MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ALAMO CHAPTER



THE



LARIAT

Volume 41, Number 1

"Five Star ★★★★ Chapter"

January 2021



President's Message

We made it. I received a Christmas ornament showing the Grinch's skinny green paw dangling an ornament. The printed saying was "2020 stink stank stunk". I think that is the common sentiment regarding this year past. Now we can look forward to a brighter 2021.

The Chapter staff continues to work on initiatives for you.

- Felix Santiago and the membership team are doing a marvelous job managing the member list and connecting with MOAA to ensure that all in the area know about us.
- Lisa Skopal and her marketing committee continue to reach out to community supporters, explaining the values of supporting the Chapter. This has been especially difficult in the lockdown and with the economic situation. They duly persevere.
- Cora Rogers connects with the spouses of members who have

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passed. She provides them with information and support with the details post-loss.

- Pete Schaub contacts the new members interested in a more active role in the Chapter operations. He connects them with other staff members and bolsters our efforts.
- Pete Hunt and the scholarship committee are already working on the activities of the Spring Scholarship program. They met to map out the various pieces for another outstanding program.
- David Patrick has again created marvelous programs for us for the year.
 We will continue to Zoom through
 May with the hopes that the June
 Summer Kick Off event will be in person.
- Frank and Stephen Rohrbough continue leading the way in planning for the 2021 golf tournament. Date and location are still to be determined.
 We will keep all y'all golfers posted.
- Besides being our Zoom master, Jim Cunningham keeps us in the know with all of the news from Austin and DC. MOAA continues to work on our behalf in DC. Jim advises that the Texas Legislature is still working on how this next session will roll out with the pandemic in full bloom. On another note, Jim and I have both been appointed to the new TVC Vet-

erans Services Advisory Committee. News on that as it rolls out.

- Congratulations to Coast Guard Lt. Rebekah Johnson on her recent promotion. As our Active-Duty Liaison, she is connecting with the junior officers at Lackland and introducing MOAA.
- The lockdown at Blue Skies and the Army Residence Community hasn't stopped the Connors and the Morgans. Jim, Dottie, Joe and Janet continue to be our contacts at these communities.
- The transition initiatives continue in full force as I work with JBSA and our various partners assisting those transitioning. I presented a Zoom session on "branding" to San Antonio Military Spouse Professional Network in December.
- Trish Meserve, our admin contractor, holds us together. Her support is instrumental in supporting our "5-Star" Chapter and the membership. Her handiwork is visible each month in *The Lariat*.

There is one special note that I must regretfully make. After twelve years of service as our treasurer, COL Vaughn Caudill is retiring. Vaughn has been such a resource and advisor to us. The Chapter has seen some changes in financial support through

(Continued on Page 12)



News & Notices

2021 Alamo Chapter Scholarships and Awards!!!

Here's some exciting news from our 2021 Scholarship and Awards Committee! On 11 Dec 20, the committee convened (virtually) to discuss the program, approve the scholarship application and vote on the distribution of scholarship funds to the outstanding high school JROTC and college JROTC cadets in our catchment area.

In addition to the ROTC scholar-ships, 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. 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 10.

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 pro-

gram, 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. 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), 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 or 210-867-0418.

As always, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

Alamo MOAA Superstar!

It is my honor to congratulate our Chapter President Kitty
Meyers for recognition by the national Military Officers Association of America as one of the first to receive the Changemaker designation. (For MOAA national members, see the December issue of the Military Officer Magazine

MOAA recognized Kitty as a Changemaker - those who have made it their mission to go beyond the call to service by working at the local, state or national level to make a difference and never stop serving.

Kitty's accomplishments and service to our military and veteran community are endless especially in transition and spouse employment.

Kitty's achievements are highlighted in the December issue of the Military Officers magazine published by MOAA National.

Again, Kitty congrats on your well deserved honor! You are marvelous!

Barbara Ramsey, COL,USA(RET) CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOAA-ALAMO CHAPTER

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:

LtCol Richard Toth USAF (Ret) 12/21/20

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!

