

THE



LARIAT

Volume 44, Number 4

“Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter”

April 2024



President's Message

We've had a busy time these past weeks. It's ROTC time. The Scholarship Awards luncheon held on Thursday March 21st at the Ft Sam Golf Course was marvelous as we presented \$1,000 checks to 32 cadets.

Saturday, March 23rd was eventful as I joined the St. Mary's University Rattler Army ROTC Battalion as they attended an exercise evaluating the Battle of the Alamo. Check out the photo of the gang below. We also awarded them a \$1,000 grant for their leadership development training.

Brad Freeman, Interim MOAA Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation Board Chair, and I attended the Masters Leadership Program Speed Dating on Wednesday, March 20th. This was a wonderful opportunity to recruit board and committee members. We had the opportunity to meet some extremely talented people. News to come as we go through the process.

As we have been going through all of the preparation for these various events, a significant date dawned on me. The Alamo Chapter was incorporated in 1961. If my math is correct, we will celebrate 75 years in 2026. Who knew! And all that time we've been located on Ft Sam Houston, now JBSA Ft Sam Houston. That is an immensely proud lineage.

Our current strategic plan includes succession planning. Besides board members, we are seeking a membership chair and a personal affairs/surviving spouse chair. We are always seeking committee members. Look for

a new feature in the Lariat that provides the job description for these positions. This month the Membership Chair job description can be found on page 13.

We do wonderful things to support the military community. Come join us. Ask us about our current initiatives and plans. Find out how you can join us as we move forward.

Thanks for all you do. And remember, “Never Stop Serving.”

Kitty

Kathryn “Kitty” Meyers, LtCol USAF (Ret), SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Inside This Edition:

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CONGRATULATIONS to the St. Mary's University ROTC "Rattler Battalion," winner of a 2024 Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alamo Chapter Leadership Development Activities Award.

MOAA-AC offers a grant of \$1,000 to sponsor multi-unit leadership development events such as expeditionary training, athletic competitions, or staff rides to offset out-of-pocket costs for cadets.

MOAA President LT COL (Ret) Kathryn "Kitty" Meyers presented the award to the Rattler's Senior Class, PMS LTC Conrad, and SMI MSG Smith at their Alamo staff ride. Job well done, rattlers!

Notices



Thank You

to each listed below who have donated a little (or a lot!) to the Educational Foundation, and/or Chapter Operations. We really appreciate it—and every dollar helps!

Col Jennifer Alexander, USAF (Ret)

Lt Col Tom Carter, USAF (Ret)

CAPT William Hardman, USN (Ret)

COL Leon Holland, USA (Ret)

LTC Raymond Isaia, USAF (Ret)

Catherine Key

COL Richard Marple, USA (Ret)

Brig Gen Patrice Melancon, USAF (Ret)

Col Don Miller, USAF (Ret)

Helga Parks

Col Jim Roberts, USAF (Ret)

Lt Col Wayne Shaw III, USAF (Ret)

Sally Tallent

LTC Edie Weidemann, USA (Ret)

LTC Machielle Wood Denmon, USA (Ret)

NEVER STOP SERVING!

WE NEED YOU



TO VOLUNTEER!

Current Needs:

- 1) Chapter Board Members
- 2) Educational Foundation Board Members
- 3) VP Membership, Recruitment & Retention
- 4) Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouse Chair
- 5) Members for the following committees:

Golf Tournament

Membership

Marketing

Transition

Legislative Affairs

Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouse

The Membership Chair position is posted on Page 13, and all other position descriptions can be found on the chapter website under the resources tab.

www.alamomoaa.org



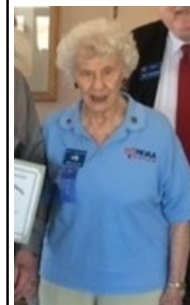
TAPS

We have received information that the following member has passed away.

We wish to convey our sincere condolences and best wishes to their family and loved ones:

Col Irene Collier, USAF (Ret)

3/26/24



Col Irene Collier was a long time member and volunteer for the Chapter; managed the former Duty Officers team; organized the Solitaires Group; and was a prolific writer for *The Lariat*. She wrote many articles about her extensive worldwide travels as well as the Medical Minutes articles. Such an interesting person. She will be greatly missed.

Visitation for Irene Collier will be held from 11am to 12pm on Monday April 22 at the Schertz Funeral Home. Immediately following, interment, featuring full US Air Force honors will take place at 1pm at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery - Shelter #1.

ROTC Award Presenters Needed!

Want to present the 2024 MOAA Award to an ROTC cadet at your local high school or your college alma mater?

If you are interested in serving as a presenter, please contact our Awards and Scholarships Committee Chairman, Col (ret) Pete Hunt by texting 210-867-0418 or email: peterhunt2012@gmail.com



Warm Feet For Warriors

The Soldiers' Angels goal for this year's sock collection is 75,000 by May 15th.

Help the Alamo Chapter help them!

