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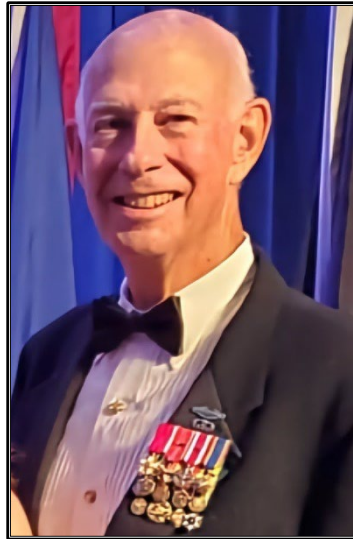
~ Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter ~

President's Message...

April 2024 Issue

Greetings Colleagues,

This month's newsletter has some really great articles beginning with a fascinating World War II story about British intelligence and the UK licensee for the Monopoly board game, collaborating to use the game board and the pieces to assist Allied POWs in escape efforts. Dan Gutierrez's 'Let's Not Forget' article chronicles what a momentous month April is in our Nation's history ranging from the beginning of the War Between the States, America's entry into World War I and America arriving as a world power from the Spanish American War.



I also would like to call your attention to the Armed Forces Day Military Ball invitation in the newsletter on May 18th. Our Chapter already has ten attendees and there is room for more. Contact Gene Tulich or me if you have any questions or would like more details.

Finally, a reminder for 2024 dues. There is a renewal application at the end of this newsletter. Your dues and additional chapter assistance funds are the life blood of the Chapter.

We Never Stop Serving,

Rob
Robin P. Ritchie, COL, USA (RET)
President

★★★★★

In this issue >>>

- *President's Message, Robin P. Ritchie, COL, Infantry, USAR (Ret)*
- *Starting in 1941...*
- *LET'S NOT FORGET!*
- *President's Message: MOAA Members Assemble for Advocacy in Action*
- *Lawmakers Push for Cost-of-Living Boost in Veterans Benefits Next Year*
- *Army Col. Ralph Puckett, Medal of Honor Recipient and Ranger Legend, Dies at 97*
- *TRICARE For Life Under Threat: How MOAA Works to Protect Your Benefit*
- *Chaplain's Corner*
- *MOAA-HA Chapter Meeting Photos*
- *Membership Application / Renewal Form*

April 2024...Chapter Events:

Saturday, April 27th, 2024 @ 11:30am

MOAA HA CHAPTER MEETING

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
2503 S Gessner Rd
Houston, TX 77063

Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 @ Noon

MOAA HA BOD Meeting

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
2503 S Gessner Rd
Houston, TX 77063

Starting in 1941...

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden Within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get out of Jail' Free' card! ★



LET'S NOT FORGET!

*By: Dan Gutierrez
April, 2024*

The month of April contains its own eventful moments of our military history that deserve remembering and honoring.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before the Congress and asked for a declaration of war against the German Empire. A few days later on April 6, 1917, the measure passed both houses of Congress and the United States joined the United Kingdom (and its empire), France, Russia, Japan and the Kingdom of Italy in war against Germany. Later that year, the U.S. declared war on the Austro – Hungarian and Ottoman (Turkey) empires. And so we entered into the first great conflagration of the 20th century and the costliest war since the Civil War.

President Wilson's reasons for asking for a declaration were Germany's refusal to stop unrestricted submarine warfare on all shipping going to the allies whether neutral or belligerent, and because of Germany's effort to embroil Mexico in the war by promising to return to Mexico all the territory taken by the U.S. as a result of the Mexican War. And as George M. Cohan sang, "over there, the Yanks are coming..." However, over 116,000 "Yanks" would not be coming back. This is a daunting number when one recalls that most of the casualties came in the last year of the war and in particular, in the last few months. I often reflect on the clamor that would result now if this country suddenly lost 100,000 soldiers in a couple months of combat. As a tribute to the U.S. Army for its WW I service and sacrifice, April 6 was designated as Army Day to commemorate America's entry into the "Great War."

Another April milestone occurred on April 12, 1861 when Confederate guns opened fire on the U.S. bastion of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Thus began the most tragic, costliest and divisive episode in American history. We are all familiar with the story. Let us never have cause to relive this dark chapter and the best way of insuring this is to never forget.