LtCol Thomas Atkinson USAF (Ret) LtCol John Bandy USAF (Ret) Col Gerald Beverly USAF (Ret) COL Matthew Brockway USA (Ret) COL Arthur Bryant USA (Ret) COL Vaughn Caudill USA (Ret) COL Mark Cheadle USA (Ret) MAJ Robert Corbo USA (Ret) LtCol Gene Culp USAF (Ret) MAJ Jim Cunningham USA (Ret) CAPT Richard Elgin USN (Ret) Maj William Friedrich, Jr USAF (Ret)

Col Andrew Gale USAF LTC Marc Girard USA (Ret) Col Ron Hannan USAF (Ret) CDR Mario Herrera USN (Ret) LtCol Raymond Isaia USAF (Ret) Col Lewis Jamison USAF (Ret) COL Ralph B. Kelly USA (Ret) Col Preston Kleinman USAF (Ret) Col Thomas Klimas USAF (Ret)

Rich Kohnen

COL Marvin Loera USA (Ret)

MG J. Mike Lyle USA (Ret)

LTC Javier Martinez USA (Ret)

Sue McCarthy

Col J. Bob McConnell USAF (Ret)

Col Mac McDonald USAF (Ret)

LtCol Kitty Meyers USAF (Ret)

COL Ian Natkin USA (Ret)

LtCol Shane Ostrom USAF (Ret)

Col David Patrick USAF (Ret)

LTC Robert Pollock USA (Ret) Col Rose Ramirez USAF (Ret) COL Barbara Ramsey USA (Ret) Col Kenneth Ratcliff USAF (Ret) Col Pete Schaub USAF (Ret) Col Edward Sheeran USAF (Ret) Maj Brian Smith USAF (Ret) LtCol Randy Smith USAF (Ret) LtCol Orange Steffey, Jr USAF (Ret) LtCol Mark Sweeney USAF (Ret) LTC Joe Usrey USA (Ret) Paulette Thompson Col Roger Virost USAF (Ret) CAPT Fred Vogt USN (Ret) LtCol David Walker USAF (Ret) Col Sheelah Walker USAF LtCol John Ward USAF (Ret) MAJ Josh Welch USA (Ret) LTC Frederick White USA (Ret) LTC Machielle Wood Denmon USA (Ret)

Evelyn Woods CAPT John Woody USN (Ret) COL Richard Wright USA (Ret) Col David Zeh USAF (Ret) LtCol Sharon Zimpher USAF (Ret)



Did You Know?

As of Nov 11. 2020 Gold Star Families and U.S. military veterans receive free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests.

Speaker Bio



Kenny Wilson President & CEO Haven For Hope

Kenny Wilson serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Haven for Hope of Bexar County, a nonprofit organization located in San Antonio, Texas. Its mission is to save and transform the lives of persons who are experiencing homelessness.

Wilson was appointed in April 2016 following a decades long career in banking, investment management, and community service. He leads the organization's 250-plus employee workforce, oversees the coordination of over 184 nonprofit organizational partnerships that serve Haven's residents, and administers a \$24 million annual budget. He oversees the operation of the 22acre, \$101 million campus and the daily delivery of countless services to hundreds of men, women and children who stay at Haven for Hope.

The services on the campus are designed to be all inclusive...providing any help that a homeless individual and family might need. Those resources include medical care, jail outreach, substance abuse recovery, employment readiness, case management, identification recovery, and many others. Since Haven for Hope opened in 2010, thousands have "graduated" from Haven to move off campus to a self-sustaining and productive life.

Haven for Hope is recognized as one of the country's largest and most comprehensive homeless-serving facilities (Continued in Page 10)



Membership Memos

THANK YOU Renewing Members

MG J. Mike Lyle USA (Ret) MajGen Duane Young USAF (Ret) COL Douglas Ashby USA (Ret) COL Matthew Brockway USA (Ret) COL Arthur Bryant USA (Ret) Col Mervin Buss USAF (Ret) COL Mark Cheadle USA (Ret) Col Jack Downey USAF (Ret) Col Harry Edwards USAF (Ret) CAPT Richard Elgin USN (Ret) Col Ron Hannan USAF (Ret) Col Paul Irwin, Jr USAF (Ret) Col Lewis Jamison USAF (Ret) COL Darrell Jenkins USA (Ret) COL Ralph B. Kelly USA (Ret) Col Preston Kleinman USAF (Ret) Col Thomas Klimas USAF (Ret) COL Marvin Loera USA (Ret) Col Hannah Margolis USAF (Ret) Col J. Bob McConnell USAF (Ret) Col Daniel Murphy USAF (Ret) COL Ian Natkin USA (Ret) Col David Padden USAF (Ret) Col David Patrick USAF (Ret) Col Rose Ramirez USAF (Ret) Col Gary Salmans USAF (Ret) CAPT Fred Vogt USN (Ret) Col Sheelah Walker USAF COL Gregory Weaver USA (Ret) CAPT John Woody USN (Ret) Col David Zeh USAF (Ret) LTC Carmelito Arkangel USA (Ret) LtCol Thomas Atkinson USAF (Ret) LTC Ron Bilski USA (Ret) LTC Robert Blake USA (Ret)

