

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ALAMO CHAPTER



# THE



# LARIAT

Volume 41, Number 2

“Five Star ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Chapter”

February 2021



## President's Message

As I write this, we are three weeks into the new year and what a time it has been.

I picture myself, a scared skinny 21-year-old raising my hand at Ft Holabird, MD, to take the oath of allegiance for the first time. Oh, to be that skinny again. I've taken the oath many times after that as I progressed through my military career. It is ingrained in my being. To watch the tube and view the violence saddens me.

We at the Alamo Chapter received correspondence from MOAA regarding the official position of the organization. We will continue to be nonpartisan and focus on the policies of MOAA. There are so many that require our support from healthcare through the VA or the military health system, family issues such as spouse employment, maintaining benefits and pay to a variety of other issues. We do need your help. We receive requests from MOAA to connect with our elected representatives when an important issue is coming to a

hearing or vote. Please complete the card or send an email to let them know your position. P.S. This also includes requests from Jim Cunningham, Chapter Legislative VP, when he needs our voice for issues in Austin.

We at the Alamo Chapter are also involved in so many ways to represent you. A special congratulations goes to Felix Santiago, Membership VP, for his selection to the Chief of Staff of the Army Retiree Council. He'll now represent us at very important gatherings in DC. Jim Cunningham and I have been selected as members of the Texas Veterans Commission Veteran Services Committee. We are also represented at the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Each of these opportunities give us voice through activities impacting our community.

COL Vaughn Caudill is retiring as our Chapter treasurer. A long-time member of the Chapter, he has been the treasurer for the past twelve years. He has guided us through many chal-

lenges, especially the past year of the pandemic. I personally thank Vaughn for his service. His counsel has been so important to the success of our Chapter. We will miss Vaughn and wish him well in a very deserved retirement.

New year, new opportunities. We continue to seek to build the volunteer staff of the Chapter. If you or know of an eligible Chapter member are interested in filling the treasurer position, please contact me. We are always working to fill the various committees that keep the Chapter running. We do have the job descriptions for the treasurer and all positions on the website. Check them out under the “Resources” tab at [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org).

We continue to plan events using Zoom. I look forward to “seeing” y'all then.

*Kitty*

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

### Inside This Edition:

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# News & Notices



## Thank You!

to each of our members 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!

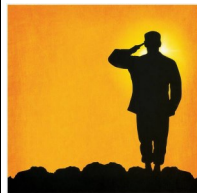
Col David Anderson USAF (Ret)  
 COL Benjamin Chacko USA (Ret)  
 COL Mark Cheadle USA (Ret)  
 COL Kathryn Deuster USA (Ret)  
 Juanita Felder  
 LTC John French USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Carolyn Friedle USAF (Ret)  
 Linda Gayer  
 Col John Gerhart USAF (Ret)  
 COL Leon Holland USA (Ret)  
 COL Fred Lyssy USA (Ret)  
 LTC Javier Martinez USA (Ret)  
 CDR David Marx USN (Ret)  
 LTC Marc Matier USA (Ret)  
 Gen William McBride USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Ben Moberley USA (Ret)  
 Col Stuart Myers USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Jerry Nicks USA (Ret)  
 Lolly Orlowski  
 COL John Pavlovsky USA (Ret)  
 LTC Joseph Regan USA (Ret)  
 Col Sanford Richardson USAF (Ret)  
 LtCol Diego Sanchez USAF (Ret)  
 Col Steve Senia USAF (Ret)  
 Pat Shecter  
 MAJ Josh Welch USA (Ret)  
 COL Mark Widmer USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Bob Williams USAF (Ret)  
 LCDR Sean Wilson USN (Ret)  
 LTC Machielle Wood Denmon USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Sharon Zimpher USAF (Ret)

## MOAA 4th Quarter Recruitment Awards

Your Texas Council of Chapters won MOAA national's competition for the most new member recruitments in the last quarter of 2020.

Your Alamo Chapter was also tops in its category (Largest chapters) for its number of new recruits.

To all those recently joining thanks for making this possible, and for all current members retention is also the key—thank you for renewing!



## 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 Crescentia Wellman USAF (Ret)  
 12/13/20



The MOAA Alamo Chapter supports scholarships for ROTC and JROTC cadets through its 501(C)3 Education Foundation. The scholarships help towards the cost of college for local JROTC high school students as well as those ROTC students already in college.

Last year we provided 23 x \$1,000 scholarships to cadets covering programs from Austin down to the Valley. Our annual fund raiser for our 2021 scholarship program was cancelled due to COVID-19 so we have set up a GoFundMe page in order to provide funds for this year's scholarship program.

Help us support the cadets. Your support moves them one step further to reaching their dreams.

Any amount you could give will really help this worthwhile program for our deserving youth. 100% of all money raised goes to our scholarship program.

Visit the GoFundMe website at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and search for Alamo Chapter .

Thank you for your support and generosity.

*Lisa Skopal*

## Save The Date

### 13th Annual MOAA-AC Golf Tournament

Friday, November 5, 2021

The Quarry Golf Course





# Texas Legislative Report

The elections are now over and we know who is going to occupy seats in the House and Senate of the Texas Legislature.

It is now imperative that our Chapters make or renew connections to the House and Senate members from your districts.

