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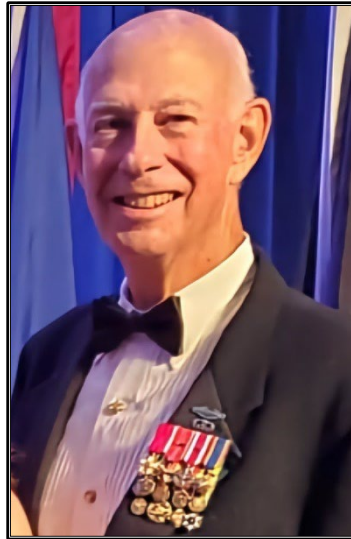
~ Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter ~

President's Message...

March 2024 Issue

Greetings Colleagues,

The February Chapter meeting saw as our guest speaker the Commander of the US Army area Recruiting Battalion. It was an outstanding presentation, particularly given the current recruiting challenges. This month's speaker was the Intelligence commander for the US Coast Guard's Houston-Galveston sector. I am continually amazed at the great maritime work of the Coast Guard.



I also would like to call your attention to an article from National regarding scams being perpetrated on veterans. Additionally, this month features another wonderful "lest we forget" article by our own Dan Gutierrez.

Finally, a reminder for 2024 dues. Currently there are 23 members whose 2024 dues are outstanding including yours truly. 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.

Respectfully,

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

★★★★★

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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



LET'S NOT FORGET!

*By: Dan Gutierrez
March, 2024*

All right all you Irish and Irish wannabees, this is your month. Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Slainte!

Also, I hope all of you experience a wonderful and spirit rejuvenating Easter. God bless us all.

Let us begin our narrative this month by reviewing the events around the Newburgh Conspiracy. At this time in 1783, the Continental Army was still awaiting the results of the peace negotiations then ongoing in Paris. The Continental Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, had no power to tax and raise money. Instead, money was granted to the congress from the states in a piecemeal fashion. Therefore, revenue was unpredictable and insufficient. Much back pay was owed to the officers and men of the army – unrest was in the air.

March of 1783 saw the main force of the army encamped at Newburgh, New York where General Washington kept his headquarters. The Revolutionary War was still ongoing although the major battles had been over since the victory over the British at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. The mood in the army was dark, especially among the officers. There was talk of taking action by force.

The culmination of the Newburgh Conspiracy came when a letter was written by one of General Horatio Gates (of the Battle of Saratoga fame) officers asserting their claims to the Congress and making threats of force. Word of this missive reached General Washington. He called a meeting of his officers. In that meeting Washington once again demonstrated his unmatched grace and loyalty. He addressed his officers in a straightforward and calm manner. He expressed his horror of what the letter portended and its potential consequences. In the course of his presentation, he reduced his officers to tears and shame. With this one stroke, a military takeover of the nation was averted; the republic would go on. Ladies and gentlemen, we of this great nation were indeed most fortunate to have a man of courage, depth and character at the right place at the right time.

Also this month is when we remember the 3,535 recipients of the Medal of Honor. March 25 was designated by Congress in 1999 to foster remembrance

Another event of note which occurred this month was that on March 24, 1958, Elvis Presley was inducted into the United States Army. "I'm all shook up!"

Now, to a more solemn occasion. March 29 will mark the 51st anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. This is a mixed blessing for me. I am proud to have served during that war as a soldier and loyal American. But I still harbor feelings of shame and disgust at the dishonorable treatment slathered upon our service people as they returned home. Yes, my fellow citizens, the tide has turned and the honors they are now belatedly receiving are just, and well earned. But let us never forget that in the name of the United States of America, we went forward to our duty, fought, bled and died. **PRESENT ARMS!**

LET'S NOT FORGET!