LTC Jim Brockington USA LTC James Brown III USAF (Ret) LTC Edward Bryant USA (Ret) LtCol Thomas Carter USAF (Ret) LtCol Joseph Cook USAF (Ret) LtCol Gene Culp USAF (Ret) LTC Edmund Cunningham USA (Ret) LTC Harry Durrie USA (Ret) LTC Richard Femrite USA (Ret) LtCol Michael Fox USAF (Ret) LTC John Gueldner USA (Ret) CDR Mario Herrera USN (Ret) LtCol Raymond Isaia USAF (Ret) LtCol Forest Little USAF (Ret) LtCol Keith Mirrer USAF (Ret) LtCol Randy Smith USAF (Ret) LtCol Mark Sweeney USAF (Ret) LTC Ralph Talbot USA (Ret0 LTC Joe Usrey USA (Ret) LtCol David Walker USAF (Ret) LTC Frederick White USA (Ret) Maj John Bridgest USAF (Ret) MAJ Robert Corbo USA (Ret) MAJ Jim Cunningham USA (Ret) Maj Joyce Habina USAF (Ret) Maj Edward Kelly USAF (Ret) Maj William Friedrich, Jr USAF (Ret) Maj Martha Paul USAF Cpt George Sacerich USAF (Ret) Eleanor Egger Barbara Horvath Seiko Munger

WELCOME New Members

MG Barbara Holcomb USA (Ret) COL Frank Benjamin USA (Ret) Col Charles Cosnowski USAF COL Shane Cuellar USA COL Gary Francis USA (Ret) COL Ismail Jatoi USA (Ret) Col Anthony Johnson USAF (Ret) COL Robert Mathews Jr USA Col Steven Mays USAF (Ret) CAPT Steven Robertson USN (Ret) COL Brooke Serpe-Ingold USA (Ret) LtCol Juliet Chelkowski USMC (Ret) LtCol Dai Cho USAF LTC Amit Gupta USA LtCol Richard Hayes Jr USAF (Ret) LtCol Matthew Henrikson USAF (Ret) LtCol Mark Hiatt USAFR LtCol Francisco Hornsby USAF (Ret) LtCol Thomas Lesnick USAF (Ret) LtCol Derek McCafferty USAF CDR Charles Porter USN (Ret) Maj Donna Armstrong USAF (Frmr) MAJ Roy Ball USA (Ret) Maj Mark Blydenburgh USMC (Ret) MAJ Changhoon Jeon USA Maj Bruce Coffee USAF (Ret) MAJ Patrica Gutierrez USA (Ret) Maj Chad Jespersen USAF (Continued on Page 12)

Current Membership Stats

Active Duty 360
Surviving Spouse 171
Former Military 56
Retired 837
Total 1424

Paulette Thompson

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, or email us at 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	TITIMOAN V
Shirt 4: Mens Ladies S M L XL 2XL 3XL Blue White Brindle	MOAA ANGGAM
Free pick up from Chapter Office (appt required) or add \$5.00 for shipping. Name: Address:	MOAA AMBODISHIN LAdies
	Tel:
Provide Credit Card info below or mail in check made payable to MOAA-AC the office at (210) 228-9955 (Tues thru Thurs 1-4pm) to place order and pay	
Credit Card #:	
Exp Date: Billing Zip Code: CVV:	Total # Shirt: Total # Coins
Total Enclosed: \$	



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 90th 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 50th 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.





Solitaires



Low Blood Pressure

Orthostatic hypotension - also called postural hypotension – is the body's natural process for counteracting low blood pressure when getting up from sitting or lying down doesn't work correctly.

When you stand or sit up, signs or symptoms may occur, including dizziness, lightheadedness, blurred or fading vision weakness, nausea, fainting or pain in the neck, head or shoulders.