We need to introduce ourselves as being subject matter experts or sources of information relative to active military, veteran and dependent issues. There is much uncertainty with the legislative session right now in terms of what will be done other than trying to recover as much as possible from the huge costs of the pandemic while keeping municipal, county and state agencies functioning into 2022.

Most state agencies have been asked to anticipate at least a 5% reduction in budget. The comptroller was encouraging the other day when he said his first estimates might have been worse than expected, the state was only looking at a deficit of 4 to 4.5 billion dollars.

There is no plan as yet about who will be admitted to the Capital and whether hearings will be in person or by video conference. There may be a restriction on number of bills each rep can file. We haven't seen anything overt to threaten any veteran benefit that we have existing.

At present, about 16 bills have been pre-filed that have to do with veterans or dependents. They run the gambit of providing for licensure of military medical doctors and nurses in the state of Texas to making corrections to exemptions for surviving spouses to on-line remote marriages for military members.

A new partnership has been formed of the TXServ program that has existed in DFW and San Antonio and the Combined Arms program existing in

Houston. The new program is called Texas Veterans Network. <https://texas.uniteus.com/veterans-network/>. For those not familiar with it, it is a source that veterans and/or dependents can go to for assistance in housing, mental health, etc. Funding for the program is presently from the Texas Work Force Commission. There may be a legislative move to gain additional funding sources for this important resource.

We all need to be vigilant in watching what transpires in the capital. While at present it looks as if nothing that veterans and dependents have in terms of state benefits are threatened, that is not to say that they might not be, in the future.

There are other items that we will want to pursue, however, during this session, if they cost money, they are not likely to pass.

We will keep you advised as things change, but as we said, you do need to make contact with your representatives and senators and let them know that you are a source of information for them and that you will always be interested in promoting legislation that helps and recognizes the service of our veterans and their family members.

*Jim Cunningham*  
MAJ USA (Ret)  
Vice President  
Legislative Affairs



Happy Valentines Day!

## Are You

1. Considering joining a MOAA chapter?
2. Debating whether to re-new your chapter membership?
3. 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 service-members and their families, and veterans in-need.
- **Legislative advocacy:** MOAA chapter members play a critical role in advancing legislation at both the city, county and state level. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.

See also MOAA national's progress at **[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)** and include your voice by responding to MOAA's Take Action items at

**<https://takeaction.moaa.org>**.

# Membership Memos

## THANK YOU Renewing Members

Brig Gen David Young III USAF (Ret)  
 Col David Anderson USAF (Ret)  
 CAPT Charles Belcher USN (Ret)  
 CAPT James Brotherton USN (Ret)  
 Col Joseph Brozena USA (Ret)  
 COL Vaughn Caudill USA (Ret)  
 COL Benjamin Chacko USA (Ret)  
 COL Mark Cheadle USA (Ret)  
 CAPT Jim Crosby USN (Ret)  
 Col George Gagnon USAF (Ret)  
 Col John Gerhart USAF (Ret)  
 COL Charles Lalli USA (Ret)  
 COL Fred Lyssy USA (Ret)  
 Col Stuart Myers USAF (Ret)  
 COL John Pavlovsky USA (Ret)  
 Col Sanford Richardson USAF (Ret)  
 Col Steve Senia USAF (Ret)  
 COL David Shacklett USA (Ret)  
 COL Edward Taylor USA (Ret)  
 COL John Weir USA (Ret)  
 COL Mark Widmer USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Paul Amrhein USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Robert Ashley USA (Ret)  
 LTC John Corby USA (Ret)  
 LTC Jim Finch USA (Ret)  
 LTC John French USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Carolyn Friedle USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Vernon Gray USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Roy Mackrell USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Javier Martinez USA (Ret)  
 CDR David Marx USN (Ret)  
 LTC Marc Matier USA (Ret)  
 LTC Glenn McRill USA (ret)  
 LTC Ben Moberley USA (Ret)  
 LTC Charles Nowlin USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Shane Ostrom USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Joseph Regan USA (Ret)

LtCol Gerald Swinarsky USAF (Ret)  
 LtCol Bob Williams USAF (Ret)  
 LtCol Sharon Zimpher USAF (Ret)  
 Maj Bert Thomas USAF (Ret)  
 MAJ Josh Welch USA (Ret)  
 LCDR Sean Wilson USN (Ret)  
 CW4 Douglas Carlberg USA (Ret)  
 Carol Cain  
 Millie Garison  
 Mary Gossage  
 Constance Oliver  
 Lolly Orlowski  
 Pat Shecter  
 Dian Sherrod  
 Judith Schindler

## WELCOME New Members

LTG Stephen Speakes USA (Ret)  
 Brig Gen Charles Duke USAF (Ret)  
 BG Percy Hurtado ARNG (Ret)  
 CAPT Charles Belcher USN (Ret)  
 CAPT James Brotherton USN (Ret)  
 Col Margaret Curry USAF  
 COL William Daugherty USA (Ret)  
 Col Arthur Denne USAF (Ret)  
 Col Jonathan Duncan USAF (Ret)  
 COL Austin Frederick USA (Ret)  
 COL Andrew Friedman USA (Ret)  
 COL Kenneth Gray USA (Ret)  
 CAPT William Hardman USN (Ret)  
 CAPT James Harnes, Jr USN (Ret)  
 COL Jackie Hayes USA (Ret)  
 Col Donald Hilkemeier USAF (Ret)  
 Col Leon Holland USAF (Ret)  
 Col Matthew Krauchunas USAF  
 COL Jacob Lozada USA (Ret)  
 COL Walter Mika USA (Ret)  
 CAPT Michael Monreal USN  
 COL Edward Moore USA (Ret)

