

# THE



# LARIAT

Volume 45, Number 4

“Five Star ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Chapter”

April 2025



## President's Message

It seems that March flew by. Our Scholarship lunch was a huge success. We celebrated 22 of the 35 cadets with the check presentations. We did it again. What a wonderful opportunity to recognize excellence in young people. Thank you to all who helped make this a great event for the cadets and their families.

Now we have opportunities to recognize the ROTC by supporting their leadership training events. While the first one with the Army ROTC from Texas A&M Corpus Christi has already occurred, the next event is here at Lackland's Chapman Annex. Air Force ROTC detachments from all over Texas will assemble on Saturday, April 5 from 9am to 2pm at the Annex's Beast Training Area for a day of engaging in challenges in “expeditionary scenarios” that test teamwork, discipline and problem-solving. The scenarios build on leadership skills in preparation for future Air Force leaders.

The final event fulfills the Army ROTC Professional Military Education (PME) requirement through the completion of a battle tour for cadets from St Mary's University Army ROTC Rattler Battalion. This year's tour is to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville, TX from April 4 through 6. The cadets will analyze the first battle of the US-Mexican War including the causes, consequence and impact on US and Mexico

relations.

The Chapter's Foundation is the supporter of all of these events. Through engaging with the cadets and their school cadres and instructors, we are able to build relationships that benefit the chapter, MOAA and the future officers of the military.

We will soon be organizing the October golf tournament. This is our big fundraising event for the Foundation and its scholarship program. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Dig out those golf clubs. You have six months to practice.

*Kitty*  
Kathryn “Kitty” Meyers  
Lt Col USAF (Ret)  
Past SPHR, SHRM-SCP

## Inside This Edition:

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## Speaker Bio



### Vice Admiral Jack Buono

Experienced maritime industry leader and retired Vice Admiral of the United States Maritime Service with a distinguished career spanning over four decades. As the 13th Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Vice Admiral Buono provided strategic leadership to one of the nation's premier federal service academies, preparing future leaders for the maritime, transportation, and defense sectors.

His career began with hands-on experience as a deck officer. Jack obtained his U S Coast Guard Unlimited Master Mariner license, and served as captain aboard several crude, product and chemical tankers before coming ashore after 15 years at sea. Jack then advanced to senior executive roles, including President and CEO of SeaRiver Maritime, Inc., ExxonMobil's marine transportation subsidiary. Throughout his tenure, Jack successfully led teams, managed complex operations, and delivered results in high-pressure environments.

Key highlights of Jack's career include:

Leading the USMMA through transformative challenges, including the

(Continued on Page 3)

# Notices



## Thank You

to each person listed below who have donated a little (or a lot!) to the

MOAA Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation (MACEF), and/or Chapter Operations.

We really appreciate it—and every dollar helps!

Col David Brooks, USAF (Ret)

Col Tom Carter, USAF (Ret)

COL Shane Cuellar, USA (Ret)

LTC Ron Kettler, USA (Ret)

CDR David Marx, USN (Ret)

COL Joy Ream, USA (Ret)

LTC Aimee Schumacher, USA (Ret)

Jeanette Wahl

LTC Machielle Wood Denmon, USA (Ret)

## Chapter Volunteer Of the Year Kathie Estrada

Kathleen Estrada, Lt Col USAF (Ret) is the Alamo Chapter's Volunteer of the Year for 2024. Kathie serves with distinction as the VP Membership Recruitment and Retention.



Through her leadership, initiative, and organizational & people skills she helped the Chapter sustain its credentials as the largest in Texas and among the top 2% in membership among the over 350 MOAA Chapters worldwide. She has enhanced our Chapter's brand awareness through expanding recruitment opportunities at retiree days, newcomer's orientations, and veteran's events like the Women's Veterans Fairs. These and other such events have added new members from throughout the San Antonio area.

Kathie also serves with distinction as the Commander of the Blanco, TX American Legion and as the Treasurer for the Blanco Rotary Club. Kathy will be recognized for her volunteerism along with other JB SA volunteers at a ceremony on Tuesday, 22 April 2025, at the Fort Sam Houston Theater, 2472 Stanley Road, Bldg 2270.

