membership and the chapter leadership team the great dedication of our volunteer Board of Directors BGen Robert Herring, Col Ed McCarthy, Col Mac McDonald, Col Frank Rohrbough, LtCol Harry Carpenter, LTC Jim Finch, LTC John Gibbs, LTC Bill Goforth, LTC Sumner Hudson, and Susie Tolman.

I am proud to represent your chapter and you can be assured I will be bragging on your chapter later this week at the Annual MOAA meeting.

Exec VP Operations – Maj Jim Cunningham

The Executive Vice President's Office was very active this year in the areas of legislation, logistics, duty officers and public relations. It regretfully lost two of its longtime Officers, who were key members of the Chapter, namely the Legislative Vice President, Major Frank Parks, and Duty Officer, Captain Walter Grinfield. In addition, LTC Phyllis Smith resigned as the Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations after having done some yeomen's work in getting the Chapter better known in the community. However, newly appointed LtCol Cheryl Smith has picked up the challenge and has been doing really well by the Chapter in getting great branding for us and our activities.

The Alamo Chapter has become better known politically through the advocacy efforts of Maj Frank Parks and LtCol Ed

LeFebvre. They kept a running dialog with various representatives and Senators from the local area and kept the membership aware of what was going on in legislation that would affect them. In addition, as the President of the Texas Council, I kept a very high profile with our legislators during the 81st Session and together with the Texas Coalition of Veterans, succeeded in getting some very good pieces of legislation passed that benefit the active military, Guard, Reserve, Veterans and their families. This ranged from better educational benefits to a new scratch off lottery ticket that will fund assistance to veterans in need. This brought MOAA's profile to the fore with these legislators and had the side affect of getting our local Chapter recognized, as well.

LTC Randy Hoff has done an exemplary job as the Vice President – Logistics. He made sure that each meeting had all of the necessary equipment to make it go smoothly. He priced, compared and purchased a sound system and microphone for the Chapter, which will help in future Chapter functions. Lt Col Fred Koechley has now taken over the position allowing Randy to concentrate on his new and very successful mission as the Vice President of Membership.

Col Kerry Green, with the able assistance of Trish Meserve, has continued to produce an exemplary newsletter, *The Lariat*, for our membership. It again was recognized at the National MOAA level as being one of the best newsletters in the country. We are slowly trying to move delivery of the Lariat over to e-mail so that we can save on the cost of printing and mailing it. We will, however, continue to have those who will need to receive it on paper.

Other projects that are being worked include the possible involvement of the Chapter with the VA Polytrama Center and also with another non-profit organization that is trying to organize and become a clearing house for all of the groups in San Antonio that work with the military, veterans and their families.

VP Administration (Open)

The position of Vice President – Ad-

ministration has been ably managed by LCDR Gil Rodriguez this year. Unfortunately, the position is now open since Gil has relocated to a new retirement community in Georgetown, TX. This department contains some critical positions that help keep the chapter up and running behind the scenes.

Staff Consultant (Major Len Mull) continues to provide updates for our marketing pieces and application forms and tackles any other task that might be thrown his way! He works in close coordination with the rest of the Staff to insure that he publishes the most up to date information for our new members and prospective members.

Special Activities Rep, Susie Tolman, keeps our chapter involved in the community by representing the chapter at meetings of the Ft Sam Houston's Volunteer Advisory Council, the PX/Commissary Council, and the Veterans Administration Volunteers. She also rallies the troops for assistance with the Christmas project of decorating the VA Hospice Ward, Dayrooms and Nurses station, coordinating gift bags and entertainment for the patients.

Susie runs and keeps the records of the Volunteers (Cookie Angels) who donate baked items, fruits or personal items and help serve meals to the wounded soldiers at the Fisher House and, in her spare time makes all the nametags and is the greeter for the social Function attendees, as well as making the decorations for the Spring and Fall picnics.