Col Bruce Peters USAF (Ret)  
 Col David Root USAF (Ret)  
 COL Thomas Southerland USA (Ret)  
 CAPT Dennis Spence USN  
 COL Debbi Spencer USA (Ret)  
 CAPT James Taylor USN (Ret)  
 COL Katherine Taylor-Pearson USA  
 CAPT Thomas Uhl USN (Ret)  
 Col Daniel Van Syoc USAF (Ret)  
 COL Gerald Wannarka USA (Ret)  
 CAPT Walter Wilson USN (Ret)  
 COL Richard Wright USA (Ret)  
 LtCol David Bennett USAF (Ret)  
 LTC Trisha Bielski USA  
 LTC James Burnett USA  
 LTC Marcia Collins USA (Ret)  
 LTC Jay Davis USA  
 LTC David Dilley USAR  
 LTC Terry Duran ARNG (Ret)  
 LTC Richard Felices USA  
 LtCol Kenneth Greene USAF (Ret)  
 LTC James Hall USA (Ret)  
 LTC Denise Lasater USA (Ret)  
 LTC Scott McLean USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Gilbert Merkle USAF (Ret)  
 CDR John Merlino USN (Ret)  
 LtCol Porfirio Munoz USAF (Ret)  
 LtCol Bruce Nadler USAF (Ret)  
 LTC David Peterson USA (Ret)  
 LTC Richard Schultz USA (Ret)  
 LtCol Aida Solivanortiz USAR  
 LTC Solomon Speed USAR  
 (Continued on Page 10)

## Current Membership Stats

Active Duty 347  
 Surviving Spouse 169  
 Former Military 57  
Retired 830  
**Total 1403**

## 30-second “Elevator Pitch” To Promote Membership

Membership in an association such as ours is achieved by the majority when a friend/acquaintance is also a member.

We need your help to encourage your friends, neighbors, business associates etc to come join us! Participating in the social events is not mandatory (albeit fun!) but we do need their support and voice when it comes to advocacy at the city, county and state level.

Here’s an approach you could take when introducing MOAA Alamo Chapter to someone:

Open the conversation with something like:

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 1400+ 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 are strictly non partisan.
- 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.
- There is an application providing membership in both MOAA and the Alamo Chapter. (See Page 13)
- 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 and no pressure to be actively involved.
- We are just looking to you to help strengthen our numbers.
- You will receive legislative updates, the national MOAA *Military Officers* magazine, and our chapter newsletter *The Lariat* by email to keep you informed.
- Again, you owe it to yourself (and family) to be part of an organization that protects your rights, entitlements and benefits.

Have them sign up online at [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org), or email us at [moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net) or call the office at 210.228.9955.

## ORDER FORM - Alamo Chapter Merchandise

### Pebble Beach Performance Golf Shirt \$30

Circle order details below - Subject to availability

Shirt 1: Mens Ladies S M L XL 2XL 3XL Blue White Brindle

Shirt 2: Mens Ladies S M L XL 2XL 3XL Blue White Brindle

Shirt 3: Mens Ladies S M L XL 2XL 3XL Blue White Brindle

Shirt 4: Mens Ladies S M L XL 2XL 3XL Blue White Brindle

Free pick up from Chapter Office (appt required) or add \$5.00 for shipping.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide Credit Card info below or mail in check made payable to MOAA-AC - to P.O. Box 340497, San Antonio, TX 78234, or call the office at (210) 228-9955 (Tues thru Thurs 1-4pm) to place order and pay by credit card over the phone.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Coins \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Last Chance!!**

**Commemorative  
“Randolph@90” Medal**

*A gift to you for your donation of \$100 or more to the MOAA-AC Scholarship Fund.*

To donate, just visit <http://www.alamomoaa.org/donate.cfm> or write a check to the Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation and mail it to MOAA Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 340497, San Antonio, TX 78234.

**Offer good from Nov 20, 2020  
to March 1, 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

This beautiful medal celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Randolph Field, often called "The West Point of the Air" by the air cadets who trained there early in its history. The base, known for most of its history as Randolph Air Force Base, is now called JBSA-Randolph.

The medal features the famous "Taj Mahal" superimposed over the Alamo. The Taj Mahal was designed as a multipurpose building that serves as base headquarters, theater, administrative offices, and a water tower. It is the focus of the "air city" imagined by the founders of Randolph. The medal has an Air Force blue drape and a dangle with the Air Force logo. The numerals on either side of the Taj Mahal celebrate the founding date of 1930 and the anniversary date of 2020. The medal was designed and produced by Celebrate Excellence of San Antonio under the direction of retired Air Force Colonel Karen Currie who was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1980.

Col Currie, a member of the MOAA Alamo Chapter, is donating a medal to each contributor of \$100 or more to the MOAA-AC Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund between now and December 31, 2020. This is sure to be a treasured keepsake for any Air Force member who has spent some duty time in the shadow of the Taj Mahal. "Randolph @90" would be perfect stocking stuffer for Fiesta Medal collectors.