MOAA, Military Coalition Lead Star Act Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

By: Tony Lombardo
MARCH 06, 2024

Powers, an Iraq War vet who sustained numerous injuries downrange, is one of more than 52,000 combat-injured veterans forced to retire early and may have his DoD retirement pay, calculated for years of service, docked because he was injured in combat. The Major Richard Star Act would qualify combat-injured veterans for the existing Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) open season that would authorize concurrent receipt of earned DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to include the Major Richard Star Act in the FY 2025 NDAA]

“The only way our elected officials know the needs of the American people – and most importantly veterans – is when we show up and we explain it to them,” said Powers, who joined dozens of veterans and advocates participating in The Military Coalition’s Star Act Hill Day on March 5.

MOAA, a member of [The Military Coalition](#), led planning efforts for the event; members of MOAA’s government relations team met with Senate leadership during the Hill Day and expressed the need to include the legislation in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The bill is named after Maj. Richard Star, USAR, a combat engineer who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and who lobbied for the bill even while fighting the late stages of cancer. He died in 2021.

If approved, the legislation would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both their DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset. The bill has garnered widespread support in both the Senate (71 co-sponsors) and the House (327 co-sponsors), but cost remains a concern for some lawmakers.

“Passing this bill is a cost of war,” said Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, during a March 5 press conference in front of the Capitol steps. “If we’re not willing to take care of the folks we send off to battle when they get back home, then we shouldn’t send them off to battle to begin with.”

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*Tonya Star, widow of Maj. Richard Star, USAR, speaks during a March 5 press conference on Capitol Hill in support of the Major Richard Star Act. (Photos by Mike Morones/MOAA)
Sgt. James Powers, USA (Ret), traveled from Canton, Ohio, this week to meet with his lawmakers on Capitol Hill and voice his support for the Major Richard Star Act.*



Scams Cost Veterans, Military Retirees \$350 Million in 2023

By: Kevin Lilley
FEBRUARY 20, 2024



Veterans reported \$350 million in total fraud losses to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2023, up nearly \$60 million from the previous year's \$292 million, according to the FTC's [annual data book](#).

More than 74,000 veterans, including military retirees, reported an instance of fraud in the last calendar year, with 31% of those reports involving a financial loss, per the data book, which also provided a recap of other parts of the wider military community:

- Active duty servicemembers: 7,361 fraud reports, with 42% reporting a loss. Total fraud: \$52 million.
- National Guard and Reserve members: 5,054 fraud reports, with 40% reporting a loss. Total fraud: \$39 million.
- Spouses/dependents of active duty servicemembers: 7,093 fraud reports, with 40% reporting a loss. Total fraud: \$36 million.

All those groups saw a higher percentage of reports involving financial loss than the general population, which saw a loss in 27% of its 2.5 million fraud reports, totaling more than \$10 billion – up from \$8.8 billion in 2022.

[MOAA MEMBER BENEFIT: [Save on Financial Security With Identity Guard](#)]

The FTC classifies the above groups as “military consumers” in their data, which shows a year-over-year uptick in all manner of scams and frauds targeting this population. Some examples:

- **Imposter Scams:** 42,766 reports in 2023, up from 39,909 in 2022.
- **Credit Card-Related Identity Theft:** 14,742 reports in 2023, up from 14,501 in 2022.
- **Business/Personal Loan Fraud:** 4,173 reports in 2023, up nearly 50% from 2,801 in 2022.

Good news for military consumers was hard to find in the new data set, with most categories seeing year-over-year increases. The few exceptions included a 33% dip in identity theft claims relating to medical services and an 18% reduction in tax fraud claims. The biggest improvement stemmed from technology changes rather than prevention measures – fraud related to landline telephone accounts fell by more than half in 2023.

Military retirees and other veterans continue to see disproportionate fraud targeting for a variety of reasons. Some are service-connected – scams involving federal benefits have become more popular, for example – while others are demographic: Scam victims in their 20s reported losing money more often, per the FTC, but when those over 70 were scammed, they lost the most money per incident.