Bring your donation of new socks to the monthly luncheons or stop by the chapter office on Ft Sam (appointment required) and we will take them to the Soldiers' Angels San Antonio.

Transition Tips

What's In The Offer Letter

We talk a lot about the resumes, interviewing and the other aspects of finding a job. The question arises about what to do when you are offered a position. One of the crucial pieces of this process is the offer letter. This letter should outline all of the terms and conditions of employment.

So, you ask "what terms and conditions." The first things that will pop up at you are the salary and the start date. Everyone always focuses on the salary. I ask you to step back a minute. Salary is only one (yes, a crucial one) of the total compensation packages. You are now faced with understanding the complete picture that will include the medical and other health benefits, the sick leave, the vacation leave, or these may be combined into a package called personal time off.

Other benefits may include short term and/or long-term disability insurance, life insurance, various different health savings accounts, childcare and even pet insurance. A car allowance or a company car may be included depending upon your position.

All of these may make up the compensation package that is outlined in the offer letter. One line that is included in the offer letter that comes with living in a "at-will work" state such as Texas is the line that clarifies the company's ability to terminate employment for any reason (without having to identify a "just cause") and without warning. The qualifier in this statement is that the reason cannot be unlawful, say for discrimination of any kind.

So, these are the main elements in an offer letter. Employers may add or not include as they see their needs. However, these may also be up for negotiation.

As you read the letter – and do so carefully so that you fully understand it – make sure that you have your priorities straight. Try to get a feel as to how flexible the employer is before you engage in negotiations. Then posture the conversation to engage in a win/win outcome.

Best of luck. Clarity can lead you and the employer to an open relationship once you are on board.

Kitty

Kathryn "Kitty" Meyers Lt Col USAF (Ret)
SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Chapter Transition Liaison Officer

*Previously published Transition Tips can be found at
www.AlamoMOAA.org under the Transition Services tab.*

Membership Application/Renewal

Join/Renew - \$25 Annual Fee

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Former ☐ Reserve
☐ National Guard ☐ Spouse of Eligible Officer
☐ Friend of the Chapter

Email Address _____

(Please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain, if available.)

Address _____

City _____

State ____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse Name _____

Spouse/Alternate Email Address _____

Method of Payment

☐ Check (make payable to MOAA Alamo Chapter)

☐ Credit Card Charge my card \$ _____

Card number _____

Expiration date _____ CVV _____

Zip code where CC Statement is mailed: _____

Signature _____

☐ **YES—I would like to help the Alamo Chapter as a volunteer - email me details**

Mail to: MOAA Alamo Chapter TX16
P.O. Box 340497 Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234

Referred By: _____

Membership Memos

THANK YOU Renewing Members:

Brig Gen Patrice Melancon, USAF (Ret)
 Col Jennifer Alexander, USAF (Ret)
 Col James Boyce, Jr., USAF (Ret)
 COL Bruce Brant, USA (Ret)
 CAPT Ron Carr, USN (Ret)
 Col William Cook, USAF (Ret)
 CAPT Don Crumbley, USN (Ret)
 CAPT William Hardman, USN (Ret)
 COL Leon Holland, USA (Ret)
 Col Chetan Kharod, USAF (Ret)
 COL Richard Marple, USA (Ret)
 Col Don Miller, USAF (Ret)
 Col Jim Roberts, USAF (Ret)
 CDR Steven Bergeron, USCG (Ret)
 Lt Col Warren Camarano, USAF (Ret)
 LTC Raymond Isaia, USAF (Ret)
 LTC Robert Pollock, USA (Ret)
 Lt Col Stephen Rohrbough, USAF (Ret)
 Lt Col Wayne Shaw III, USAF (Ret)
 LTC Alfred Silva, USA (Ret)
 Lt Col Gerald Swinarsky, USAF (Ret)
 MAJ Bob Corbo, USA (Ret)
 LCDR Kevin Crockett, USN (Ret)
 Cathy Lyssy
 Helga Parks
 Anntonia Shacklett
 Sally Tallent
 Mary Walker
 Sheila Wilson

WELCOME - New Members:

Brig Gen James Dienst, USAF (Ret)
 COL Jason Cosby, USA
 COL Matthew Geiman, USA
 Col Mildred Glover, USAFR
 LTC James Aiello, USA
 LTC James Anderson, USA (Ret)
 LTC Christine Lee, USAR
 Lt Col Clifford MacDonald, USAF (Ret)
 LTC Allyson Pritchard, USA (Ret)
 LTC Mark Quenga, USA (Ret)
 Maj Iniobong Akai, USAF
 Maj Brett Hedgepeth, USAF
 Maj Dennis Jackson, USAF
 Maj Beckwith Steiner, USAF (Ret)
 Maj Marissa Wader, USAF
 Capt Nicolas Addington, USAF
 CPT Leslie Dubois, USA (Ret)
 CPT Matthew Poe, USA
 CPT Shawna So, USA
 1LT Barry Abrams, USA (Fmr)