By contributing \$100 or more to the MOAA-AC Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund, you will help us invest in the future of Junior ROTC and ROTC students and receive the "Randolph@90" Fiesta Medal as a souvenir keepsake.

Please keep in mind that the MOAA-AC Educational Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization. This means your donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you.



## Medical Minute

### Low BP When You Stand

If you have orthostatic hypotension when you stand up, also called postural hypotension, it is the body's reaction to getting up or from lying down. Your mind says "Yes" but your legs say "Not today!"

You may experience symptoms such as dizziness, light headedness, blurred or fading vision, weakness, nausea, fainting, or pain in your neck or shoulders.

Some ways to cope with this are as follows.

- Stay hydrated with plenty of fluid.
- Unless your doctor says no, add salt to your food.
- Avoid alcohol as it dilates blood vessels and worsens the condition.
- Eat smaller, more frequent meals and low carbohydrate meals. Drink a glass of water with each meal.
- Exercise regularly but not outside when it is too hot
- Slowly sit up before standing when getting out of bed.
- Placing 4 to 6 inch blocks or risers beneath the headboard of your bed. This will lift your head at night.
- If you stand and feel any of the above symptoms usually because you got up to fast or turned your body, then press your toes strongly into your shoes, the rug, floor or whatever you are standing on. Hold for 20 seconds. That feeling will pass and your balance will return.

Source: Mayo Health Letter

*Irene Collier (Ret)*



## Solitaires



### George Washington



Most of us are familiar with George Washington as president and during the Revolutionary War. But do you know about his youth and childhood?

George's great, great grandfather, Lawrence, was an Oxford University academic and Anglican priest. He disagreed with the Puritanical views of Oliver Cromwell and died penniless. So, his eldest son, John, sailed for America in 1856. He met and married Anne Pope, daughter of a rich Virginia plantation owner John became a rich politician, successful planter and militia Colonel. His eldest son, Lawrence, was sent to England to become a lawyer. Although Lawrence inherited Mount Vernon, he was not a farmer. He married Mildred Warner who came from an affluent farming family. His eldest son, Augustine, would become George's father.

After Augustine died the eldest stepsons were sent to schools required of gentry and there was no money left for George's education. George and his mother never did get along, so George modeled himself after everything she was not.

As a young man George impressed the power brokers in British Virginia. They made him a surveyor of western lands at age 22. He became an officer with the British during the French-Indian War. They were impressed by his calm and courage under fire. Although he personally wasn't shot he did have two horses shot out from under

him. His behavior was reported favorably in London and written up well in the London Gazette.

He resigned his commission in the British army because he was tired of their politics and their disdain for American colonists. He returned to Mount Vernon which had been left to him when Lawrence's widow died. He married a young widow with two small children.

In 1779 he was called to politics in Virginia and so started another phase of his life.

Source: National Geographics History, January 2020

*Irene Collier (Ret)*

## Estate Planning & Decedent Affairs Checklist

In these uncertain times, one way to achieve some peace of mind is to have your personal affairs in order.

The MOAA Alamo Chapter is here to provide you with resources regarding estate planning and decedent affairs checklist. These are general guidelines and recommendations. Your estate planning is better enhanced when you work with your attorney or legal support office.

Please either contact the office for a copy or go online to the Alamo chapter website and find a link to it under the Hot News section on the home page.

*Cora Bayle-Cox*  
CAPT USN (Ret)  
Assistant Personal Affairs Officer

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT PLANNED GIVING?

By COL (R) Vaughn E. Caudill, CPA

During these difficult times, I am inspired by a profound sense of just how blessed I am. If you have also reflected on how precious life is, and you want to give back, please consider including the Alamo Chapter in your estate distribution. What a wonderful way to leave your mark and impact the lives of the military in South Texas as your legacy.

Few people can support their favorite charities as much as they would like during their lifetimes, but most people can consider a bequest. That is one reason why we are asking members to consider naming the Alamo Chapter in their estate planning. Why should you choose to include the Alamo Chapter in your estate planning? You know we will make good use of your charitable gift supporting the military in south Texas.

Did you know that 60 to 70 percent of all Americans die without a valid will? Family members are left to imagine their loved ones' wishes, belongings may be distributed improperly, and assets are allocated according to state laws. Even if you have a will now may be the perfect time to review your estate planning documents. You can also update your planning documents to include a favorite organization such as the Alamo Chapter.

Here are some options for including the Alamo Chapter in your final plans:

1. Some types of bequests to consider:
  - a. Specific Bequest: what dollar amount, property or other asset
  - b. Percentage Bequest: Percentage of your estate or specific item
  - c. Residual Bequest: Alamo Chapter to receive the remainder after final expenses and other bequests
2. A gift by way of a beneficiary designation: naming the Alamo Chapter as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan, bank & investment accounts, or other financial accounts. Nothing could be easier!