Col David Patrick, of The Officer Placement Service (TOPS) for the Chapter is also the MOAA Networking coordinator for Texas. The program continues to re-energize itself through the efforts of approximately 200 individuals/networkers throughout the state who volunteer to help career transitioning members and their spouses seek transition assistance and job opportunities. These networkers provide transitioning job seekers advice on the profession they are interested in; ideas on how to network more effectively; help "open doors" to prospective employers; (Continued on Page 10)

November Speaker Bio



James E. "Jim" Nier of Austin, Texas assumed his position as Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission on September 15, 1998. The Commission is headquartered in Austin and has 30 offices in Veterans Administration facilities and on military installations, as well as in 109 Work Force Centers, across the State. He was previously the statewide Veterans Liaison for the Texas Veterans Land Board. Texas has a veteran population of over 1.7 million.

He entered the U. S. Army in 1959 and served for 22 years. Overseas tours of duty included Vietnam (1962 - 63) and Korea (1967 - 68). He served seven years with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Command and Control) at the Alternate National Military Command Center, Fort Ritchie, Maryland. A graduate of the U. S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, his last assignment was as an instructor there until his retirement in 1981.

He attended night school while in the Army and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Finance in 1975 from Mount St. Mary's College and a Master's Degree in Management in 1977 from Frostburg State College, both in Maryland.

After retiring from the military, he was an Assistant Director of Personnel, and later a Mathematics Instructor at El Paso Community College. In January 1987, he was selected to be the Director of the Veterans Assistance Office for El Paso County, a county with over

54,000 veterans.

A life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, he served as National Commander-in-Chief of its 2.1 million members from August 1996 to August 1997. He is only the third Texan to be elected to that high office in over 109 years of the VFW's existence.

He is also a member of the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, The Retired Enlisted Association, National Association of Uniformed Services, and several other

organizations and coalitions. He was named "Veteran of the Year" in 1987 - 88 by the United American Veterans Organization of El Paso and has received numerous awards from Veterans Service Organizations and City, County, State, and Federal officials and entities.

He was appointed to the President's National Hire Veterans Committee in February 2004.

He and his wife Kimmy have four children and nine grandchildren, and reside in Austin. Their youngest son William is serving in the U.S. Navy.

FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY Veterans' Day Ceremony November 11, 2009 0930hrs



Master of Ceremonies: CMSgt (Ret) Tom Nesbit

Invocation & Benediction: Chaplain Conrad A. Myers, Jr.
Past Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1836

Musical Prelude: U.S. Army Medical Command Band & Special Forces
Association Chapter 15

Musical Selections: Texas Children's Choir

Welcoming Remarks: Ms Marie L. Weldon,
Director, South Texas Veterans Health Care System

Guest Speaker: Reverend Buckner B. Fanning

Veterans Naturalization Ceremony: The Honorable John. W. Primomo,
U.S. Magistrate Judge for Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division

Closing Remarks by Mr. William A. Trower,
Director, Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery

Gun Salute and Taps: FSHNC Memorial Services Detachment

Annual Report

(Continued from Page 8)

and give tips on how they can more effectively make their career transition. This is an excellent way to welcome transitioning military members not only to Texas but to joining Chapters. E-mail updates are sent weekly to these Texas networkers to provide advice and job opportunities for transitioning members. This testimonial from a career transitioning Air Force Officer shows that TOPS and networking works. "I recently moved from Florida to San Antonio. Prior to moving a sought advice and counsel through the Texas network and was amazed when they helped me set-up over a dozen networking meetings/informational interviews with prospective San Antonio employers . . . TOPS and its career transition assistance is a tremendous benefit of belonging to MOAA" said the former officer.

Advertising Coordinator, LtCol David Walker, reports the chapter has managed to have good stability in advertising this year and have covered the cost of the Lariat. Work is ongoing in attracting new advertisers and complying with rules and regulations regarding bulk mail rates for non profit entities.

ROTC coordinator LCDR Gil Rodriguez organized sixty ROTC/JROTC awards to area high schools and colleges, and the Scholarship Committee presented 2 JROTC scholarships of \$500 each and the \$2,000 Colonel Torrey Community Service Scholarship award. This was the first year that the Chapter also participated in the "Gold Bars" program sponsored by MOAA National. As a result, the Alamo Chapter presented Gold Bars and Certificates as well as free one year memberships to many newly commissioned Lieutenants from area Colleges and Universities.