Congratulations Kathie!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our members born in APRIL !

*If you have a birthday this month and your name is not here, we do not have your birth month in our records. If you'd like to be included please call, text 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)  
 Douglas Estrumse, Maj USAF (Ret)  
 Daniel Hershkowitz, BG USA  
 Thomas Hoskins, Jr., CDR USN (Ret)

Diana Krupka  
 Nicholas Kunce, CPT USA  
 Samuel Lang, CPT USA  
 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)  
 Jose Munoz, SGT USA FOC  
 Sandra Nestor, Col USA  
 Lu Nix  
 Mario Oliveira, Capt USAF (Ret)  
 Constance Oliver  
 Renee Pleasanton, CDR USPHS  
 Matthew Poe, CPT USA  
 Peter Pollock, Col USAF (Ret)

William Render, Lt Col USAF (Ret)  
 Matthew Rogers, WO1 USA  
 George Sacerich, Cpt USAF (Ret)  
 Pete Schaub, Col USAF (Ret)  
 Lisa Skopal, Col USAF (Ret)  
 Christopher Sopak, 1LT USA  
 Jeffrey Sprink, Lt Col USAFR (Ret)  
 Orange Steffey, Jr., Lt Col USAF (Ret)  
 Ralph Taylor, Jr., Col USAF (Ret)  
 John Thompson, Lt Col USAF (Ret)  
 Mark Vlahos, Col USAF (Ret)  
 Mary Jo Weismuller, Corp USA  
 Marilyn Weltz  
 Robert Whittle, MG USA  
 John Williams, Jr, Maj USAF  
 Connie Zielinski

## Jack Buono

(Continued from Page 1)

COVID-19 pandemic, while enhancing academic and training programs to meet evolving industry needs.

Serving as a trusted advisor and collaborator with government agencies, industry leaders, and educational institutions to drive innovation and excellence in maritime operations.

Earning recognition as one of Lloyd's List's Top 100 Most Influential People in Shipping (2012–2015) and receiving numerous awards, including the Kings Pointer of the Year Award, the Secretary of Transportation's Gold Award and the Distinguished Service Medal. With a passion for leadership, operational excellence, and the maritime industry, Jack remains dedicated to advancing the maritime profession and mentoring future generations of leaders.

Jack has been an invited speaker at the Naval War College, Army War College, National Defense University, United States Naval Academy, the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Columbia University, Virginia PolyTechnical University, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, the Seaman's Church Institute, and the North American Marine Environmental Preservation.

*VADM Buono will be our guest speaker at our chapter luncheon at the United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center on April 23rd. RSVP details on back page.*

## Events Calendar

### APRIL

3 Staff Meeting 10am

22 VOYA Awards Ft Sam Theater

23 Chapter Luncheon UMC 11am  
with speaker VADM Jack Bono  
of the US Maritime Service

### MAY

(Military Appreciation Month)

1 Staff Meeting 10am

9 Military Spouse Appreciation  
Day

17 Armed Forces Day

22 Chapter Luncheon at the Army  
Residence Community 11am

26 Memorial Day



## Committed to Service.

At Adante Senior Living, everything we do is centered around our Resident First philosophy. Our active, social community boasts inclusive amenities and compassionate care across Cottage, Independent Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care options. You were here for us. Now it's our turn to be there for you.

**Schedule your tour today to see the Adante Senior Living difference!**



### Adante Independent Living

(210) 972-6177 | AdanteLife.com | 2702 Cembalo Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78230

### Adante Assisted Living & Memory Care

(210) 864-1132 | AdanteLife.com | 2739 Cembalo Blvd. San Antonio, TX 78230

AL 146338 MC 10427  
A Sagora Senior Living Community



## THANK YOU Renewing Members:

MG Charles Rodriguez, USA (Ret)  
Col Jennifer Alexander, USAF (Ret)  
Col David Brooks, USAF (Ret)  
CAPT Ron Carr, USN (Ret)  
COL Shane Cuellar, USA (Ret)  
COL Joy Ream, USA (Ret)  
Col Ralph Taylor, Jr USAF (Ret)  
Lt Col Mervin Buss, USAF (Ret)  
Lt Col David Dorger, USAF (Ret)  
LTC Ron Kettler, USA (Ret)  
CDR David Marx, USN (Ret)  
LTC Charles Rucker, USA (Ret)  
MAJ Bob Corbo, USA (Ret)  
Maj Brian Smith, USAF (Ret)  
Capt Nicolas Addington Ramos-Echandi, USAF  
Sue McCarthy  
Jeanette Wahl