1LT Daniella Goldberger, USA
 1Lt Stephanie Marin, USAF
 2LT Cedric Akodokoun, USA
 2LT Mykah Davis, USA
 CW2 Benjamin Brumfield, USA (Ret)
 WO1 Moran Abraham, ARNG
 WO1 Sierra Chanel, USAR
 SGT Joe Munoz USA (FOC)
 Srirut Breitling
 Lucinda Brown
 Elizabeth Davis
 Edith Devitt
 Jackie Duncan
 Mary Goldfein
 Mary Lou Gough
 Lorrie Hale
 Karen Hartle
 Alma Hodes
 Betty Holt
 Sharon Jefferson
 Gloria Kilpatrick
 Jennelle Martin
 Julia Meador
 Ruth Mielke
 Alice Miller
 Erma O'Brien
 Deborah Ong-Shirley
 Barbara Steward
 LaRue Wall

MOAA-AC Mission & Vision

Vision:

To be the primary advocate for the military community

Mission:

- *Provide information, support and social engagement to members;*
- *Offer programs and services for the common good of the military community;*
- *Support MOAA at the national, state and local levels with a powerful voice.*

Membership Stats

Active Duty 139
 Former Military 24
 Friends of the Chapter 5
 Retired 586
 Surviving Spouse 151

Total 905



Blue Skies
of Texas
AT AIR FORCE VILLAGE

SIX BRANCHES. ONE HOME BASE.

Since our 1970 founding as a home for Air Force widows, Blue Skies of Texas has been dedicated to military retirees and the military values they hold dear. Today, we're a thriving Life Plan Community known for friendly, welcoming residents from all military backgrounds, an active lifestyle — and surprisingly low entrance and monthly fees that make us America's best retirement value.

See why Blue Skies of Texas is so popular with military retirees at

blueskiesinfo.org/moaa

210-951-2500

Scan for
video and
free info kit.



A not-for-profit Continuing Care
Retirement Community in
San Antonio, Texas.



Speaker Bio



Kim Jeffries
President & CEO

Haven For Hope

Kim Jeffries has worked in the nonprofit industry for the past 22 years. She has served as a community leader for The Nonprofit Council, United Way, Headstart, Autism Life-line Links, as a mentor for the San Antonio Area Foundation and various other roles over the years.

Kim was also named as a Top 40 Under 40 (2012), a Woman of Impact (2020), and a Top CEO (2021) by the

San Antonio Business Journal.

Kim holds a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a specialization in Reading and a Minor in Business Administration.

She holds an M.S. in Nonprofit Leadership from Our Lady of the Lady University.

Kim recently achieved an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from Harvard's Kennedy School for Executive Education.

She has is a Certified Parent Trainer in the Nurturing Program curriculum, and a Licensed Director with the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Kim holds her Balanced Scorecard Professional (BSP) certification and Performance Measure Process (PuMP) certification both from George Wash-

ington University College of Professional Studies.

She has also served on numerous committees and in various roles at her church, Our Savior Lutheran. In the fall of 2014,

Kim fulfilled a lifelong dream of completing a mission trip in Malawi, Africa. In Africa, she conducted a comprehensive assessment of the current educational system environment for children with disabilities to inform future program and mission planning for the Kingdom Workers agency.

Kim and her husband, Cory, have two daughters. Kayleigh and Kamryn. They enjoy the outdoors spending their summers on the lake or at the beach and their winters in the mountains.

The Jeffries have a dog in addition to their seven chickens.

Grow beyond the walls of your home.

We offer exceptional lifestyle amenities, including three dining rooms, a superb sky lounge, various card/activity rooms, garden plots, a theater, a library, and so much more.

Take advantage of the significant discounts and renovation options currently offered on the High Rise Apartment or Legacy Cottage of your choice through the ARC Construction Benefits.

Act **NOW** for this limited-time offer!



\$1,500 MOVING ALLOWANCE



\$500 SECOND PERSON MONTHLY SERVICE FEE DISCOUNT FOR ONE YEAR



UP TO \$10,000 PERSONALIZATION ALLOWANCE



2 HOURS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE DURING FIRST MONTH OF RESIDENCY

The ARC is a nonprofit life plan continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. We welcome all officers, retired or honorably discharged from all branches of service, warrant officers, as well as senior level GS 14 and above federal employees who are at least 62 years old, including spouses and surviving spouses.



Army Residence Community

Call us at **1-800-810-7163**
or visit **armyresidence.com**
today for a tour or take
advantage of serious savings.



Soldiers' Angels

Sign up to volunteer on their website: Soldiersangels.org



Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

Soldiers' Angels offers many ways for you to make a difference in the lives of our military service people and their families.



Volunteer to Feed Veterans

Veteran Food Distribution events provide up to two weeks of groceries to veterans in need. This event relies on monthly volunteers to help distribute the food.