VP Membership & Retention - LTC Randy Hoff

The total membership over the year has increased by 140 members or 14% to our current numbers of Active Duty members 292, Retired members 594 and Auxiliary members 257.

The recruitment program offered through MOAA national has brought us 238 mostly Active Duty members. Increased membership numbers are primarily gained from the newcomer's gatherings at Ft Sam Houston, local TOPS briefings

and the "Gold Bars" program. All were augmented by the constant updating and use of our Recruiting Board and aggressive recruiting by key members of the staff. In 2010 recruitment will be expanded with the help of a power point presentation to be shown at recruitment opportunities such as army unit briefings, local PX's, hospital facilities and newcomer's orientations. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of MOAA Life Memberships to qualify for a chapter stipend and on increasing the number of renewals from the active duty members.

Treasurer – Col Vaughn Caudill

Because of the great work of Gene Culp and his committee members and the generosity of the members the Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament was a tremendous success bring in around \$4,700. Also, through the generosity of the membership we have over \$5,000 in donations to the outreach/scholarship fund.

For the operations account, membership dues revenue is down while advertising revenue is up. It looks like for the year revenue will equal expenses for a break even condition. With the current economic conditions break-even is good. The staff has done an excellent job controlling costs so we don't exceed revenues.

Secretary – Col David Patrick

The focus of the Chapter continues to be driven by its strategic plan priorities of retaining and growing membership; conducting tailor-made programs and events; retaining and growing more volunteers; and building partnership in the community. The planning will continue with the Chapter annual planning day to be scheduled in December.

VP Programs (Open)

LtCol Ed Marvin as President has temporarily stepped in to this position and garnered some great speakers over the past year all along the theme of military leaders within the community and have included FSH Casualty & Mortuary Affairs spokesperson James Stokes; Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, Bob Gaylor; Randolph Commander Col Jacqueline Von Ovost; Ft Sam Houston Garrison Commander Col Mary Garr; Lackland Vice Commander Gregory Parsons, USAA Board Member Major General Alfred Valenzuela; and former CINC US Strate-

gic Air Commander General Gene Habiger. Programming for 2010 is currently being planned.

The Solitaires, the singles social group coordinated by Mavis Cleary reports that during this year the membership has remained pretty constant. Some beloved members have been lost and some new ones gained. Approximately 20 to 25 people attend the monthly meetings. This year the speakers have been drawn from both the talented membership and from the community to include a police officer, animal rescue, free lance writer, Red Ribbon Corps founder and information about the many tours our members have taken. The two biggest accomplishments of the group include developing a calling committee for the MOAA Alamo Chapter and making over 3,000 red ribbons for the Red Ribbon Corps to be placed on the graves at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery on Veterans Day.

Scratch Off Lottery

(Continued from Page 4)

fought legislative battle in the 81st Session, the bill creating this scratch-off was passed and the Governor signed it into law.

It is projected that during the first year of operation, sales will generate about \$5,000,000 for the fund. Ensuing years are projected at \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000. With this kind of revenue, the sub-committee for the Veterans lottery of the Texas Veterans Commission is developing very stringent rules for applications to receive funding from the fund. First applications for funding will probably be taken in the February or March 2010 time frame.

It is anticipated that Veterans organizations will be applying for the funds to assist in veteran's transportation, small business development, helping homeless veterans, PTSD/TBI treatment, etc.

If you are so inclined, please participate and purchase these lottery tickets to the benefit of our fellow veterans.

Maj Jim Cunningham

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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. The Alamo Chapter also provides college scholarships to those who qualify. MOAA Travel helps you plan that great getaway, and is available for members.