Finally this month, we remember April 25, 1898 as the start of the Spanish – American War. From this conflict emerged such names as "the Rough Riders," Admiral of the Navy (special rank) George Dewey, "Teddy" Roosevelt, San Juan Hill, the USS Maine and General Leonard Wood. It was the nation's first important foray into matters outside the continental United States and signaled to the international community that America was a world power. In emphasis of its new found status, President "Teddy" Roosevelt dispatched the Navy's "Great White Fleet" to circumnavigate the world and demonstrate America's arrival on the world scene as a major maritime power. The fleet featured 16 new battleships of the new "Dreadnaught" class. The U.S. had arrived.

LET'S NOT FORGET!



President's Message: MOAA Members Assemble for Advocacy in Action

By: Brian T. Kelly
APRIL 09, 2024

Our Government Relations team works year-round to protect your pay and benefits, to foster positive relations on both sides of the aisle, and to spotlight important policy and legislative change vital to MOAA's mission.

But what's more vital to our lawmakers' mission is to hear *directly* from their constituents. They want to know what matters most to the people who live in their districts — the people who vote.

[TAKE ACTION: Advocacy in Action 2024]

That's what makes our Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign week so important.

On April 17, nearly 200 dedicated members and MOAA staff will canvas the halls of Congress, visiting every member's office equipped with critical data, calls to action, and support for our uniformed services community.

Our AiA topics are carefully selected each year and approved by our board of directors. We want topics true to our mission, representative of our membership, and critical to this year's legislative cycle. This year's topics are:

- **The Major Richard Star Act**, a bill supporting our combat-injured veterans that would end an unjust offset for those who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation.
- **The BAH Restoration Act**, a bill that reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs — a policy that's placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families.
- **Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL)**, which remains a key issue for all MOAA members — those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who'll use the benefit when they turn 65.

AiA is not a culmination of hard work but rather a key milestone on a continuing mission. And while we have an outstanding team at the headquarters, AiA brings some of MOAA's best from the field to Capitol Hill to demonstrate the effectiveness of our association.

Continued on Page 7...

To join in the AiA campaign, you can:

- Visit our Legislative Action Center to send pre-formatted messages to your legislators on the issues.
- Call your lawmakers via MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622).
- Set up an in-person meeting with your lawmakers' staffs at their local offices. This tried-and-true approach yields huge dividends.

We need your help. Your work at home not only influences Capitol Hill, but it inspires us to keep going. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our advocacy efforts on behalf of all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors. ★

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform.

TAKE ACTION



MOAA Board Chair Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret), and President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), take part in Advocacy in Action 2023 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on April 26. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

Houston Military Affairs Ball Committee

presents the
**Armed Forces Day
Military Ball**
Saturday, May 18, 2024
6pm - 12am

The Houston Military Affairs Ball Committee requests the pleasure of your company honoring our Armed Forces past and present.

6:00 p.m. Social Hour/Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. Ceremony and Dinner

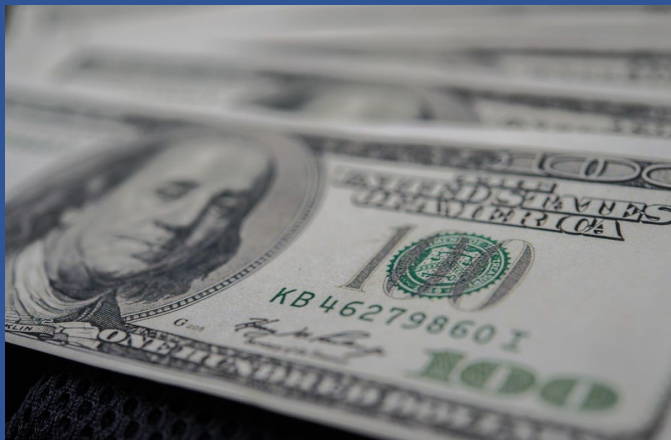
Houston Marriott Westchase
2900 Briarpark Dr
Houston, TX 77042



Contact Betty R. Manbeck 713-201-5271 or houstonmilitaryaffairs@hotmail.com
visit us at www.hmac.us

Lawmakers Push for Cost-of-Living Boost in Veterans Benefits Next Year

APRIL 9, 2024



Prakasit Khuansuwan/EyeEm/Getty Images

This article by Leo Shane III originally appeared on [Military Times](#), the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

A pair of Senate leaders introduced plans Monday to guarantee a cost-of-living boost in veterans benefits next year that equals what Social Security beneficiaries will receive, in a routine legislative step that aims to help veterans payouts keep pace with inflation increases.