In-Person Volunteer Opportunities

Soldiers' Angels volunteers work in communities across the country to provide services to active duty military, guard/reservists and veterans of all generations.



Special Campaigns

Treats for Troops, Warm Feet for Warriors, Holiday Stockings for Heroes, and more! Our annual collection campaigns offer a fun way volunteers of all ages can participate.



Company Volunteer Opportunities

Get your company involved in giving back to the military and veteran community! Engaging events, large and small, will inspire your team to give back.



Home of the Brave

Corporate sponsors and their employees give back to veterans by hosting events at VA's across the country through Soldiers' Angels Home of the Brave.



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Wellness. Independence. *Peace of Mind!*

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Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care

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AdanteIndependentLiving.com
AdanteAssistedLiving.com

2702 Cembalo Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78230



Pet Friendly



Cinema Room



Barber Shop & Salon



Scheduled Transportation



Chef-Prepared Meals



Customized Care Plans



Outdoor Pool



Active Lifestyle Calendar

AL 307375, MC 104649

Pet Friendly

A Sagora Senior Living Community



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those members born in the month of APRIL

If you have a birthday this month and your name is not here, then we do not have your birth month in our records.

If you'd like to be included please call or email us the information.

Graham Aitken, Col USAF (Ret)
Robert Akam, COL USA (Ret)
David Anderson, Col USAF (Ret)
Robert Ashley, LTC USA (Ret)
Knowles Atchison, COL USA (Ret)
Bruce Brant, COL USA (Ret)
Gary Bushover, COL USA (Ret)
Margaret Canfield, LTC USA (Ret)
Ronald Carr, CAPT USN (Ret)
Francis Chance, COL USA (Ret)
Johanna Ching
J.C. Clapsaddle, Col USAF (Ret)
John Clatanoff, Col USAF (Ret)
Robert Corbo, MAJ USA (Ret)
Michael Curtis, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
Serafina De Los Santos, MAJ USA (Ret)
Douglas Estrumse, Maj USAF (Ret)
Donald Gudinas, BG USA (Ret)
Thomas Hoskins, Jr, CDR USN (Ret)
Diana Krupka
Patrice Laster, MAJ USA
Stephanie Marin, 1Lt USAF

Aurora Martinez
Richard Martinez, Maj USAF (Ret)
Edward Marvin, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
James McCormick, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
Martha Morrison
Lu Nix
Mario Oliveira, Capt USAF (Ret)
Constance Oliver
Matthew Poe, CPT USA
Peter Pollock, Col USAF (Ret)
William Render, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
George Sacerich, Cpt USAF (Ret)
James Sall, LTC USA (Ret)
Pete Schaub, Col USAF (Ret)
Alfred Silva, LTC USA (Ret)
Lisa Skopal, Col USAF (Ret)
Orange Steffey, Jr., Lt Col USAF (Ret)
R. Eddie Taylor, Jr., Col USAF (Ret)
John Thompson, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
Leticia Walpole, LTC USA (Ret)
Marilyn Weltz,
Connie Zielinski

WANTED!

Active Duty or Retired Job Seekers



If you would like to be added to the regular email blast that lists job opportunities in **San Antonio and Texas** please contact David Patrick, the Career Transition Coordinator - Texas

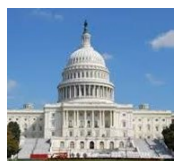
dwpatrick01@gmail.com

If you are an area **employer** who is interested in hiring career transitioning officers or their spouses or if you are a MOAA member interested in helping a career transitioning officer or spouse as a **San Antonio Networker**,

or if you are a **MOAA-AC member Job Seeker**, please contact

Kitty Meyers LtCol USAF (Ret)
Chapter Transition Liaison Officer at

kamconsulthr@gmail.com



Support MOAA'S Legislative Initiatives

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3 . . .

1. Go online to www.moaa.org and connect with the “**Legislative Advocacy Center**” link.
2. Complete the registration -- the system will automatically load the contact information for your senators and your congressional representative. (Note: when asked for your chapter – use the code “TX16”).
3. Respond to MOAA Legislative Alert eblasts.

(Note: MOAA will provide you suggested letters for each legislative issue identified. You may modify the suggested response or use the provided response. Then just click on the submit button and the letters will go to your Representatives and/or Senators.)

YOUR INFLUENCE COUNTS!

Scholarship Winners 2024

This year, the scholarship committee, chaired by Peter Hunt, consisted of Vaughn Caudill, Bob Pollock, Felix Santiago, Machielle Damon, Jim Payne, Xavier Colon, and Edie Weidemann. They reviewed all applications and selected the winners of the Torrey, JROTC and Chapter scholarships. The ROTC winners were chosen by their unit instructors.

Thanks to another very generous donation from MajGen David C. Garza, USMC (Ret), together with proceeds from the Chapter's golf tournament and donations from corporate partners and chapter members, there were a total of 32 scholarships awarded at \$1,000 each.