## Membership Stats

Active Duty 107  
Former Military 16  
Friends of the Chapter 12  
Retired 517  
Surviving Spouse 107  

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**Total 759**

## Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation Board

In MOAA-AC's continuing effort to sustain a quality military officer cadre, we wanted to highlight-**if every eligible member donated \$25 we could raise enough funds to create a permanent scholarship endowment....now wouldn't that put a spring in your step!!** Please consider a donation toward that effort in 2025....even \$25 goes a long way! **\$25 for '25!**

Thank you again!.....please visit: **AlamoMOAA.org**

## 30-SECOND "ELEVATOR PITCH" TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP

I am \_\_\_\_\_ 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 over 750 members and is over 50 years 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 chapter operations and promote camaraderie through our monthly social events.

Here is an application providing FREE membership in both MOAA and the Alamo Chapter for one year - normally \$25. (See page 7)

You owe it to yourself (and family) to support the organization that supports you and I ask that you please join. Thanks.

# Transition Tips

## Shaky Economy Strategies

The past ten years have been such a rollercoaster for the economy. COVID knocked us for a loop. Businesses changed tactics and switched to zooms. I don't need to go into the other details on this. The economy recovered but a lot of us worked hybrid. Now we are going through layoffs and a possible depression or even recession according to some prognosticators. We are all learning how to be flexible in how we approach job hunting.

San Antonio, unlike other locations, is very strong on relationships. It's how you build your network that will help you find that job, either at a job fair or any other event. Here are some tips in navigating the maze and how to best market yourself to potential employers.

- A job fair is a great place to network to the attending employers and with fellow job fair attendees. Practice your 30-second introduction – remember the importance of first impressions.
- Attend workshops on such topics as resumes, mock interviews and social media use to prep for the job fair. Check with the Texas Veterans Commission, Workforce Solutions Alamo or JBSA's Military and Family Resource Center for the schedule of classes. Centurian Military Alliance also has workshops periodically that provide a wealth of information and tips.
- Some job fairs also provide a professional photographer for that LinkedIn profile. Take advantage. LinkedIn is a valuable tool for job seekers and prospective employers.
- Do your homework prior to any event. Find out which employers will be attending by checking the event's website. Review the list and research the employers that interest you. Check the website or google the company. Look up the company on sites like glassdoor.com. You can now narrow down the list and organize your activities at the event. The goal is to maximize your time.

(Continued on Page 7)

## SIX BRANCHES. ONE HOME BASE.

Join Blue Skies of Texas, an award-winning Life Plan Community, in our commitment to provide military retirees of all backgrounds with a vibrant and active lifestyle.

[blueskiesinfo.org/moaa](https://blueskiesinfo.org/moaa)  
1-800-790-3954



*Blue Skies*  
— of Texas

AT AIR FORCE VILLAGE





## SOLDIERS' ANGELS

### TOP 5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN 2025

As we enter 2025, supporting our nation's heroes remains as vital as ever. Soldiers' Angels offers countless opportunities to make a difference. Here are our top five ways you can get involved and join our mission this year.

1. Adopt-A-Soldier
2. Support Military and Veteran Food Distributions
3. Write/Make Cards
4. Join Special Campaigns:
  - Treat for Troops; Holiday Stockings for Heroes; #MLKDay of Service; Valentines for Veterans; Warm Feet for Warriors; Honor Military Working Dogs; Go Camo; Operation Warm Winter.
5. Monetary Donations

Register to volunteer at:  
<https://soldiersangels.my.site.com/s/self-register>



### Master of Science, Nonprofit Management

For aspiring executive directors, senior staff, and nonprofit Board volunteers.