Protect Yourself

MOAA offers a range of resources to help you protect your personal data (and your bank account) from scammers of all types:

- From our financial and benefits expert: [Protect Yourself From These 5 Common Fraud Schemes](#)
- Three-part series: [Don't Be Scammed](#)
- Recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members): [An Overview of Scams and Frauds](#) | [Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud](#) | [Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams](#)

MOAA also is a partner in the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Get more resources from that organization [at this link](#).★

Millions of Vets Exposed to Toxins Will Be Eligible for VA Health Care on March 5

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Millions of U.S. veterans will be eligible beginning March 5 for health care with the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) under an accelerated effort to provide benefits and services to those exposed to toxic substances while serving.

The VA announced Monday that all veterans who have served in a combat zone since the Vietnam War, as well as those who participated in training or operations and came into contact with hazardous materials, will be able to enroll in VA health care.

[APPLY FOR BENEFITS: [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)]

The expansion of health care benefits was mandated by the [PACT Act](#), signed into law by President Joe Biden in August 2022, which required the expansion to occur by 2032. VA officials said last month the acceleration is a result of a hiring blitz made possible by provisions in the law.

"If you're a veteran who may have been exposed to toxins or hazards while serving our country, at home or abroad, we want you to come to us for the health care you deserve," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Monday in a release.

Under the PACT Act, more than 100,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care and roughly 760,000 disability claims have been approved. VA officials did not detail exactly how many veterans now will be eligible for care under the expansion but said the figure is in the "millions."

"Beginning March 5, we're making millions of veterans eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act," VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal said. "We want to bring *all* of these veterans to VA for the care they've earned and deserve."

[RELATED: [A Fresh Look at MOAA Priorities for Caregivers and Veterans in the 118th Congress](#)]

The expansion allows all veterans who deployed to combat zones in support of the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars to enroll in VA health care.

In addition, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to pollutants while participating in a known "toxic exposure risk activity," or TERA, either in the U.S. or abroad, will be eligible.

That would include exposure while on active duty, active-duty training or inactive-duty training to: air pollutants from burn pits, particulate matter, sulfur or oil well fires; chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, contaminated water or depleted uranium from embedded shrapnel; occupational hazards such as lead, industrial solvents, toxic paint, asbestos and firefighting foam; radiation, including nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, X-rays and occupational exposure; and chemical or biological weapons or nerve agents.



A Marine at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, watches over civilian firefighters at a burn pit as smoke and flames rise into the night sky in 2007. (Photo by Cpl. Samuel D. Corum/Marine Corps)

Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on [Military.com](https://www.military.com), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

Continued on next page...

Millions of Vets Exposed to Toxins Will Be Eligible for VA Health Care on March 5 *Continued from previous page...*

[RELATED: Brain Cancer Risk Higher in Troops With Moderate to Severe Brain Injuries]

According to the VA, the department will use service records and other resources to determine whether a veteran participated in a TERA.

Veterans are not required to have a service-connected disability or file a compensation claim to be eligible for VA care. New enrollees will have access to a toxic exposure screening provided by their primary care physician and may be referred to specialty care depending on need, Elnahal said during a call with reporters last month.

They also will be assessed for placement in the VA's priority-based health system and referred to the Veterans Benefits Administration if they qualify for additional benefits.

Priority group placement determines whether a veteran is required to make copayments for appointments or prescriptions, depending on treatment or the medications.

[RELATED: Easy Access to Virtual Appointments, Prescription Refills Are Behind Rising Demand for Online VA Health Care]

During a press conference Monday, Elnahal said that, by law, veterans receiving treatment for exposure-related illnesses will not make copayments for appointments related to that care.

"This is a real economic benefit opportunity for veterans but also a clinical benefit," Elnahal said.

The Veterans Health Administration has set a goal to hire 52,000 employees this fiscal year, which, when factoring in attrition, should grow its workforce by 3%. Elnahal said the increases could help to absorb new patients, meet demand and standardize -- or even improve -- wait times.

"Challenges abound with hiring for every single health care system, so we are not complacent at all," Elnahal said. "We're continuing to make the changes we need to make the hiring process better and faster."

The VA is encouraging veterans to apply for care or benefits by visiting the [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) website or calling 1-800-MYVA411.



*Easter
Blessings
2024*

MOAA, Military Coalition Lead Star Act Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

Continued from Page 3...