3. Sample Bequest language:

*"I give, devise, and bequeath to the MOAA-Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 340497, San Antonio, TX 78234, Tax ID 82-1635522, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate or the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; the following described property \_\_\_\_\_; or \_\_\_\_\_% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."*

*"I (your name) do hereby publish this as a Codicil to my Last Will and Testament dated \_\_\_\_\_. Anything to the contrary in my aforesaid Last Will and Testament notwithstanding. I hereby devise and bequeath to MOAA-Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 340497, San Antonio, TX 78234, tax identification number 82-1635522, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; or the following described property, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_; or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."*

*In all other ways I do hereby ratify and confirm my Last Will and Testament as heretofore published. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this (date)."  
(Add your signature, witness signatures and seal.)*

Please have your gifting decision reviewed by your estate planner or other financial advisor.  
Thank you.

# 2021 Alamo Chapter Scholarships - Deadline Feb 10th

The allocation for the 2021 Alamo Chapter Scholarships will be 3 x \$1,000 scholarships to JROTC cadets and 16 x \$1,000 to area college ROTC cadets.

In addition to the ROTC scholarships, the Chapter selects one recipient for the MAJ James and Cheryl Cunningham Alamo Chapter Scholarship, named in honor of our immediate past president and awarded to the outstanding senior high school who is a dependent of an active Chapter member. The scholarship application is open and available on the Chapter website at: [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org). Remember, you must be a MOAA National and Alamo Chapter member in good standing in order for your dependent to compete!!

Descriptions of the available scholarships can be found on Page 15.

Along with the scholarship program, the Chapter represents MOAA at nearly 130 JROTC and ROTC awards ceremonies, most of which are held from March through May. Prior to the programs, we send each unit a MOAA medal and certificate for the winning cadet. For the ceremony itself, we solicit Chapter members to present the awards in person at each event, along with representatives of many

other veteran's service organizations.

In order to fund our scholarships and awards, we rely upon fundraising and donations, since Chapter dues or other operational funds are not utilized for these programs. We have several funding streams for the scholarship program, the first of which is our annual golf tournament, which was understandably cancelled in 2020. Second, we accept donations throughout the year for the scholarship fund and recently established our Educational Fund, a 501 (c)3 foundation accessible on the Chapter website at [www.alamomoaa.org/donate](http://www.alamomoaa.org/donate). All donations are tax deductible! Finally, we have partnered again this year with San Antonio's annual "Big Give" online charitable event ([www.thebigivesa.org](http://www.thebigivesa.org)), so please be prepared for this event as well. We will be blasting emails and Facebook notices to you to sign in on the "Big Give" website and donate to the Chapter's Foundation. All monies raised go to the scholarships.

Due to COVID concerns, the 2021 Scholarship Program will be conducted in a virtual (Zoom) format on Thursday, 25 Mar 21. Details to include guest speaker, start time and Zoom link will be forthcoming. Anyone interested in supporting the awards ceremonies at your local high school (or college alma mater), contact our Scholarship and Awards Committee Chairman, Col (ret) Pete Hunt, [moaa.ac.awards@gmail.com](mailto:moaa.ac.awards@gmail.com) or 210-867-0418.

As always, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*Kitty*

Kathryn "Kitty" Meyers, LtCol USAF (Ret)  
Chapter President

amazon



## Do you buy from Amazon?

**Would you like for 0.5% of the purchase price be donated to the Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation?**

You can. Just switch your Amazon account to Amazon Smile to support the Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation.

When first visiting the website [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you are prompted to select a charitable organization by entering a name or EIN so please enter either "Alamo Chapter Outreach" or 82-1635522. Just use your regular Amazon login info and password to continue shopping.

There is no cost to the Alamo Chapter Education Foundation or you.

San Antonio's Premier Life Plan Community—Blue Skies of Texas where we are Heritage Rich and Tradition Strong.

Nestled on over 600 acres of scenic hill country views, this exceptional community has been a staple in the heart of San Antonio for over 50 years.

Visit our newly renovated cottages and apartment homes.  
Call **800-790-3954**  
or Visit:  
[BlueSkiesofTexas.org](http://BlueSkiesofTexas.org)

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Skilled Nursing | Memory Care | Therapy & Rehabilitation

## New Members

(Continued from Page 4)

LtCol Kristina Spindel USAFR  
 LtCol James Stewart USAF (Ret)  
 LCDR Wes Beadle USN  
 Maj Kenneth Collins USMC (Ret)  
 MAJ Phillip Denney USA (Ret)  
 MAJ Dana Earles USA (Ret)  
 Maj Leon Franklin USAF (Ret)  
 MAJ William Knapp USA (Ret)  
 Maj Ira Whitlock USMC (Frm)  
 CPT James Anderson USAR (Frm)  
 Capt Norman Barsalou USAF (Ret)  
 LT Jerrold Becklehimer USN (Ret)  
 CPT Mark Braun USA (Frm)  
 Capt Cindy Burghardt USAF (Ret)  
 CPT James Hyslop USA (Frm)  
 Capt Dallas Johnson USMC (Frm)  
 CPT Ian Newell USA  
 Capt Robert Robley USAF (Ret)  
 CPT John Sackett USA (Frm)  
 CPT Paul Schultz USA  
 Capt Adele Simmons USMC (Ret)  
 CPT Charles Strehli USA (Ret)  
 Capt Kelly Ward USAF (Frm)  
 LTJG William Gombar USN (Frm)  
 1Lt Kenneth Vitucci USMCR  
 1LT William Ziegmann USA (Frm)  
 2LT Tyre Alexander  
 2LT Edgar Chong USA  
 2LT Raul Lopez USA (Frm)  
 2Lt Jessica May USAF (Frm)  
 2LT Karina Morales Medica USA  
 2LT Kameron Schultz USA  
 2LT Ivan Suren Beltran USA  
 2LT Julio Torres USA  
 2LT Michael Villareal USA  
 2LT Ruben Villarreal USA  
 CW4 Robert Hess USA (Ret)  
 CW4 Lamar Lynch USA  
 CWO4 Jay Smith USMC (Ret)  
 CW3 James Kurth USA (Frm)  
 CW3 Stanley Shafer USA (Ret)  
 CWO2 James Kerr USA (Ret)  
 CWO Carlos Holt USMC (Ret)  
 Delores Atkins  
 Leticia Little