#### Become qualified!

- 10 courses, start any semester
- \$15,000 total tuition
- Fully asynchronous online

Parallels MBA knowledge but  
for the nonprofit sector

<https://tinyurl.com/45je334w>



## 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.

## Shaky Economy Strategies

(Continued from Page 5)

- A crucial step is to update your resume. Contact Goodwill Veterans Resource Center or the TVC representative at your nearest Workforce Center. There are folks there to help. You can also contact me for help. You don't need a resume printed on fancy paper. Keep it focused and organized on the type of job that you want. And – max of two pages. Have it available on your smart phone on the day of the event. An easy email at that point.
- One thing to note in presenting resumes at events. A number of employers no longer accept resumes due to the regulations now in place regarding resumes and applications. The recruiter will tell you to apply online. This allows them to track applicants and meet federal tracking requirements. The thing that I recommend is to check out Vistaprint or other source for a simple business card. You can then present the card and get one of their cards. You then have the opportunity to follow up after you have applied on-line.
- Based upon your research, build some questions to ask the recruiter. Focus your questions on the skills that they are looking for, what the company culture was like, and what kind of person are they seeking. Don't get into questions regarding salary or benefits. Also - and a big also - don't ask questions that can be found on the website.
- A final preparation is what to wear. The best advice is to wear business attire. That means a suit for men and a suit or dress with jacket for women. Shined dark leather shoes are the best. Women: Fancy heels are great on the dance floor. Your feet will say thank you at the end of the day if you save those for later and wear a moderate heel. Concrete floors for any length of time will test all. Be prepared for plenty of walking and standing. NOTE: Things have relaxed over the past few years. If you decide to go business casual, keep it smart. You can still look professional,
- Remember that you need to be conservative for most employers. Be professional. Be organized. Keep papers, resumes, etc. in a portfolio or briefcase. And on one final note. Don't smell of cigarette smoke or heavy perfume.

Now's your opportunity to shine. Best of luck.

*Kitty*

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

## 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

☐ MOAA National Mbr? If yes pls provide mbr number:

\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_



# Alamo Chapter Awards \$35,000 in Scholarships to Outstanding JROTC and ROTC Cadets

The Military Officers Association of America – Alamo Chapter (MOAA-AC) proudly awarded \$35,000 in scholarships to 35 exceptional cadets from local JROTC and college ROTC programs across south Texas during its 2025 Education Scholarship Award Ceremony, held in San Antonio on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. The event celebrated young leaders who exemplify the core values of service, academic excellence, leadership, and character.



This year's awards were presented to 15 JROTC cadets, 18 college ROTC cadets, the grandson of a chapter member, and an outstanding cadet from Bexar County who has a military relative. The students represented high schools, colleges, and universities across MOAA-AC's Greater San Antonio, Austin, and Rio Grande Valley catchment area. Some cadets travelled from as far as Harlingen, Texas, some 250 miles from San Antonio!





The ceremony featured keynote remarks by Major General Rick Martin, USAF (Ret.), who spoke on leadership, service, and the power of perseverance. Scholarship categories included the Major General Dave and Carrie Garza “Let’s Go” JROTC Scholarships, the Major James and Cheryl Cunningham Chapter Family Member Scholarship, and the Colonel Clarence Torrey Scholarship, along with multiple awards for college-level ROTC cadets.



This world-class event was made possible through the hard work and dedication of many. Special thanks to COL Bradley Freeman, USA (Ret.), Col Peter C. Hunt, USAF (Ret.), and the MOAA-Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation (MACEF) for their leadership and tireless efforts in organizing this outstanding celebration of future military leaders.



Over 120 MOAA-AC members and donors contributed to this year’s scholarships, demonstrating strong community support for the next generation of officers. The Chapter also extended its gratitude to the MACEF and VIP donors who contributed \$500 or much more. MACEF has generated even more donations for next year, posturing the MOAA-AC Scholarship Program for greater expansion in 2026.

For over 60 years, MOAA-AC has been honored to invest in the future of military leadership. Our scholarship program reflects our motto to “Never Stop Serving,” and we remain committed to supporting military cadets who are preparing to serve our great nation with integrity and excellence.