Certain lifestyle changes can help manage the condition. These may include:

- Staying hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, which increases blood volume
- Adding salt to your diet—carefully.
- Avoiding alcohol which dilates blood vessels.
- Eating smaller more frequent low carbohydrate meals if your blood pressure drops after you eat, in addition to drinking a glass of water after each meal.
- Exercising regularly, but not in the hot sun.
- Slowly sitting up before standing up after getting out of bed.
- Sitting down to urinate.
- Avoid bending at the waist. If you drop something on the floor, squat with your knees to recover it.
- Placing 4 to 6 inch blocks or risers beneath the headboard of your bed to lift your head at night.
- Sitting or lying down when symptoms strike or learning maneuvers for when they occur such as flexing lower body muscles, squatting, or marching in place or rising on your tiptoes.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Letter

Grene Collier (Rel)

Tips to Defuse a Meltdown

At some point we have all been stuck in a "meltdown" moment where there seems to be no solution, have over whelming feelings of stress and anger and can't shake it off.

Read these helpful tips – the A B C's:

A: ATTENTION: Stop what you are doing and listen to yourself. What is your mind telling you?

B: BELIEF: Think about what you believe has happened. Is your mind giving you an accurate picture of what has really happened.

C: CHALLENGE: What is the big picture? What might you think if you were calmer.

D: DISCOUNT: Acknowledge that your emotions have been dominating your thinking and that these and associated sensations will eventually end. Let the unhelpful thoughts go.

E: EXPLORE THE OPTIONS: What can you do or think that is more helpful?

What to do. First stop, relax and do some deep breathing exercises. Focus on breathing through your stomach, so that your belly rises when you inhale and drops when you exhale. Consider inhaling gently and slowly through your nose to a count of four, expanding your belly as you do. Hold that breath for a count of two before slowly exhaling through your mouth to a count of six.

If it is a brisk day-go for a long walk. The wind seems to clear your emotions.

If these meltdowns are frequent ask your doctor for help. Stress can be harmful to health. It can raise your blood sugar, blood pressure and cause insomnia.

Source: Harvard Health Letter Sep 2020

Grene Collier (Ret)



Do you buy from Amazon?

Would you like for 0.5% of what you buy from Amazon be donated to the Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation? You can. Read on.

Amazon Smile has the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, plus you generate donations for charity, at no cost to you.

When first visiting the website <u>smile.amazon.com</u> you are prompted to select a charitable organization by entering a name or EIN so please enter either "Alamo Chapter Outreach" or 82-1635522.

For eligible purchases through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price the educational foundation. There is no cost to the Alamo Chapter Education Foundation or you. Just use your regular Amazon login info and password to continue shopping.

Please switch your Amazon account to Amazon Smile to support the Alamo Chapter Educational Foundation.

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, T. 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 hereby devise and bequeath to MOAA-Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 340497, San Antonio, TX 7823-tax identification number 82-1635522, the sum of \$; or the following described property, wit:; or percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.	4,
In all other ways I do hereby ratify and confirm my Last Will and Testament as heretofore publis In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this (date)." (Add your signature, witness signatures and seal.)	shed.
Please have your gifting decision reviewed by your estate planner or other financial advisor. Thank you.	

MOAA'a Top Legislative Goals for 2021

- Recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the Landscape for Many of our Priorities
- Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit
- Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays
- Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges
- Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay
- Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards
- Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures
- Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active Duty Counterparts
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services
- Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an Option for Those Currently Eligible to Receive Full Military Honors, Through Expansion of Our National Cemetery
- Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees
- Improve Survivor Benefits
- Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown



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

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

One of the latest initiatives from MOAA is the creation of virtual chapters.

The first is for Surviving Spouses. The chapter currently has about 140 members from 30 states. The members are surviving spouses and the surviving spouse liaisons from chapters. Dues are not collected, and the only requirement is membership in MOAA. (Membership in MOAA can be found at moaa.org. Note that the Alamo MOAA Chapter is an affiliate. Chapter membership is separate from MOAA.)

The next meeting of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is Tuesday, January 19 at noon (CST). The meetings usually last between an hour and 1.5 hours. This is a Zoom event. Shane Ostrom of MOAA will be presenting on the topic of "Scams and Fraud!". The latest information on federal legislation of interest will be discussed.

For more information on the virtual chapter, contact mssvc02@gmail.com or contact Gail Joyce at virgini-agailjoyce@gmail.com.

More information can be found on moaa.org - search for Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.

Speaker Bio

(Continued from Page 3)

and is also regularly visited by delegations from significant cities across the United States to assess emulating in their city what occurs at Haven for Hope.

Prior to Haven for Hope, Wilson served as Market President for Bank of America in San Antonio and Austin. He also served U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, and, for several years, served on Bank of America's National Diversity Council. In addition, he was responsible for the administration of charitable foundations for which U.S Trust/Bank of America served as trustee. That responsibility included the establishment and administration of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, which was established with \$300 million upon the death of Mr. Albert Kronkosky, a U.S. Trust client.