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), who are not past or present members of MOAA national, can receive a 2 year membership for \$28.00 (which is the usual annual membership rate). 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 \$28 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? _____

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 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.**

8-12-09

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

sacrifice in serving our great nation. I hope that many of you will be at the Veteran's Day Services at the Ft Sam Houston Cemetery on November 11.

The rest of my report is rather mundane compared to the above. We have completed another fiscal year and our annual report was passed around to the attendees at the October 22nd luncheon in which we hosted Senator Leticia Van de Putte, a great supporter of veteran's causes within our state. A copy of the annual report is included in this newsletter. I encourage each of you to read it and send feedback by email elmarv@swbell.net or by phone 210-771-1177 on how we can improve your chapter's performance. I ask for this often and it is from the heart, especially now as we will soon be planning for the year 2010.

I'd like to thank each of the leadership team that I work with on a day to day basis who give so much of their time and their talent in making your chapter a chapter we can be proud of – a Five Star Chapter.

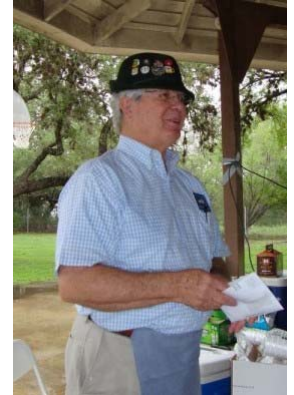
Speaking of that, your Executive Vice President and current President of the Texas Council, Jim Cunningham, and I recently had the great honor and privilege of receiving the Five Star banner for our chapter which was presented by the Chairman of the Board of MOAA. Thank you membership and thank you leadership for continuing to keep our chapter proud and tradition bound.

Our program on November 19 is at Randolph AFB Parr Club and the speaker is Jim Nier, our respected Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission. Jim does yeoman work in a very unsung way for our veterans, so please put it on your calendar along with the Christmas Party on December 11, at the Randolph AFB Parr Club.

Thank you very much, as always, for your membership. God bless each and every one of you. God bless America.

LtCol Ed Marvin (Ret)

Oktoberfest 2009



The dampness
didn't seem to
deter the fun!

Chapter Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

2 Volunteer Hours Due
2-5 AFCEA Technology Symposium Recruitment Opportunity
3 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club
3 Election Day - Fly the Flag!
5 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office
7 Retiree Day Ft Sam Houston
10 Marine Corps Birthday
11 Veterans' Day Ceremony Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery 9:30am - Fly the Flag!
14 Texas Council of Chapters Conference Call 9am
18 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am
19 Chapter Luncheon Randolph Parr O Club
22 Solitaire's Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club
24 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)
26 Thanksgiving - Fly the Flag!

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

Happy New Year!!!!

JANUARY 2010

4 Volunteer Hours Due
4 Undecorate VA Hospital Hospice Ward 9am
5 Solitaire's Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club
7 Staff Meeting MOAA-AC Office 9am
14 Board Meeting MOAA-AC Office 10am
24 Solitaire's Sunday Brunch Randolph Parr O Club
28 Chapter Luncheon Location TBD

DECEMBER

TBD Annual Planning Meeting
1 Volunteer Hours Due
3 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office
4 Decorate VA Hospital Hospice Ward 9am
5 Solitaire's Pot Luck Luncheon at Linda Gayer's House
7 Pearl Harbor Day
11 Christmas Dinner Dance Randolph Parr O Club
25 Christmas Day - Fly the Flag!

Ongoing:

Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior & Family Support Center

AMERICAN RED CROSS - FORT SAM HOUSTON

Serving the Military and Their Families

Volunteer at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB or Randolph AFB

Get to Know Us before you need us.

Classes offered at FSH Red Cross Bldg 26550

CFAS (CPR, First Aid and AED), Babysitting and more.

Other classes offered at various locations.