The checks were handed to the students at the March scholarship awards luncheon held on 25 March by General and Mrs. Carrie Garza, together with the featured speaker, Col John Grimm, AF ROTC Commander Southwest Region., and Deb Humphreys, board member of the golf tournament's title sponsor the Donegan & Burns Foundation.

Col Clarence Torrey Community Service Scholarship

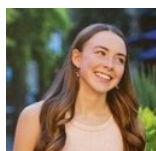
Victoria Coffey



Attends James Madison High School and plans to become a veterinarian and was just accepted into the presidential honors program at Tarleton State University.

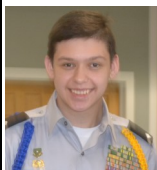
Maj Jim & Cheryl Cunningham Chapter Scholarship

Noelle Afflerbaugh



Attends Randolph High School and will be majoring in advertising at the University of Alabama.

JROTC Scholarships



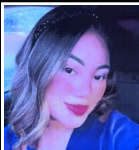
1. **Steven Birkner** - Recipient of the Col Edmond & Sue McCarthy JROTC Scholarship. Attends Cole High School and plans to study nursing and graduate from the Citadel.



2. **Ines Chognika** - Attends Hutto High School and plans to major in psychology at the UT Austin.



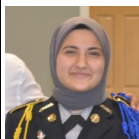
3. **Julia Fulginiti** - Attends Ray High School in Corpus Christi and plans to study astrophysics and then commission with either the Army or Navy.



4. **America Garcia** - Recipient of the Susie Tolman JROTC Scholarship. Attends Porter Early College High School in Brownsville and plans to be an Army nurse.



5. **Samuel Huynh** - Attends Hutto High School and plans to enlist in the Air Force and pursue an online course at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



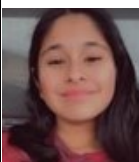
6. **Seyma Kilic** - Recipient of the BG Robert Herring JROTC Scholarship. Attends Roosevelt High School and intends to study symbolic systems (computer-human connections) at Stanford University.



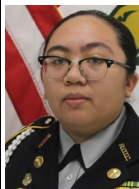
7. **Demetrius Pastrano** - Attends San Marcos High School and plans to study cyber security at UTSA and enter the Air Force.



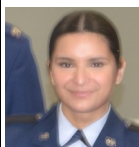
8. **Emiliano Ruiz** - Attends Porter Early College High School in Brownsville and will attend UTRGV Brownsville studying computer science followed by a career in the Army.



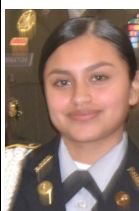
9. **Anisa Silva** - Attends Southwest High School. She hopes to attend Texas A&M and become a trauma surgeon.



10. **Chelsy Tinacba** - attends Cole High School and plans to study cyber security at St Mary's University.



11. **Cheyenne Wold** - attends Harlan High School and will study forensic psychology at LSU and hopes to commission into the Army as a CID Detective.



12. **Desarea Zuniga** - attends Brackenridge High School and will study biology at UT Austin.

(ROTC Scholarships on next page)

College ROTC Scholarship Winners



1. **Tianna Tsosie** - UT Austin (Army)

Commissioning next year as 2LT in the medical services branch with the goal of becoming an anesthesiologist after service commitment.



2. **Zachary Schaefer** - UT Austin (Navy)

Majoring in civil engineering and planning to commission into the Marine Corps with an aviation contract.



3. **Jewel Wong** - UT Austin (Air Force)

Aspires to be a dentist in the Air Force.



4. **Rachel Hoban** - Texas State (Army)

Currently enlisted as human resources specialist and currently studying for her masters in public administration.



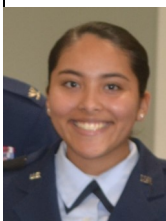
5. **Mark Nardone** - Texas State (Army)

Majoring in computer science with a goal to be an Army officer specializing in cyber security or military intelligence.



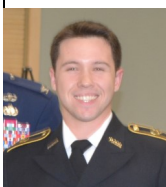
6. **Jack Jungman** - Texas State (Air Force)

Studying mathematics and commissioning by May 2026 with a career as an intel officer.



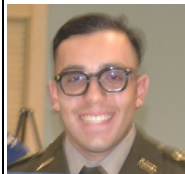
7. **Juliana Villalpando** - Texas State (Air Force)

Majoring in health science with a goal to becoming an Air Force flight nurse.



8. **Daniel Beaty** - UTSA (Army)

Majoring in cyber security and commissioning into the Army.



9. **Diego Gomez Cordova** - UTSA (Army)

Majoring in computer science and commissioning in May 2025 as an intelligence officer in the Army.



10. **John Wilburn** - UTSA (Army)

Majoring in computer science for a commission as an army intel officer.



11. **Mary Vallor** - UTSA (Air Force)

Recipient of the Lt Col Edward L. & Ruby Marvin ROTC Scholarship. Studying criminal justice and commissioning into the Air Force in May 2025 with a career in cyber security.