Throughout Wilson's career, he has been active in the San Antonio and Austin communities. He has served in leadership roles with many organizations including Chairman of the Board of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Executive Committee of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the University of Texas at San Antonio Development Board (during which a \$185 million capital campaign was completed). In a two year role as Chairman of the San Antonio Econom-

ic Development Foundation, Wilson led the organization that was responsible for recruiting new jobs and companies to San Antonio from across the nation and around the world.

He served as Chairman of the Board of the San Antonio Symphony and Board Chair for the Free Trade Alliance. For two years, he was Chairman of the Board of The Masters Leadership Program. Wilson also has participated as a board member of the San Antonio Museum of Art, the P16+ Education Council, and the Executive Committee of The United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

For several years, he served as Chairman of the Endowment Committee for the Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation and was awarded a lifetime membership to that Board. Recognitions include the Abilene Christian University Distinguished Alumni Citation, the 2015 City Year Ripples of Hope Award, and the 2015 Governor Briscoe Friends of Youth Award. Wilson earned a bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University and completed post-graduate work in finance and accounting.

His wife of 44 years, Sharon, is the former director of Children's and Student Ministries at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio. The Wilsons have three daughters and three grandchildren.



Did You Know?

There have been only nine five-star generals.

The rank didn't exist until 1944 and was retired in 1981, when the last living one, Omar Bradley, died.

The others were:

Dwight Eisenhower (USA)
Douglas MacArthur (USA)
George C. Marshall (USA)
William D. Leahy (USN)
Ernest King (USN)
Chester Nimitz (USN)
William Halsey, Jr (USN)
Henry H. Arnold (USA & USAF)

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 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

Abby Consulting

Website Design
http://www.abbyconsulting.com/
210-490-6513

Army Residence Community

Retirement Living
https://armyresidence.com/
210-646-5300

Beldon Roofing Company

Trusted Since 1946
https://www.beldon.com/
833-5-BELDON

Blue Skies of Texas

Retirement Community In the tradition of Air Force Village https://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/ 866-553-5389

Medical Services International

Providing Healthcare Consulting Services 210-497-0263

CTWP Digital Solutions

Printers, Copiers, Fax Machines & Office Equipment.

https://www.ctwp.com/
210-590-2897

M. D. Ellis Refrigeration LLC

Heating & Air Conditioning

https://www.facebook.com/M-DEllis-Refrigeration-LLC589273391215105/
210-265-1978

Security Service Federal Credit Union

Full-service Financial Cooperative
https://www.ssfcu.org/
888-415-7878

Transition Management Solutions, LLC

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And look for the Media Kit under the About Us tab or email Lisa Skopal lskopal@ymail.com Insert
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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 <u>Lariat</u>, 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

San Antonio Texas is called Military City USA for a reason. Not only do we have Joint Base San Antonio, one of the largest military installations in the world. Not only is it one of the largest post-military communities in the country, San Antonio has one of the most established and functioning support systems for those communities.

Each week I attend the JBSA Transition Alliance. This is a consortium of military, government, nonprofits and employers who gather together to collaborate on ways to assist those transitioning. We feed each other resources and other means of support that further empower success for those moving from the military to the civilian.

Employment of spouses and dependents are also topics as included in the group is Military Spouse Professional Network, Esposas Militares and representatives from the ISDs of the bases. A very eclectic collection seeking only to assist. Started five years ago as just a small group, our last meeting of the year had over 50 participants. Even via Zoom, we have had over 80 folks on the call.

Especially to be highlighted are two groups that have grown out of efforts to foster the value of networking. Stephan Porter, COL USA (retired) and active Alamo MOAA member created an offshoot of the JBSA Alliance for the Hill Country area. Located in New Braunfels, MilCountry has created a networking group that provides the professional connections and mutual support for the military community and its supports for those up IH35.

If you've attended a LinkedIn MilCity event, then you know the power of networking. Prior to the pandemic, we would fill to overflowing event venues such as the Lion and Rose at the Rim or the Alamo Beer Company downtown. Folks met new network connections. Attendees supported others in transition through the ups and downs encountered in the process. The December event was virtual. However, the impact was the same. First gathering together as a whole, then breaking out into small groups to effectively chat about the efforts. Kudos to Sam (Samantha) and Ray Domingo as founders of LIMC.