[RELATED: [Combat-Injured Veterans Need Our Help NOW – Here’s How to Join the Fight](#)]

Tester, the Senate bill’s original sponsor, was flanked by a sea of veterans, many holding “PASS IT NOW” signs. The military and veteran service organization community is united in this message as well: The Military Coalition represents nearly 5.5 million veterans across 35 organizations, including members of MOAA and the VFW, and the Star Act has gained additional supporters, including Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion.

“Today we were able to bring together a coalition of an enormous amount of support,” said Lt. Col. Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret), MOAA’s director of government relations for currently serving and retired affairs. Belinsky led a similar Hill Day last year, helping to grow co-sponsors. This year, he spoke directly with Senate leadership, joined by Richard Star’s widow, Tonya Star.

“I think it made a huge impact to have Tonya Star personally there to discuss the impact on families,” Belinsky said.

Tonya Star spoke at the press conference, rallying advocates to keep fighting.

“We are closer than we have ever been,” she said. “We’re going to get it done this year!”

[RELATED FROM 2020: [A Wife's Request: Please Support the Major Richard Star Act](#)]

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), original sponsor of the House version of the Major Richard Star Act, takes part in a March 5 press conference on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), who introduced the bill alongside Tester, praised Tonya Star’s courage in carrying on her husband’s legacy. He also emphasized his commitment to keep up pressure on the Hill.

“The injustice is so obvious that every American who hears about it knows it’s something we need to do,” Crapo said. “It’s time to get the bill done.”

Army Staff Sgt. Alexander Mikhailovsky is transitioning out of uniform at the end of this month. The logistician deployed to Afghanistan in 2019 as part of the 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, attached to the 1st Infantry Division. He survived base attacks and conducted more than a dozen dignified transfers of U.S. service members killed in action, some from green-on-blue attacks. Mikhailovsky returned home with post-traumatic stress and was ordered to medically retire, cutting his service short after 11 years.

He heard about the Hill Day and showed up wanting to bring a voice for not only himself but his friends and fellow wounded warriors whose service is also ending prematurely.

[MORE COVERAGE: [Military Times](#) | [Military.com](#)]

He encourages everyone reading this message to join our cause.

“Get with your battle buddies, whether you’re an NCO or an officer,” he said. “Get with the guys who are affected by this bill and know that your voice matters. You can simply write to a congressman – there are templates online. Pick up a phone and call. The staff there are very easy to communicate with. It’s those little things that count and it’s going to make a difference. It matters.”

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Surviving Spouse Corner:

Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?

By: Renée Brunelle Matthews
MARCH 05, 2024



Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane

(yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.

Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like [Everplans](#) or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection against physical damage or loss, ensuring critical information remains accessible even if the originals are destroyed.

No more sticky notes, dusty binders, and outdated files! MOAA membership offers exclusive discounts on Everplans Premium, starting at 30% off for BASIC members.

[JOINLEARN MORE](#)

Furthermore, having your important documents organized facilitates seamless communication and coordination with emergency responders and relief agencies. Whether you're seeking medical assistance, applying for government aid, or navigating insurance claims, having all necessary documentation readily available expedites the process and ensures you receive the support and resources you need in a timely manner.

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Surviving Spouse Corner: Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?

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What documents should you include in your important documents kit? While the specific documents might vary depending on individual circumstances, some essential items to consider include:

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, immunization records)
- Financial documents (bank account information, insurance policies, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family members, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates, power of attorney)
- Property records (homeowner's insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items

Every day you see stories about natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies, and unforeseen events that change someone's life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're well-prepared is invaluable. Take the time today to gather your important documents and create an important document kit — it could make all the difference tomorrow. ★

MOAA, Military Coalition Lead Star Act Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

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Spring Advocacy Push

Ready to follow Mikhailovsky's lead? MOAA relies on grassroots advocacy from our members and others as we prepare for our annual Advocacy in Action campaign, which includes the Major Richard Star Act.