## NEVER STOP SERVING!



## WE NEED YOU !

### Current Volunteer Needs:

- 1) VP Community Outreach
- 2) VP Communications
- 3) Social Media Officer / Webmaster Assistant
- 4) Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouse Chair
- 5) Members for the following committees:
  - Community Outreach
  - Membership & Retention
  - Marketing
  - Transition
  - Legislative Affairs
  - Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouse

*The descriptions and job duties of all chapter positions can be found on the chapter website under the resources tab at [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org).*

**If interested, or have questions, please call or text Kitty Meyers at 210 355 6244.**

**Spouses are more than welcome to join us.**

## MEET OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

<b>Adante Senior Living</b> Retirement Community <a href="http://www.adantelife.com">www.adantelife.com</a> Independent Living: 210-493-0101 Assisted Living/Memory Care: 210-493-0103	<b>Army Residence Community</b> Retirement Living <a href="https://armyresidence.com/">https://armyresidence.com/</a> 210-646-5300	<b>Blue Skies of Texas</b> Retirement Community In the tradition of Air Force Village <a href="https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/">https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/</a> 866-553-5389
<b>CTWP Digital Solutions</b> Printers, Copiers, Fax Machines & Office Equipment <a href="https://www.ctwp.com/">https://www.ctwp.com/</a> 210-590-2897	<b>Dignity Memorial</b> Advanced Planning Maritza Cano <a href="http://www.DignityMemorial.com">www.DignityMemorial</a> 210-833-6223	<b>First Command</b> Financial Services Sid Frith <a href="http://www.advisor.firstcommand.com/us/tx/universal-city/ssfrith">www.advisor.firstcommand.com/us/tx/universal-city/ssfrith</a> 210-750-4800
<b>Global Aid Consultants</b> Transforming Lives Through Education and Health Todd Speer <a href="http://www.GlobalAid.us">www.GlobalAid.us</a> 830-309-0077	<b>Humana</b> Medicare Insurance Justin Cuadra jcuadra1@humana.com 210 790 1785	<b>Kelly Guerrero, Realtor</b> Coldwell Banker D'Ann Harper Guiding You Home <a href="https://www.coldwellbanker.com">https://www.coldwellbanker.com</a> 210-260-4889
<b>Leonard Contracting Inc</b> New & remodeling construction info@leonardcontracting.com <a href="http://www.leonardcontracting.com">www.leonardcontracting.com</a> 210-493-8303	<b>Our Lady of the Lake University</b> Nonprofit Management Graduate Online Degree <a href="https://tinyurl.com/45je334w">https://tinyurl.com/45je334w</a> Chuck Rodriguez (MG Ret USA) PhD 210-504-7502	<b>Raven Studios</b> Full Service Photography <a href="http://www.rvnstudios.com">www.rvnstudios.com</a> Marty Waddy 210-658-3034
<b>RobotLAB</b> Innovative Solutions in robotics and Artificial Intelligence Scott Brewer <a href="http://www.robotlab.com/SanAntonio">www.robotlab.com/SanAntonio</a> 210-809-4335	<b>Security Service Federal Credit Union</b> Full-service Financial Cooperative <a href="https://www.ssfcu.org/">https://www.ssfcu.org/</a> 888-415-7878	<b>Soarion Federal Credit Union</b> (formerly Air Force Federal Credit Union) Reach New Heights! <a href="http://www.soarion.org">www.soarion.org</a> 210-673-5610
<b>USAA</b> Financial Services Company <a href="https://www.usaa.com/">https://www.usaa.com/</a> 800-531-8722	<b>Weisinger Law Firm PLLC</b> Estate Planning <a href="https://weisingerlawfirm.com">https://weisingerlawfirm.com</a> Charlie Weisinger 210-308-0800	<b>Xpert Media Management LLC</b> Graphics & Promotional Advertising Glenn Medeiros <a href="http://www.xmmlc.com">www.xmmlc.com</a> gmediros@xmmlc.com 210- 653- 7871

**Contact Col Lisa Skopal, USAF (Ret) 210-394-3885 Lskopal@ymail.com**

*If you use any of the folks listed here do tell them the Alamo Chapter referred you - it'll show them their partnership with us is working!!*

## Alamo Chapter 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.*





# Legislative Affairs

## State Activity

### The Texas Council of Chapters Advocating on the Hill in Austin.

Chapters of the Texas Council met with legislators at the Capital in Austin on Monday 31 March to advocate on three issues while introducing MOAA and showing them that we are a resource should they have questions in the future.