You can find these on LinkedIn as well as others. There are so many "venues" available to those transitioning, be they active duty, veteran, retiree, or spouse. It's up to each of you to find the one that best fits with you. Or you can do as I do and try to connect with multiple. Networking is so vital to your transition strategic plan.

Best of luck for a marvelous 2021.



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

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

the years. The 2020 pandemic hit us like a brick as it did every other nonprofit and businesses in general.

Vaughn was crucial in the discussions on budget adjustment and positioning throughout. We are indebted to Vaughn and wish him only the best.

The year 2021 will also be challenging as this pandemic is still with us. As I write this article, the first shipments of vaccines are in the air. There is hope. We need to continue to be vigilant. I thank you for your support in 2020. Please continue that support to the Chapter through your presence and other means. The Chapter staff and board wish each of you the best for this new year.

> Kittv Kathryn "Kitty" Meyers LtCol USAF (Ret) SPHR, SHRM-SCP

New Members

(Continued from Page 4) Maj Ronald Little USAF (Ret) Maj Amy May USAF MAJ William McCoy USA (Ret) MAJ Johnny Rich USA (Ret) MAJ David Ringrose USA (Ret) Maj Tanner Roth USAF MAJ Walter Walsh Jr USA CPT Saira Ahmed USA CPT Yvonne Antonelli USA (Frmr) CPT Richard Buzen USA CPT Donald Carr ARNG (Ret) Capt Michael Dimuzio USAF Capt James Faulkner USAF (Ret) CPT Ticina Glass USAR (Frmr) Capt Shawn Graves USAF Capt Teresa Humphrey USAF (Ret) Capt Carlos Luna USMC (Frmr) Capt John McLintock USAF Capt Linda Mitchell USAF (Frmr) Capt Lauren Sweet USAF 1LT Gregorio DeLaCruz Jr USA (Ret) 1LT Gwendolyn Guerrero USAFR 1LT Loy Kelly USA (Ret) 1LT Susan Mejia-Flores USA (Frmr) 1Lt Sarah Molstad USAF 2LT Ernest Brown USA 2LT Joseph Cordaway ARNG 2Lt Taylor Crittenden USAF 2LT Luis Cuellar USA 2LT Noah Espinosa USA 2LT Cesar Espinoza USA 2LT Amador Hernandez USA 2LT Anthony Lopez USA 2LT Olivia Lowe USA 2LT Dennet Salinas USA 2LT Matthew She USA 2LT Robert Sholund, Jr ARNG (Frmr) 2LT Shawn Tanner USA CW3 Kenneth Haynie USA (Ret) WO1 Derbe Amiah USA WO1 Taylor Marsh USA WO1 James Miller ARNG WO1 Kennith Williams USA WO1 Clayton Word USA MK Higbee Rachel Zermeno



MOAA LOCAL ALAMO CHAPTER

ENROLLMENT



MOAA NATIONAL ENROLLMENT

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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 con-

Kitty Meyers LtCol USAF (Ret)

Chapter Transition Liaison Officer at

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)
- Surviving Spouse Coordinator
- Membership Cmte Members
- Advertising Cmte Members
- Community Outreach Members
- 6) Historian
- 7) Editor
- 8) Treasurer

Position Descriptions can be found on the chapter website under the resources tab. www.alamomoaa.org



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.

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Bill Klein — Major General, USA, ret.



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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 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 or from the MOAA-AC office. **The deadline for applications is February 10, 2021.** Email to moaaac.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.



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MEMBERSHIP COL Felix Santiago felixsantiago01@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MAJ James Cunningham jimbob48@sbcglobal.net

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TREASURER (Open)

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SUPPORT Lt George Frecsko

EDITOR (Open)

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PX/VAC Rep Jim Cunningham
SA TRANSITION LtCol Kitty Meyers
TX TRANSITION Col David Patrick
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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 Educations 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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THE LARIAT

National Award Winning Newsletter

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ALAMO CHAPTER

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Thursday Jan 28

11am - Noon

ZOOM Webinar

Kenny Wilson

President & CEO Haven For Hope

"Homelessness in San Antonio"

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



Wednesday Feb 24

Happy Hour 4-5pm

ZOOM Webinar

LtCol Shane Ostrom USAF (Ret)

Program Director, Financial & Benefits &

CAPT Paul J. Frost USN (Ret)

Program Director, Financial & Benefits, Education/Counseling & Veterans Services

Topics will include Medicare & Social Security benefits

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

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