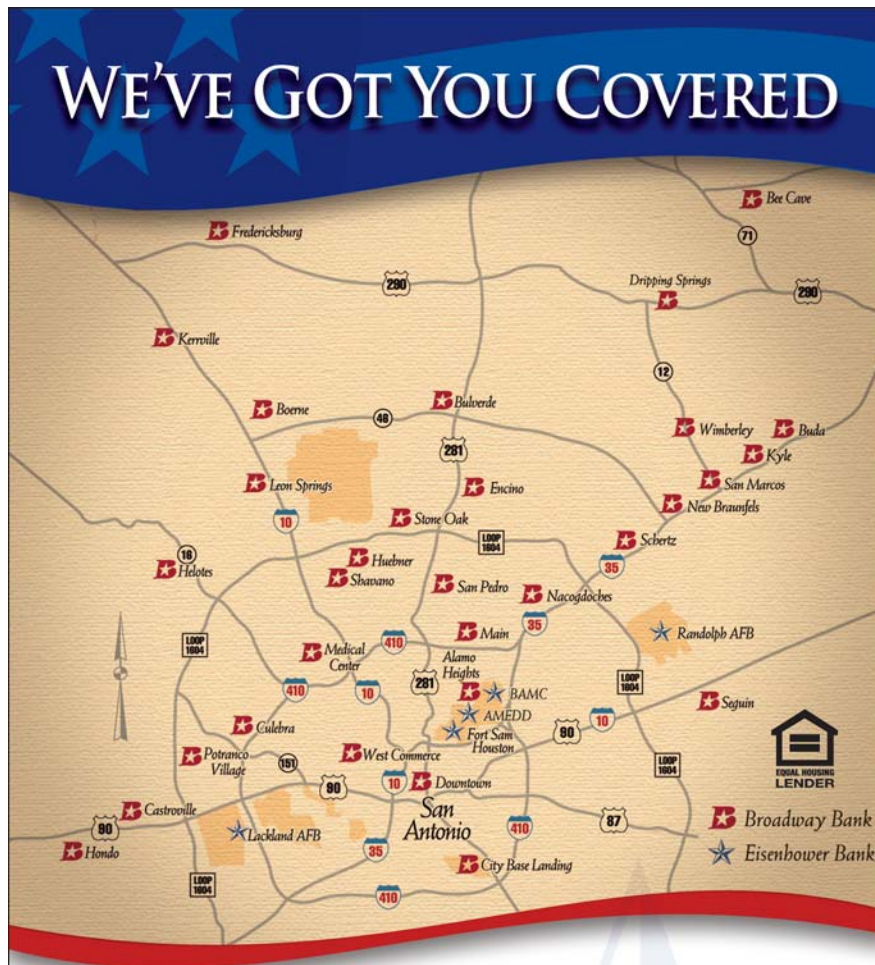
Call 210-221-3355 for class information or to volunteer.

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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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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALAMO CHAPTER

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;
AND TO BE A POWERFUL VOICE SUPPORTING
MOAA AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL
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Thursday November 19th, 2009

Chapter Luncheon

Speaker: James Nier

Executive Director Texas Veterans Commission

Randolph AFB Parr Officers Club

Social Hour begins 11am

Lunch served approx Noon

Menu

A) Prime Rib
Garlic Mashed Potatoes &
Chef's Choice of Vegetables
Caesar Salad
(Price \$14.00)

B) Vegetable Lasagne
Greens & Tomatoes in
Vinaigrette dressing
(Price \$11.00)

Rolls with butter

Coffee & Tea Service and honor bar \$3 wine glass

Optional Dessert: Chocolate Layer Cake (Price: \$2.00)

Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP By noon Monday, November 16th

Reservations not cancelled by noon will be billed

Non member Officers welcome with reservations

Name _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation slip & check made payable to

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

RSVP by email moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net or phone (210) 228-9955.



Directions to Randolph Parr Officers Club

Enter RAFB at Main gate, Pat Booker Road @ FM 78.

Stay on this road (Harmon Drive) in right lane.

Enter traffic circle staying in outer lane. Take 2nd exit (right side of the Taj Mahal).

Continue following that street with no turn offs until reaching the Officers Club sign on the left (across from 19th Air Force Bldg).

Turn left at the Officers Club sign, and continue through the residential area to the Club, bearing to the right to the parking around the Club.