Each issue included bills that have presently been introduced to accomplish these goals. They are:

1. Improving veteran and family wellness by increasing access to care in areas with mental health workforce shortages.
2. Supporting efforts to improve the quality of life for vulnerable veterans and surviving spouses.
3. Maintaining the viability of military bases and ranges in the State of Texas.

### Texas Legislature Online (TLO)

If you are not familiar with it, I would encourage you to familiarize yourself with TLO. <https://capital.texas.gov> On this website, you can see when the various House and Senate Committees are going to meet, what bills they will be considering that you may want to weigh in on and possibly testify for or against.

## Federal Activity

With the new administration in place, we are seeing many changes to our military, VA and Social Programs. MOAA is planning an Advocacy In Action on April 9<sup>th</sup> wherein teams from the various states will be visiting with their Senators and Congressman regarding legislation that we would like to see passed. This will include standalone bills and the NDAA for 2026.

The teams will hone in on only three issues. Some of the issues to be discussed will include Military Housing Improvements for the currently serving; Ending the Wait Report Priorities for Retirees and Veterans; Military Spouse Hiring for Family and survivors; Improvement of the Military Health System Access to Care; and Caregiving Support improvements for the VA.

Other issues will continue to be on the plate including the Major Richard Star Act. I would encourage you to contact your US Representatives office to advise them of the Texas Teams visiting them on April the 9<sup>th</sup> and encouraging them to be most attentive!

### Support MOAA'S Legislative Initiatives

1. Go online to [www.moaa.org](http://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: if asked for your chapter code – use 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!**

[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)



## VOLUNTEER STAFF:

PRESIDENT	Lt Col Kitty Meyers kamconsulthr@gmail.com
PRESIDENT ELECT	LTC Aimee Schumacher aimeeschu@gmail.com
PROGRAMS	Col Brian Afflerbaugh baffler74@hotmail.com
ASST PROGRAMS	Col David Patrick dwpatrik01@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP	Lt Col Kathie Estrada kathleenestrada27@gmail.com
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	MAJ Jim Cunningham jimbob48@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY	Col David Patrick dwpatrik01@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	Lt Col Kathie Estrada
EDITOR	LTC Aimee Schumacher
CHAPLAIN	LTC James Taylor
PX/VAC Rep	MAJ Jim Cunningham
TRANSITION	Lt Col Kitty Meyers
WEBMASTER	Col Bill Hudson
VOLUNTEER COORD	Col Pete Schaub
BLUE SKIES Liaison	Col Dan Van Syoc
ARC Liaison	COL John DiPiero
ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON (Open)	
CONTRACTOR:	Trish Meserve

### Chapter Board:

Chair: Col Jarvis Baker  
Vice Chair: COL Eric Kreitz  
Lt Col Ed Marvin MAJ Josh Welch  
COL Kim Biever MAJ Mike Pollog  
Advisor: CAPT Bill Knehans

### MOAA Alamo Chapter Education Foundation Board:

Chair: COL Brad Freeman  
Col Mike MacNaughton COL Gary Sadlon  
CAPT Bill Whiting Col Addy Addington  
Col Robert Snodgrass COL Wes Weiner

### Editorial Policy

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# THE LARIAT

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## **Wednesday, April 23** **Chapter Luncheon** **Spkr: VADM Jack Buono** **(Ret)**

### **US Maritime Service**

Alamo Heights United Methodist Church  
Christian Life Center  
825 E. Basse, San Antonio TX 78209  
Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch 11:30am

#### **Menu**

Soup, salad, assorted sandwiches & dessert  
coffee, water & iced tea.

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

RSVP by 4pm Tuesday 15 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**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, May 22**

## **Chapter Luncheon**

**Featuring a speaker from the**  
**South West Research Institute**

**Army Residence Community**  
**7400 Crestway, San Antonio TX 78209**

**Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch 11:30am**

**Details to follow.**