Getting beyond the "support the troops" sentiment is critical to building support with your lawmakers. Check the Star Act co-sponsor lists ([Senate](#) | [House](#)) to see whether they are on board; if so, take the time to thank them and ask them to influence their chamber's leadership to get the bill into the NDAA this year.

The ask: *Please ensure the Major Richard Star Act is part of your official FY 2025 NDAA request and included in the base text of the defense bill.*

[MOAA'S ADVOCACY UPDATE: Combat-injured Vets Unfairly Penalized]

Outside of in-person engagement, you can:

- Register for our [Legislative Action Center](#) and recruit your network of friends and family to do the same – MOAA membership is not required.
- Encourage members of your network to contact their representatives at 866-272-MOAA (6622), MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard. Ask to speak with the military legislative assistant (MLA) in the office; if that staffer is not available, consider scheduling a follow-up call to make a personal connection with [legislative staff](#).

Follow the progress of all MOAA's legislative initiatives at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#). ★

NEW AUSA BOOK HIGHLIGHTS ‘BEST TACTICAL MIND’ OF WWII

JOSEPH CRAIG, DIRECTOR AUSA BOOK PROGRAM

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Here’s a quick quiz for readers.

George S. Patton (a man not known for sharing the spotlight) said there was one colleague who was “possessed of the soundest judgment and best tactical mind of any officer I know.”

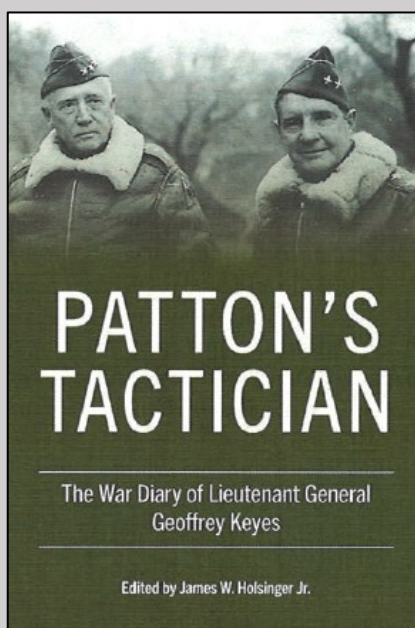
That officer, who started the war years as Patton’s chief of staff and went on to command the U.S. Army’s II Corps, was also “the only officer that I [Patton] have ever rated ‘Superior’ in all categories.”

Who was that officer with the superior tactical mind? The answer: Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes.

Despite Patton’s admiration, Keyes is relatively unknown today. Fortunately, Maj. Gen. (ret.) James W. Holsinger, Jr. brings him well-deserved attention with the publication of a new title in the AUSA Book Program, *Patton’s Tactician: The War Diary of Lieutenant General Geoffrey Keyes*.

This text—edited to include historical background and correspondence between Keyes, Patton, and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower—shows readers Keyes’ contributions throughout World War II, from preparations for the invasion of North Africa through the early days of the Cold War in Germany and Austria.

The Book Program sat down with General Holsinger to talk about *Patton’s Tactician*.



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NEW AUSA BOOK HIGHLIGHTS 'BEST TACTICAL MIND' OF WWII

Continued from previous page...

AUSA: What inspired you to tackle this project?

Holsinger: Since no biography of Keyes or history of II Corps in World War II has been written, the publication of Keyes' diary fills a void in the historiography of World War II. On a personal note, my father, Brig. Gen. James W. Holsinger, served as a senior II Corps and Seventh Army staff officer under General Keyes during World War II and the occupation of Germany. He considered Keyes to be an outstanding commander and role model. He would be delighted to see the accomplishments of his friend and mentor recognized by the publication of the diary.

AUSA: Patton was effusive in his praise for Keyes. How did he make such a strong impression?

Holsinger: Keyes was an outstanding officer, who served as a deputy to Patton at the division and corps level. By doing so, he was able to demonstrate his superb tactical ability thus earning high praise from Patton, who strongly supported Keyes' assignment as commander of II Corps and Seventh Army.

AUSA: What was Eisenhower's opinion of Keyes?