12. **Jessica Figueroa** - UTSA (Air Force)

Majoring in construction science and commissioning in May 2025.



13. **Cody Funke** - UTSA (Air Force).

Majoring in cyber security to become an offensive cyber officer.



14. **Julian Fernandez** - St Mary's (Army)

Majoring in Exercise and Sport science will be commissioning in May 2025 as a Medical Service Officer.



15. **Brandon Ortega** - St Mary's (Army)

Majoring in Criminal Justice with a goal to be assigned to Special Forces.

(Continued on next page)



16. Mikaela Garcia -
TAMU Kingsville (Army)
Majoring in psychology
and plans to commission
as a medical services
officer.



17. Matthew Banales -
TAMU Corpus Christi
(Army)
Majoring in pre-nursing
with a goal of becoming
an Army medical nurse.



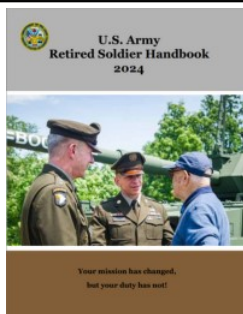
18. Jose Munoz - UT
RGV (Army)
(Info & pic unavailable)

Alamo Chapter scholarships are
provided by the MOAA Alamo
Chapter Educational Foundation a
501(C)3 non profit. The Founda-
tion is funded by the annual golf
tournament and by donations from
chapter members.

Want to donate? Send a check
made payable to Alamo Chapter
Educational Foundation or donate
online at

[https://www.alamomoaa.org/
donate.cfm](https://www.alamomoaa.org/donate.cfm)

Thank You!



The Retired Soldier Handbook has
been updated for 2024! It contains
important information for both retired
Soldiers and their families in the event
of their passing. Update yourself on
the information that you need to know.

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April Chapter Events

- 2 Golf Committee Meeting Chapter Ofc 1pm
- 4 Chapter Business Meeting Chapter Ofc 10am
- 6-7 Great Texas Airshow JBSA Randolph
- 9 MACEF Board Mtg Chapter Ofc 2pm
- 17 VOYA Awards Ceremony RoadRunner 1pm
- 18-28 Fiesta San Antonio
- 25 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club with speaker Kim Jeffries of Haven For Hope

May Chapter Events

- 2 Staff Meeting 10am
- 8 Victory Day in Europe
- 10 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 12 Mother's Day
- 14 MACEF Board Meeting 2pm
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 22 Chapter Board Meeting 10am
- 23 Chapter Luncheon Army Residence Community
- 27 Memorial Day

HELP WANTED...POSITION OPEN...FLEXIBLE HOURS...JOIN OUR TEAM!

Vice President, Membership Recruitment & Retention

Importance of Position: To maintain and protect membership files and to promote the procurement of new members and retention of current members. Note: Will act on behalf of the President in his/her absence when the President-Elect is also absent.

General Expectations:

- Current member of MOAA and of MOAA-AC
- Aware of MOAA-AC by-laws and Strategic Plan
- Write a monthly (or as required) article for *The Lariat*
- Computer access and reasonably computer literate
- Attend 85-100% Board, staff, & membership meetings
- Prepare and submit budget input as needed
- Support the planning process as needed

Position Qualifications:

- Be knowledgeable of recruiting and retention programs
- Able to coordinate and support efforts of assistants who are focused on the recruitment and retention efforts.

Responsible to: Chapter President

Major Responsibilities:

- Attend Board of Director meetings as an ex-officio/nonvoting member.
- **Recruiting**
 - a) Establish and supervise the efforts of a team of volunteer persons who will focus on the recruiting effort.
 - i) Develop a membership team that can focus on the following categories of potential members:
 - 1) Active duty personnel
 - 2) Surviving Spouse membership
 - 3) Persons who are members of MOAA-National but have not joined our Chapter
 - 4) Support of recruiting efforts suggested by MOAA-National
 - 5) Other former officers of the Uniformed Services (friends, etc.)
 - b) Establish and deliver to a set of goals for the annual attainment of new members. (Note: the annual membership goal should be 'net' of losses.)
 - i) Report monthly on the results of the recruiting efforts, by category of member (Active Duty; Surviving Spouse; etc.).
 - 1) Evaluate what recruiting efforts are the most productive, etc.
 - c) Work to ensure that each new member is welcomed into the MOAA-AC in an appropriate manner.
 - i) Welcoming letter from the Chapter President or other such person.
 - ii) Ensure that each new member has a temporary sponsor / host at the first meeting to be attended by the new member.
 - iii) Ensure that those new members who express an interest in volunteering to support the MOAA-AC are given a chance to do so, soon.