The measure from Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., and ranking member Jerry Moran, R-Kan., would increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and survivors of former service members in 2025.

In a statement, Tester said the move is needed “to make sure the men and women who served this country have benefits that meet their needs each year.”

[UPDATED MONTHLY: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

Similar legislation is introduced in the House and Senate annually and is generally noncontroversial. However, unlike Social Security benefits — which must include a cost-of-living boost each year — veterans benefits do not, making annual passage of a matching raise a key focus for advocates.

The Social Security increase last year was 3.2%, down from 8.7% in 2023 — the highest such raise in 40 years. Federal officials won't announce the size of the 2025 increase until this fall, but the Senior Citizens League last month estimated that the figure is likely to be around 2.4%.

In a statement, Moran said that however large the cost-of-living increase is, veterans deserve to have that same adjustment.

“Many of these veterans rely on the VA for financial support, especially with ongoing rising costs and inflation,” he said. “Making certain veterans benefits stay on pace with rising prices will help provide disabled veterans, certain surviving spouses and their children with peace of mind and continued support.”

[RELATED: [COLA News: Be Ready for an Even Smaller Boost in 2025](#)]

About 5 million veterans and 2 million military retirees receive benefits checks each month through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The COLA-increase legislation would apply to payouts for disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity benefits, as well as some other VA assistance programs.

At least 12 senators — a mix of Republicans and Democrats — have already signed onto the bill. Companion legislation is expected to be introduced in the House in the coming weeks.

Leaders from the House and Senate have not said when they expect the legislation to be considered. Both chambers are expected to recess in the early summer for an extended break ahead of the November presidential and congressional elections.★

Army Col. Ralph Puckett, Medal of Honor Recipient and Ranger Legend, Dies at 97

APRIL 09, 2024

ATLANTA — Retired Army Col. Ralph Puckett, an Army Ranger who received the Medal of Honor for lifesaving heroics in the Korean War and the Distinguished Service Cross fighting in Vietnam, died Monday. He was 97.

Puckett died in his sleep with his wife, Jeannie, by his side at their Columbus, Ga., home, according to the National Infantry Museum at nearby Fort Moore, where Puckett had mentored soldiers for decades. The museum will hold a public service in his honor on April 20 at 11 a.m., officials there said.

A native of Tifton, Ga., Puckett enlisted in the Army in 1943, and two years later was selected to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he earned his commission as an infantry officer, according to the Army. Shortly after his 1949 graduation from West Point, Puckett volunteered for service with the Army's 8th Ranger Company. He was selected to command the company as a first lieutenant, and after 5½ weeks of training on Okinawa, Japan, his unit was sent to Korea in late 1950 and charged with assaulting and securing a piece of land known as Hill 205 near Unsan.

It was during this first combat mission in November 1950 that Puckett established his heroic credentials.

[MORE FROM ARMY.MIL: [Col. Ralph Puckett, USA](#)]

Outnumbered 10 to one, Puckett and his Rangers secured the key hill before facing repeated counterassaults by Chinese forces. Puckett repeatedly risked his life to draw enemy fire away from his fellow Rangers, called in artillery strikes, helped secure a perimeter and delivered ammunition to other soldiers as the Chinese troops assaulted six times in four hours, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

He suffered at least three serious wounds during the assaults, rendering him “unable to move” by its end, according to the citation. Despite ordering his troops to leave him, “fellow Rangers fought their way to his side and evacuated him to safety,” according to the Army.

Initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest medal of battlefield valor, Puckett would ultimately receive the Medal of Honor in 2021 after a yearslong effort to upgrade the medal. President Joe Biden, who [awarded the nation's top military honor](#) to Puckett, said it was important to Puckett's men that he received the award that he deserved.

“Korea is sometimes called the forgotten war, but those men who were there under then-lieutenant Puckett's command never forgot his bravery,” Biden said. “They never forgot he was right by their side every minute of it.”



Puckett served with the Army's 8th Ranger Company during the Korean War. (Army photo)



Retired Col. Ralph Puckett, USA, stands alongside troops as they prepare for a foot march during the 2021 David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition on Fort Benning (now Fort Moore), Ga. (Photo by Sgt. Henry Villarama/Army) This article by Corey Dickstein originally appeared on Stripes.com. Stars and Stripes serves the U.S. military community by providing editorially independent news

Continued on next page...

**Army Col. Ralph Puckett, Medal of Honor Recipient
and Ranger Legend, Dies at 97** *Continued from previous page...*

[RELATED: [Lou Conter, Last Survivor of USS Arizona From Pearl Harbor Attack, Dies at 102](#)]

After he returned from Korea, the Army offered him a medical retirement, but Puckett refused. Instead, he continued his service, working at the Ranger School and West Point before completing Special Forces training. In 1967, Puckett deployed to Vietnam as a 101st Airborne Division battalion commander, where he would earn more valor awards for battlefield heroics.

Before his 1971 retirement, Puckett would hold two Distinguished Service Crosses — including the one that was later upgraded to the Medal of Honor — two Silver Stars, two Bronze Star Medals with combat “V” device for valor, and five Purple Hearts, according to his Army biography.

“Col. Ralph Puckett was the last of a generation of extraordinary heroes,” Chris Cassidy, the president and CEO of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation, said in a statement Monday. “His actions on Hill 205 reverberated far beyond the Korean peninsula as his courage, sacrifice, commitment and patriotism have inspired Americans for over 70 years.”

Well into his 90s, Puckett remained active at Fort Moore, where often attended events, including Ranger School graduations and the annual Best Ranger Competition. When Congress mandated the Army change the name of its installations associated with Confederate generals, Puckett’s name was among the finalists to replace Fort Benning, which last year became Fort Moore, for another Korea and Vietnam veteran, Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and his wife, Julia.

“While his accolades and awards are many, he is most often remembered as a man who was always ready to shake a soldier’s hand and offer some kind words,” National Infantry Museum officials said of Puckett in a statement announcing his death. “Over the years, Ralph and Jeannie Puckett have been steadfast champions of the military community.”

Columbus Mayor Skip Henderson said Monday that his community and others around Fort Moore would long mourn Puckett’s loss.

“He was one of our country’s most decorated veterans but was known for his humility and selfless service,” Henderson said. “He was a mentor to generations of soldiers passing through Fort Benning/Moore ... Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Jeannie and the entire Puckett family.” ★



TRICARE For Life Under Threat: How MOAA Works to Protect Your Benefit

By: Karen Ruedisueli
APRIL 03, 2024

Credible threats to TRICARE For Life loom on the horizon. And while the recently released FY 2025 DoD budget request makes no mention of new TFL fees, MOAA is concerned that it's only a matter of time before DoD once again looks to TFL as the answer to addressing increased military health care spending.



That's why MOAA council and chapter members from across the country will make protecting TFL a key part of their work in Washington, D.C., on April 17 as they meet with their members of Congress during MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) event. Preserving this benefit remains a top priority for MOAA members; that's why MOAA needs grassroots support from across its membership, and beyond, to send this clear message to lawmakers.

[TAKE ACTION: Urge Your Lawmakers to Protect TRICARE For Life]

Aside from military retired pay, TFL is the most valued part of the military retirement package. It not only ensures access to affordable preventive and routine medical care, but it protects uniformed services retirees and their dependents and survivors from financial risk associated with unexpected costs for serious and unexpected illness or injury.

Nearly a decade has passed since DoD proposed – and MOAA defeated – TFL enrollment fees in five consecutive administration budget requests (FY 2013-2017). But those victories aren't permanent.