## Health, Benefits & Welfare

### Military Exchange Access:

A proposal to give military exchange shopping privileges to more than a half million Department of Defense civilians is dead, according to defense officials. According to a spokesperson "DoD is not pursuing military exchange access for DoD civilian employees at this time".

\*\*\*\*

### Commissary Surcharge?

There's good news and bad news. First, the good news is that the surcharge is definitely not going up. It would take a change in law to raise the commissary surcharge and, to date, no legislation has been proposed to do so. The commissary surcharge has long been set at 5%. It is noted at the end of your commissary receipt, and it is calculated on your total purchase amount before coupons are deducted. Revenue from the surcharge pays for commissary construction and infrastructure updates.

There is, however a relatively recent additional fee for some shoppers using debit or credit cards. Service connected disabled veterans rated below 100%, Purple Heart recipients and their caregivers registered with the VA's caregiver program are authorized access to the commissary starting Jan.1, 2020. But when adding those users to the system, DeCA also added

a credit and debit card fees for those users. For credit cards the fee is 1.9% and for debit card use a 0.5% fee. These don't come into play if you pay with cash, check or the Military Star card.

Source: Retiree News

\*\*\*\*

### TRICARE Select:

If you didn't enroll by 31 Dec 2020 you have 180 days to reenroll. You must contact your regional contractor to request reinstatement. You're also responsible for all enrollment fees dating back to Jan. 1, 2021. If you don't take action, you'll only be able to get care from a military hospital or clinic if space is available.

Source: RAO Bulletin

\*\*\*\*

### 117th Congress:

When elected officials gather on Capitol Hill to formally convene the 117th Congress on 3 January, they'll do so with 91 veterans among their ranks, the lowest total since at least World War II.

17 will serve in the Senate, 74 will serve in the House of which 28 are Democrats, 63 are Republicans. 13 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier and 50 served in the military after 2000.

\*\*\*\*

## Alamo Chapter - Vision & Mission

### 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.*

Visit [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org) for more info

# OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

*Please support those that support us!*

*When you use their services let them know you heard about their company/organization from the MOAA Alamo Chapter*

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<b>Beldon Roofing Company</b> <i>Trusted Since 1946</i> <a href="https://www.beldon.com/">https://www.beldon.com/</a> 833-5-BELDON	<b>Blue Skies of Texas</b> <i>Retirement Community</i> <i>In the tradition of Air Force Village</i> <a href="https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/">https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/</a> 866-553-5389
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<b>Transition Management Solutions, LLC</b> <i>Non-profit Consulting</i> <a href="http://www.tms-texas.com/">http://www.tms-texas.com/</a> 210-259-9867	<b>USAA</b> <i>Financial Services Company</i> <a href="https://www.usaa.com/">https://www.usaa.com/</a> 800-531-8722
For more information visit our website <a href="http://www.AlamoMoaa.org">www.AlamoMoaa.org</a> And look for the Media Kit under the About Us tab or email Lisa Skopal lskopal@ymail.com	Insert Your Business Here!

## Corporate Partners: Sponsors and Advertisers in The Lariat

Sponsors and advertisers are vital for the success of any nonprofit and our Chapter is no exception.

Their support provides us with the resources to fulfill our mission. We are working hard to build long-term relationships with several sponsors and businesses throughout the San Antonio area for both the Chapter operations and our Educational Foundation. The Foundation provides the support for the JROTC and ROTC scholarships distributed to deserving cadets annually.

We need your help to “pay it forward”. Please consider using these companies whenever possible. Let them know you saw their name in MOAA Alamo Chapter’s monthly newsletter, *The Lariat*, and make sure you thank them for their support. This lets them know their sponsorship is paying off advertising with MOAA Alamo Chapter. This will help ensure a long-term partnership with them and the Chapter.

Additionally, if you know of any business interested in sponsoring or advertising in the monthly *Lariat*, please let me know. We have different levels of sponsorship and different advertising options that can be tailored to each business.

A marketing package has been developed that describes the various plans. I would be happy to meet and help them develop options that will benefit their needs.

*Lisa Skopal*

Lisa Skopal  
Advertising Coordinator

**lskopal@ymail.com**

## Transitioning Tips

### Transitioning in 2021

Each month I'm challenged to find a new topic to discuss in this column. I look to the website of the SHRM, the Society for Human Resources Management, for ideas. I came across an article by Roy Maurer entitled "Recruiting is Top HR Concern in 2021". This article discussed some of my thoughts about the economic conditions that folks are facing where we will hopefully have a recovery from the pandemic.

Here are some key points of the article for those entering the job market.