- d) Ensure that there is recruiting coverage at functions and activities that will be a likely source for new members.
- e) Encourage and support all members in their recruiting efforts.
 - i) Use *The Lariat* to encourage recruitment by all members.
 - ii) Send an occasional 'blanket email' to all members, soliciting their support in the recruiting effort.
- f) Be responsible for the development and use of tools for recruiting (e.g., flyers; posters; etc.)
 - i) The recruiting program must, by necessity, address the "what's in it for me" issue.
- **Retention**
 - a) Develop and exercise a program to proactively follow-up on potential losses of members.
 - i) Engage the efforts of the leadership of the MOAA-AC to contact potential losses, as required, in order to dissuade them, if possible.
 - b) Report monthly on the number of losses, the reason for the losses, and the success / failure of follow-up contact efforts to retain them.
 - i) Over time, develop and analyze the reasons for losses so that programs and plans can be put in place to reduce such losses.
 - c) Coordinate with the VP for Programs to ensure that scheduled programs appeal to the interests of the membership.
- Awareness of programs for membership
 - a) Write a monthly article for *The Lariat*, discussing membership matters.
 - b) Provide a 'membership table' at all official MOAA-AC functions.
- Point of contact for recruiting material
- Maintain and make available as needed the MOAA-AC membership roster.

Training/Preparation:

- Maintain a positive approach to recruiting by participating in local events where recruiting may take place
- Work to ensure that there is a constant source of volunteer personnel in the pipeline, to assist in the recruiting effort.

Average Time Commitment: 40 Hours/month

Length of Commitment: Minimum one-year

Measures of Success:

- Increase in membership vs. established goals (new members minus losses)
- Retaining of members vs. established goals for losses (e.g. less than 2% per year)
- Positive feedback from members
- Developed robust committee participation
- Chapter receives 5 Star Level of Excellence award each year
- Complete all action steps, as assigned, in the chapter Strategic Plan.

30-SECOND “ELEVATOR PITCH” TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP

- I am (your name) with The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) **and** the Alamo Chapter. Are you a member? If no . . .
- We are a volunteer nonprofit organization for commissioned officers (and surviving spouses) that has approximately 900 members and is over 50 year old – located at Ft. Sam.
- We advocate and lobby for the entire military community – all ranks -- to influence legislators in Washington and in Austin to sustain yours & my earned entitlements, i.e., pay raises, medical benefits, commissary privileges, education benefits, etc.
- We make ourselves heard through the strength of our membership numbers. This is why it is important for all eligible officers to belong.
- In addition, we run the local chapter operations and promote camaraderie through our monthly social events and business meetings.
- Here is an application for membership in both MOAA and the Alamo Chapter. (see Page 3 or scan the QR code below).
- You owe it to yourself (and family) to support the organization that supports you and I ask that you please join. Thanks.
-

If you get push back consider saying:

- It is a no hassle membership – no sales calls, no sales emails, no one asking for money and no pressure to be actively involved.
- We are just looking to you to help strengthen our numbers.
- You will receive legislative updates, the Military Officers Magazine, our chapter newsletter *The Lariat* by email to keep you informed of what is going on.
- Again, you owe it to yourself (and family) to be part of an organization that protects your right, entitlements and benefits.



Use this QR code to go directly to the membership join/renew page on the chapter website



VOLUNTEER STAFF:

PRESIDENT	Lt Col Kitty Meyers kamconsulthr@gmail.com
PROGRAMS	Col David Patrick dwpatrick01@gmail.com
ASST PROGRAMS	Col Brian Afflerbaugh baffler74@hotmail.com
MEMBERSHIP	COL Felix Santiago felixsantiago01@gmail.com
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	MAJ Jim Cunningham jimbo48@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY	Col David Patrick dwpatrick01@gmail.com
TREASURER	Col Brad Barnhart bradbarnhart4737@gmail.com
SCHOLARSHIPS	Col Peter Hunt moaa.ac.awards@gmail.com
MARKETING	Col Lisa Skopal lskopal@ymail.com
PERSONAL AFFAIRS (Open)	
PR-SOCIAL MEDIA	LtCol Kathie Estrada
EDITOR	LtCol Juliet Chelkowski
CHAPLAIN	LTC James Taylor
PX/VAC Rep	MAJ Jim Cunningham
SA TRANSITION	LtCol Kitty Meyers
TX TRANSITION	Col David Patrick
WEBMASTER	Col Bill Hudson
VOLUNTEER COORD	Col Pete Schaub
BLUE SKIES REP	Col Dan Van Syoc
ARC REP	(Open)
ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON (Open)	
CONTRACTOR:	Trish Meserve

Chapter Board:

Chair: Col Jarvis Baker
Vice Chair: Col Eric Kreitz
Lt Col Ed Marvin Col Frank Rohrbough
LTC Bill Goforth MAJ Josh Welch
LTC Aimee Schumacher
Advisor: CAPT Bill Knehans

MOAA Alamo Chapter Education Foundation Board:

COL Brad Freeman
CAPT Bill Whiting

Editorial Policy

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 Operations is a non-profit organization 501c 4. The Alamo Chapter Education Foundation is a 501c 3.

MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are strictly non partisan.