CBO and Rising Costs

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has included TFL fees consistently in its *Options for Reducing the Deficit* report released at the beginning of each new Congress.

The most recent version included a concept for a new annual TFL enrollment fee – \$575 per individual or \$1,150 per family. Another concept outlined cost sharing, including an unprecedented annual deductible – TFL would pay no Medicare cost shares until the beneficiary paid \$850 out-of-pocket for medical encounters.

[MOAA ISSUE PAPER: Protect TRICARE For Life]

Rising health care costs, together with ongoing pressure to minimize Defense Health Program spending, also pose threats to the benefit.

History of TFL

Before 2001, the only military health care benefit for Medicare-eligible military retirees was space-available care at military treatment facilities (MTFs). Base realignment and closure (BRAC) decisions, together with military medical downsizing, resulted in shuttered MTFs, leaving many Medicare-eligible retirees with no military health care benefit in their senior years.

Congress fixed this injustice with TFL's creation in the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Congressional intent was clearly spelled out in the conference report accompanying the legislation: "While extending TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility to Medicare eligible beneficiaries, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to refrain from using deductibles and copayments, in recognition of their participation in Medicare Part B as a condition of participation."

Continued on next Page...

TRICARE For Life Under Threat: How MOAA Works to Protect Your Benefit

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[RELATED: [Major MOAA Legislative Accomplishments](#)]

Congress has maintained this stance over the years, repeatedly denying DoD budget request proposals for TFL enrollment fees and solidifying expectations for TFL among career servicemembers and retirees.

MOAA takes a balanced approach to TRICARE fee increases:

- We understand health care costs are rising and don't oppose indexing existing TRICARE fees to annual military retired pay cost-of-living adjustments.
- However, MOAA does oppose changing the terms of the health care benefit after it has been earned, including the creation of unprecedented TRICARE fees and disproportionate fee increases. These diminish the overall retirement package via health care costs that outpace military retired pay.

The current Congress is more than 20 years removed from the creation of TFL. During Advocacy in Action, MOAA advocates will deliver vital reminders to lawmakers and staffers about the history of the military health care benefit and our nation's obligation to retirees and career servicemembers.

[RELATED: [2024 Advocacy in Action](#)]

The small percentage of citizens who handle 100% of our national defense have earned a high-quality, low out-of-pocket-cost health care benefit. Maintaining TRICARE is not only a national obligation but critical to ensuring military retirees – key influencers in the recruitment process – are not discouraged from recommending service to current and future generations.

Visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center today and [send a message to your lawmakers](#) asking them to protect this service-earned benefit. ★



MOAA – Houston Chapter Luncheon

April 27, 2024

1130am - 1330pm

Speaker

CO

COL (R) Robin P. Ritchie

Lam son 719 Laos Incursion 1971 and DMZ Operations



Meal Options: Chicken Schnitzel, Pork Schnitzel or Spinach Quiche

Meal includes: Main, sides, dessert and coffee/tea

Cash Bar

Price: \$30.00 per person

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant
2503 S Gessner
Houston, TX 77063

Please RSVP to Rob Ritchie
Email: rpitchie@earthlink.net
Phone: 713.818.0408

Chaplain's Corner...



TRUTH AND THE 21ST CENTURY

April 15th was a two-fold day of reckoning in our country. It was tax day when many citizens and accountants in our nation were finishing their tax returns. It also was the beginning of the Ex-President's Trial in Manhattan. As chaplain I am told it isn't wise to talk about politics. It is, however my responsibility to talk about truth in a land where much is said about truth and fake news. As soldiers, leaders and responsible citizens it is our duty to honor our nations and citizens with the way we speak and act. As members of faith communities our faith also holds us accountable.

Jesus tells his disciples in the Gospel of John, "If you hold to my teaching then you are my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He then goes on to tell his disciples and those around them about sin, truth, lies and the Devil's role as the father of lies. Sin holds us as slaves to its bondage. Those who rebuked Christ would not hear Christ's message and planned his execution. They were the religious ones who couldn't hear the truth that Jesus said would set them free. And He was executed for those sins with some of his final words being, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

There are many people in the world who still do not know the truth of forgiveness which Jesus called out from the cross. Those anti-Semites who hold the Jews responsible for Jesus death have not understood the message of the New Testament. They are holding on to the lie that the Jews are responsible for Jesus' death. Christ's message and that of the Bible (both Old and New Testament) is that all of us are responsible for Jesus death. And there is still enough hate in the world to keep us chained to our own misconceptions. (Part of the lies that we still hang on to for ourselves.)