- HR's number one priority will be in talent acquisition. With some industry exceptions, the past year has seen anything from sluggish to no business. The no business has been those who have been forced to close. Others have been able to maintain with little growth. A few like IT and medical have seen growth. Employers have sent their workers digital. Look at the huge success of Zoom and other platforms.
- The job market will be very competitive. The article said that 80 percent of those surveyed will be seeking new jobs. This was especially true for those with long commute times.
- As folks became comfortable with remote work, they found that this is more desirable.
- Another result will be the changes in design in the workplace itself. The social distancing has caused a redesign of the physical layouts, be they offices or even in the more open work environments.
- HR will see more candidates per posting. This will impact the hiring process as the number of applications, etc. will increase.

These are just a few of the impacts from COVID to the workforce picture. As the economy really begins to recover, the changes will be even more obvious.

Any job seeker will need to be more educated in the processes and create a

targeted strategic plan for the job search. Know your market, research. Know your audience within the company. Network quality links. Make sure that you know what you want for a job. These are all things that have been mentioned in previous articles. Capitalize on all the resources available to you to successfully navigate to that job that fits you the best.

*Kitty*

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

### Topics to be covered in the February Chapter Webinar

#### MEDICARE:

1. Understand general eligibility for MEDICARE coverage and the different MEDICARE part plans.
2. Understand any crosslinks between TRICARE and MEDICARE and any issues that military veterans have to consider when filing for MEDICARE benefits. Discuss crosslinks between VA benefits, TRICARE and MEDICARE.
3. Discuss the administrative issues including when, where and how to file for MEDICARE.
4. Discuss and do's and don'ts and any other lessons learned.
5. Discuss resources to assist beneficiaries.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Understand General Eligibility for SS.
2. Discuss any crosslinks between VA disability benefits and SS benefits.
3. Discuss impacts on various age that one can receive benefits to assist military veterans and their families make an informed decision on when to request for payouts.
4. Discuss any do's and don'ts and any other lessons learned.
5. Discuss resources available to assist beneficiaries.

## Speaker Bio



**Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom,  
USAF (Ret), CFP®**

**MOAA Program Director, Financial  
& Benefits Education/Counseling**

Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP® retired from the Air Force in 2000 after serving in a variety of personnel, education and training, and executive officer assignments. His assignments included tours from Florida to North Dakota, and from Korea and Australia to the Pentagon. His final assignment was on the Joint Staff, writing and championing legislation related to joint officer personnel management issues.

After Air Force retirement, Ostrom practiced as an investment advisor at a large investment firm and a bank. He specialized in working with clients developing, implementing, and managing investment plans and portfolios. He holds the Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) certificate.

Ostrom joined the MOAA staff in 2006. His responsibilities include researching and writing articles, answering member inquiries regarding military benefits, health care, survivor issues, and financial concerns. He also travels extensively to discuss these matters with present and past service-members, retirees, and their families.

*Col Ostrom is our speaker for the February Chapter webinar see topics in the adjacent column and log on information on the back page.*



## MOAA NATIONAL ENROLLMENT

☐ YES! Sign me up as a FREE BASIC MOAA Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard

☐ Spouse of Eligible Officer

☐ Graduation Year (Cadet/Midshipmen) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available.*

*We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit [www.moa.org/email](http://www.moa.org/email) for details.*

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.*

\*\*Email address required for BASIC Membership



### Method of Payment

☐ Check (please make payable to MOAA Alamo Chapter) ☐ Credit Card Charge my card \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code where Billing Statement is mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

## MOAA LOCAL ALAMO CHAPTER ENROLLMENT

☐ YES! Sign me up as a new Alamo Chapter Member

☐ YES! Renew my Alamo Chapter Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard

☐ Spouse/Surviving Spouse of Eligible Officer

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Email address required for Electronic Membership)

*To ensure deliverability of Chapter communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain, if available.*

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would you like to help the Chapter as a Volunteer

**One-Year Membership \$25**  
(Monthly newsletter "The Lariat" sent by email)

**Send to:** MOAA-Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 340497, Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234; or email to [moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net); or signup **online** at [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org).

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:kamconsulthr@gmail.com)



## NEVER STOP SERVING!

## WE NEED YOU

### TO VOLUNTEER

for positions on your Chapter Leadership Team  
(Member spouses also welcome!)

#### Current Needs:

- 1) Secretary (No minute-taking required)
- 2) Surviving Spouse Coordinator
- 3) Membership Cmte Members
- 4) Community Outreach Members
- 5) Historian
- 6) Editor
- 7) Treasurer

*Position Descriptions can be found on  
the chapter website under the re-  
sources tab.*  
[www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org)



Army Residence  
*Community*

## WELCOME TO THE ARC.

### RETIREMENT LIVING FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES.



ARC is a nonprofit life plan continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in beautiful San Antonio, Texas, which welcomes 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 60 years old, to include spouses and surviving spouses.

In independent living, enjoy the freedom offered by zero-maintenance high-rise or private cottage living, turning you loose to travel, volunteer or pursue any interests you like. If assisted living, memory care, or long-term care is ever needed - you will have caregivers who understand and honor what you've given your country.

### GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE LOVE PERSONAL ENDORSEMENTS LIKE THIS.

"ARC has everything we wanted - separate quarters (duplex) for independent living, a continuum of healthcare, all on the same campus. All that and the price was right! It was the best decision we ever made. Come join us and you will find a very warm welcome from folks from all the services who share your values."

**Bill Klein** — Major General, USA, ret.



**Go to [armyresidence.com](http://armyresidence.com) or call 1-800-871-3749 for more information.**

# Alamo Chapter Scholarships

## ***Col Clarence T. Torrey Community Service Scholarship***

This is named in memory of Colonel Clarence T. Torrey, USA (Ret), a past President of the Alamo Chapter. Upon his death, a donation to initially fund the scholarship was made to the chapter by his wife. The scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior whose parent, stepparent or grandparent served on active duty in any of the uniformed services represented in MOAA. All details of the scholarship selection process except for selection of the final recipient are handled by the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House (BCSCH)/Minnie Piper Foundation. Scholarship applications are available from Bexar County school counselors in the fall. BCSCH receives the applications, makes preliminary evaluations and creates a recommended order of merit list. The MOAA AC Scholarship Committee interviews the top 5 candidates and selects a winner. The winner will be presented at the March Chapter luncheon.

## ***The General Herring JROTC and The Colonel McCarthy JROTC Scholarship***

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to a graduating high school senior ranked in the top half of his/her class, who has participated for at least three years in a ROTC Program supported by the MOAA-AC. Selection will be based on financial need, academic record, test scores, citizenship, leadership, community involvement, outstanding professional ability, and essay. Applica-

tions for these scholarship are available through the Senior Military Instructors, online at [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org) or from the Scholarship Chair. A maximum of one scholarship application will be accepted from each supported ROTC program.

## ***The Alamo Chapter Scholarship.***

One \$1,000 scholarship is available to a graduating high school senior ranked in the top half of his/her class, who is a child, stepchild, and/or grandchild of a member in good standing of the Military Officers Association of America and the MOAA-Alamo Chapter. Selection will be based on financial need, academic record, test scores, citizenship, leadership, community involvement, essay and outstanding professional ability.

## ***ROTC Scholarship***

A number of \$1,000 Scholarships are available to university students enrolled in Army or Air Force ROTC. The Air Force ROTC Scholarship will be presented in honor of Lt Col & Mrs. Edward Marvin USAF (Ret). Selection will be provided by the Unit Commanders based on performance and financial need.

Applications for JROTC and the Alamo Chapter scholarships are currently available on the chapter website [www.alamomoaa.org](http://www.alamomoaa.org) or from the MOAA-AC office. **The deadline for applications is February 10, 2021.** Email to [moaa-ac.awards@gmail.com](mailto:moaa-ac.awards@gmail.com) or mail to MOAA-AC, P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234. Direct any questions to the MOAA-AC Scholarship Chair, Col (Ret) Peter Hunt at the above email or (210) 867-0418.



### **VOLUNTEER STAFF:**

PRESIDENT	LtCol Kitty Meyers <a href="mailto:kamconsulthr@gmail.com">kamconsulthr@gmail.com</a>
PROGRAMS	Col David Patrick <a href="mailto:dwpatt01@gmail.com">dwpatt01@gmail.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP	COL Felix Santiago <a href="mailto:felixsantiago01@gmail.com">felixsantiago01@gmail.com</a>
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	MAJ James Cunningham <a href="mailto:jimbob48@sbcglobal.net">jimbob48@sbcglobal.net</a>
SECRETARY	(Open)
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SCHOLARSHIPS	Col Peter Hunt <a href="mailto:moaa.ac.awards@gmail.com">moaa.ac.awards@gmail.com</a>
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Personal Affairs Assist	CAPT Cora Bayle Cox
PR-SOCIAL MEDIA	LtCol Kathie Estrada
LEGAL COUNSEL	Jacobson Law Firm
SOLITAIRES	(Open)
SUPPORT	Lt George Frecko
EDITOR	(Open)
CHAPLAIN	LTC James Taylor
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ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON	LT Rachel Johnson
CONTRACTOR:	Trish Meserve

### **Chapter Board:**

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**Honorary Director:** Gen William McBride

### **Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation Board:**

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Col Peter Hunt	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.

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ALAMO CHAPTER

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MINUTES AND PAST ISSUES OF  
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WEBSITE:

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# THE LARIAT

National Award Winning Newsletter

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



**Wednesday 24 Feb at 11am**

## Chapter Webinar

(Using GoToMeeting—not ZOOM)

**LtCol Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret)**

**MOAA Program Director**

**Financial & Benefits Education/Counseling**

Topics covered are Medicare and Social Security  
(See page 12 for details)

No pre-registration necessary

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or  
smartphone -- here is the link:

**[https://www.gotomeet.me/moaa/moaa-  
alamo-chapter-meeting](https://www.gotomeet.me/moaa/moaa-alamo-chapter-meeting)**

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Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts:

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**Thursday 25 Mar 2pm**

## Scholarship Awards

**via ZOOM**

**MajGen Jeannie Leavitt**

Director of Operations and Communications

Air Education and Training Command

JBSA Randolph

## Motivational Presentation

No pre-registration necessary  
– just logon to ZOOM and join us!

Meeting ID: TBD

Passcode: TBD

Please join us!

ZOOM Host: James Cunningham  
210-416-0502