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

MOAA-AC PO Box 340497 Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
(210) 228-9955 www.alamomoaa.org
moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net

MOAA-AC is a private organization. It is not a part of the DoD or any of its components and has no governmental status.

Like Us on Facebook!



Calling All Spouses! Join MOAA's Virtual Spouse Chapter

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an affinity group whose members share information and ideas with others in a virtual environment. After starting the virtual meetings through quarterly teleconferences, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter now meets monthly through Zoom. Almost 40 states are represented in the membership. This chapter is intended to be an enhancement to, rather than take the place of, geographic chapters, and there are no dues.

Several weeks in advance of each meeting, members receive an email alerting them to the date and time of the gathering; a follow-on email with instructions for joining is sent several days prior to each meeting. The session is kept to an hour and a half and members can log on or off according to their schedule. Topics of discussion and presentations have included Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset updates, financial information, and updates from MOAA national as well as other items of interest.

Members participate to the extent they are able. While the chapter is geared toward surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons, any MOAA spouse is welcome for membership. MOAA's mantra "Never Stop Serving" is espoused to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally.

Download a membership application at the following link:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-join-moaas-surviving-spouse-virtual-chapter/>

It can also be obtained by sending a request to

mssvc02@gmail.com.

VA Health Coverage Expands

VA health coverage will expand to all veterans exposed to toxins from Vietnam War through post-9/11 conflicts, Excerpt from the Stars And Stripes article by Linda F. Hersey STARS AND STRIPES • February 26, 2024

Millions of veterans exposed to hazardous substances during military service — from burn pits and sulfur fires to asbestos and firefighting foams — will become eligible next week for free or low-cost care at Department of Veterans Affairs health facilities.

Starting March 5, enrollment in VA health care will open to qualifying veterans from the Vietnam War, Gulf War, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the global war on terrorism, or any other combat zone after 9/11, the VA said.

Requirements are waived for veterans to first file a medical claim for disability compensation — and get the claim approved — to access health services at VA clinics, doctor's offices and hospitals.

Copayments for medical treatments related to toxic exposures will be waived for new enrollees. Fees can range from \$15 to \$50 depending on the type of medical service. Qualifying veterans are eligible for free or low-cost care for a range of health services, including primary care, surgeries, urgent care and emergency services. VA health care coverage also extends to specialized care, such as cancer treatment and kidney dialysis.

Benefits of Chapter Membership

Considering joining a MOAA chapter? Debating whether to renew your chapter membership? Talking to a potential new member? Here are some of the key benefits to belonging to one of MOAA's more than 400 chapters:

- **Connections:** When you attend chapter meetings, become active on a committee, or take a prominent leadership role, you will forge lasting ties with other MOAA members who have common professional interests and similar association concerns.
- **Community involvement:** Chapter membership provides opportunities to contribute to your community in a variety of ways, from providing scholarships to local students to supporting causes that support wounded warriors, active duty servicemembers and their families, and veterans in-need.
- **Legislative advocacy:** MOAA chapter members play a critical role in advancing legislation at both the state and national level. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.



THE LARIAT

National Award Winning Newsletter

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ALAMO CHAPTER

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FOR INFORMATION REGARDING
OUR BY-LAWS, STRATEGIC PLAN,
EVENTS CALENDAR, MEETING
MINUTES AND PAST ISSUES OF
THE LARIAT PLEASE VISIT OUR
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WWW.ALAMOMOAA.ORG

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Email: moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net
www.alamomoaa.org
2320 Stanley Rd, Bldg 140
Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234



Thursday, April 25
Chapter Luncheon
Kim Jeffries
President & CEO
Haven For Hope

Ft Sam Golf Club
1050 Harry Wurzbach, San Antonio TX 78209
Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch at 11:30am

Menu

Tomato Soup, Basil-tomato grilled cheese sandwich, House Salad
& Carrot Cake. Coffee, Water & Iced Tea.

Cost per person: Pay In Advance \$24; Pay At the Door \$28

Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by 4pm Wednesday 17 April
Reservations not cancelled by then will be forfeited/billed
Non member Officers & guests are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest(s): _____

Call (210) 228-9955 to make/pay your reservation or send check made
payable to MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
Or contact us by email moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net to hold a reservation or
reserve and pay on-line at **www.alamomoaa.org**



Thursday, May 23
Chapter Luncheon
Mark "Plug" Vlahos
Col, USAF (Ret)
WWII Historian

Army Residence Community
7400 Crestway, San Antonio TX 78239
Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch at 11:30am

Menu

TBD

**Cost per person (including ARC residents): Pay In Advance \$24;
Pay At the Door \$28**

Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by 4pm Wednesday 15 May
Reservations not cancelled by then will be forfeited/billed
Non member Officers & guests are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest(s): _____

Call (210) 228-9955 to make/pay your reservation or send check made
payable to MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX
78234 Or contact us by email moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net to hold a reser-
vation or reserve and pay on-line at **www.alamomoaa.org**