The Freedom that Christ speaks to us and brings to the world is God's Gift of His Son to all nations. In the Beatitudes Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God." Jesus message of love and the non-violent means by which he brought it into the world was shown by His example. His love and example was met with hatred, jealousy and finally his sacrifice on the cross. The cross was God's reconciliation for sin. The price God paid was His Son. It is our job to accept that gift, abandon sin, the lies and the hatred that the Devil produces. Our task is to find and expose the lies and live by the truth. But we don't do it with hateful words and actions. That is not God's way of handling it. How do we differentiate truth from lies? Can we differentiate love from hate? Liberals from Conservatives? Right from wrong? We do it with love, not hatred. Cautious words and the work of reconciliation, debate, listening and valuing those we are talking to doesn't come easy. It takes lots of patience and hard work. Prayer and respecting our adversaries helps. Listening to diverse beliefs and opinions is a political and psychological art form.

Finding the truth is God-given since He is the author of truth. But are we accepting His truth or our own? That takes reflection, courage and wisdom.

The current partisanship is not part of God's plan for our nation. Neither was it part of any other religion's plan for America. Jesus was not the only religious leader who proclaimed truth, peace, love and reconciliation. Christianity is only one of many religions which proclaim how we shall live, govern and be reconciled as one people (E Pluribus Unum?). Our forefathers were not all Christians. They were wise moral founders who lived and died their dream and they left us our heritage and Constitution (Including Freedom of Religion). Our job is to use our knowledge, experience, common sense and faith to discern truth from lies.

~ David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET

MOAA – HA Chapter Meeting Saturday, March 23, 2024



Rob Ritchie



**Rob Ritchie and LCDR
Bobby Costolo, USCG**



**LCDR Bobby Costolo,
Command Intelligence Officer,
US Coast Guard Sector
Houston-Galveston –
Guest Speaker**



Alan Ostendorp



J.C. Nicholson



Gene Tulich



Ivan Santiago



**Frank and Barb
Tricomi**



Dan Gutierrez



Ed Memi



Paul and Dee Brennan



Harry Stephenson



**Paul Brennan and
Dennis Blindauer**



**Bob and Vicki
Poland**

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*We need YOU...
to remain a
MOAA HA Member!*



Debating whether to renew your chapter membership?

Talking to a potential new member?

Benefits to belonging to a chapter:

- Camaraderie and Connections: when you attend chapter functions, actively serve on a committee, or take a prominent leadership role, you forge lasting ties with other MOAA members.
- Community Involvement: Membership provide opportunities to contribute to your community in a variety of ways, from providing scholarships to local students, to supporting causes that support wounded warriors and their families.
- Legislative Advocacy: We advocate for the entire military community-all ranks. Members play a critical role in advancing legislation in both Austin and Washington, D.C. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.

Chapter dues reminders will be emailed/sent out in December to those members needing renewal. We are on a calendar year for our chapter dues.

Annual renewal is \$30 for one year, \$20 for each additional year paid with renewal. Surviving Spouse \$15 initial membership; \$10 annual renewal.

Membership Application on the last page!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MOAA's Core Mission

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed servicemembers and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. For more detailed legislative actions see [MOAA | Take Action Center \(quorum.us\)](http://MOAA | Take Action Center (quorum.us))

Name: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Rank

Branch _____ Status _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____ *

Spouse's First Name: _____ Tel. for Directory _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Dues: Regular Membership – \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30 (Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each add'l. year **paid with renewal**)

Surviving Spouse – \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Chapter Assistance Fund

\$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other _____

Make check payable to MOAA-HA and mail to:

MOAA-HA
PO Box 18372
Sugar Land, TX 77496



For more information, call COL Robin Ritchie, 713-818-0408

**If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:*

YES NO

Signature: _____