Holsinger: Eisenhower consistently demonstrated his strong support for Keyes, which is indicated by Keyes' assignment as Seventh Army commander in the occupation of Germany while Eisenhower served as Military Governor of Occupied Germany, then as American High Commissioner in Occupied Austria while Eisenhower served as Chief of Staff of the US Army.

AUSA: After taking command of II Corps, Keyes served under Lt. Gen. Mark Clark in Italy. How did he contrast Clark's style with Patton's?

Holsinger: Keyes clearly found Patton's style more decisive in nature than Clark's. Much of Keyes' unhappiness with Clark's headquarters is directed at the Fifth Army senior staff, which he found to be indecisive.

AUSA: What is one thing you'd like readers to take away from *Patton's Tactician*?

Holsinger: Readers of *Patton's Tactician* should recognize that Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes was a remarkable senior American officer in World War II and the early Cold War period. His superb tactical ability was demonstrated by his capture of Rome on June 4, 1944, his breaking the German defenses at Bologna in 1945, and his support for a free and independent Austria in the first years of the Cold War.

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to order a copy of *Patton's Tactician*.

Chaplain's Corner...



SPRING 2024

A SEASON OF HOPE, RENEWAL AND UNDERSTANDING

This afternoon I noticed my neighbors across the street entering their car. They were dressed in their traditional garb. The grandfather was wearing a white kufi (hat), flat on top, round, without a brim and three bright colorful bands. His pants, white cotton or possibly silk, like pajamas and his blouse also white with bright colors. His wife had a traditional robe and hijab to cover her hair. Their daughter was dressed like her grandmother. I asked if they were going to the mosque and the grandfather said yes. I replied, "Allah Bless You" as they left. The grandfather responded, "God Bless You."

Spring is a time for renewal. Many religions celebrate this season which brings the hope of warmer weather (not necessary for Houstonians), planting, flowers, gardens and short sleeved shirts (for those Northerners). The heritage of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Faiths all hail from the Middle East. This week initiated the seasons of Ramadan, Passover and Easter. Lent began three weeks ago. All three faiths stress the setting aside of time for reflection, fasting and focusing on our Creator and His work in our lives.

Fasting brings us into the times for renewing our lives through thinking and praying about our pleasures, our work and the sufferings which occurred to bring us to our current understanding of God's work in our lives. All three faiths remind us of our own sinfulness and shortfalls. They all bring us to a better understanding of our Holy Scriptures and what they tell us about our religious and faith heritage. They tell us the stories, metaphors, legends and actual histories of God's interaction with His people. The sufferings of the prophets and peoples are replete with completed prophecy, martyrdom, atrocities and God's miraculous interventions which show us that we are not forgotten; we are loved by God.

Passover, Easter and Ramadan all remind us that God brings us hope. Confession, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation has always been God's plan for His people. We are all His people. Christ's Resurrection and Israel's freedom from Egypt by crossing the Red Sea are two proofs of God's miraculous interventions. I am not familiar with those of the Muslim Faith but here in America it should not take courage to ask. We are all Americans. Faith is a hope builder. It need not be threatening for us to ask or to tell one another our stories of faith. Freedom of Speech is at the top of our Constitution. Perhaps we'll be able to better understand, trust and get to know one another.

~ *David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET*

MOAA – HA Chapter Meeting Saturday, February 24, 2024



Rob Ritchie



Rob Ritchie and LTC Sanchez – Guest Speaker



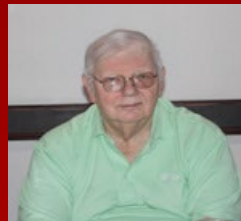
LTC Raise Sanchez, Guest Speaker



Alan Ostendorp



J.C. Nicholson



Gene Tulich



Ivan Santiago



Ed Memi and Diane Kalina



Dan Gutierrez



Rick Miller



Paul and Dee Brennan



Jennifer Collins



Kenneth Hopper



Belinda Coughlen



Mrs. Kenneth Hopper



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Denis Blindauer

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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: _____