



CENTEX MOAA NEWS

The CENTEX Chapter promotes the purposes of the national MOAA.

Fosters fraternal relations among retired, active duty, former officers and warrant officers of the 7 uniformed services and their reserve components.

Advocates/protects the rights and interests of the 7 uniformed services and their dependents and survivors.

Provides useful service opportunities for members, their dependents and survivors to serve the community and nation.

Special Interest Articles:

- * Changes for New Year
- * Membership
- * We Want You!
- * Legislative Update
- * What is a PAC?
- * Name Your News
- * Scholarships
- * Military Memories
- * Events and Activities

Central Texas Military Officers Association of America

New Initiatives

January 20, 2017, marked the beginning of the New Year for CENTEX MOAA, by the swearing in of the new board members. These dedicated volunteers will proudly serve the CENTEX MOAA for the next two years.

The mission of the CENTEXMOAA is to serve retired, active duty, former officers and surviving spouses by advocating military issues through legislative action

and to support ROTC and commission programs.

The chapter is in the process of becoming a 501 (c)3 Nonprofit Organization and revamping the constitution and by-laws to meet the criteria.

New design for website is under construction by Register.com and members can use PayPal to pay dues and make donations. No minutes of

meetings or the chapter membership list will be posted on the website. Photos of Board members will be posted with their position on the board.

Scholarships will now be awarded to selected graduating seniors who will be enrolled in an ROTC program at the University level.

President's Forum

March 17, meeting will be at 11:30 hours. Guest speaker will be COL (ret) Matt Ellidge, Senior Deputy Director of Veterans Programs for VLB. COL was previous Fort Hood Garrison Commander.

CENTEX MOAA is the best officer organization to join and to make a difference in the local community for veterans, to support our future nation's military leaders through ROTC scholarships, to encourage High School students to strive for excellence, and to join the Texas Council of Chapters

in advocating for legislation to support all veterans.

This year's legislative visit will be 29 March in Austin, Texas. We'll provide information to legislatures about important veteran legislation and the MOAA viewpoint.

Our CENTEX MOAA membership numbers continue to grow each month. As we expand, our reach and positive impact grow larger, not only for MOAA specific concerns, but for our entire veteran community.

Finally, we have excellent speakers at our luncheons.

If you attend a CENTEX MOAA lunch, you'll walk away better informed and enjoy the camaraderie and experience.

Don't wait.

Get involved now.



Legislative Update

Legislative Contacts list:

US Senators

Ted Cruz, Committee on

Armed Services

John Cornyn,

US House of

Representatives

Bill Flores

Max Thornberry, Committee
on Armed Services

Joaquin Castro, Committee
on Armed Services

K. Michael Conaway,
Committee on Armed
Services

Kay Granger, Committee on
Appropriations & Defense
Committee

John R. Carter, Committee

on Appropriations &
Subcommittee Chairman
Homeland Subcommittee

John A. Culberson,
Committee on
Appropriations &
Homeland Security
Subcommittee

Henry Cuellar,
Committee on
Appropriations &
Homeland Subcommittee

Beto O'Rourke,
Committee on Armed
Services

Marc A. Veasey,
Committee on Armed
Services

Roger Williams

John Carter

TX State Senator

Dawn Buchingham

TX House of Representatives

Scott Cosper

Hugh Shrine

J. D. Sheffield

**HR.846/S339 115th
Congress.** The *Military
Surviving Spouses Equity Act*
to amend title 10, US code, to
repeal the reduction of
survivor annuities under the
Survivor Benefit Plan by
veterans' dependency and
indemnity compensation, and
other purposes. Sponsors:
Rep. Joe Wilson, R.SC-2
Sen. Bill Nelson, D. FL
introduced 2/7/17

Scholarship News

Notifications will go out in April to 7 high schools in the area. Belton, Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Killeen, and Temple. This year the essay subject is: "*Traits of a Good Leader*" and applicants will be required to describe a person that exemplifies those traits in 750 to 1500 words.

Applications may be obtained from school counselors and ROTC Units. A school transcript, list of extracurricular activities, letters from teachers, proof of enrollment at a university

ROTC unit and the essay will be required as part of the application.

One \$1500 and one \$1000 scholarship will be awarded this year.

Scholarship committee and chapter members are encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony at Central Texas A&M and help present the new Lieutenants with a set of gold bars and a free one year MOAA membership. Date to be announced.

Our fund-raising efforts are more successful than ever. From the monthly raffles on door prizes to other campaigns. Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible.



List of Directors and Officers

President	Aaron Zook, Jr. COL USA (ret)	zookaaron@yahoo.com	254-319-5103
1 st Vice President	Dewitt Mayfield COL USA (ret)		
2 nd Vice President	Reggie Bass LTC USA (Ret)	rebass@hotmail.com	
Secretary	Tom Brautigan CW4 USA (ret)	tombrautigan@yahoo.com	254-913-8944
Treasurer	Tony Kosta LTC USA (Ret) Damon Pfaltzgraff LTC USA (Ret)		
Past President	Dick Archer former Cpt. USA		
Directors and Appointed	Dick Chapin LTC USA(ret) Ed Bandas Cpt. USMC(ret), Len Gulig LTC USAF(ret), Jeff Davison LTC USAF(ret)	dchapin77@gmail.com	
PAC	Charles Sweeney Maj USA (ret)	charles.sweeney47@aol.com	
Legislative	open		
Area Veteran's Advisory Committee	Pat Christ LTC USA(ret) John Grimme CW3 USA(ret)		
Social Committee	open		
Veterans Cemetery	Pat Christ		
Chaplain	Greg Schannep COL USA (ret)		
Public Relations	Koleta Thompson, Gold Star Wife	Mkthompson2013@icloud.com	
Scholarship	Bill Nance LTC USAF(ret)		
President Emeritus	Jack Oliver COL USAF(ret)		
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Mari Meyer widow		

Military Memories***This Distaff Side***

Long ago there was an Army helicopter pilot in my life. Let me tell you up front that I do not, nor have I ever known, make, model or tail numbers of aircraft. I do recognize CH 47's, Apache and Cobras.

The first knowledge of these flying machines was when my husband received orders to helicopter flight training. He was already a fixed wing pilot, and I wondered aloud why he needed/wanted to venture up in those little guppies that had big fans sitting on top. It was soon made clear: a pilot is a pilot is a pilot. The challenges of mastering winged and rotary craft is ingrained in their DNA.

At that time, 1960's, families were not encouraged to visit the flight line, get inside of helicopters nor ask questions about these intricate/complicated machines. "Why would wives want to even know about these things?" As usual, the little rebel in me, asked the questions. After all, the Army was sending him up, up and away from his family. Those gyros didn't look all that stable to me. "What made them lift off the ground with no wings? How did the pilots get out if the engine failed? Did the guppy float to the ground or just drop out of the sky? What were they going to be used for if they only flew so low?" I soon learned and realized that there was a plan, especially when my husband was sent off to Viet Nam. Actually, two plans. God's plan and the Army had one too.

I can't say that I was ever afraid of my husband's flying, but I was concerned about the places the Army sent him. At the time, Viet Nam was a hot button for most of the American public. Military families understood duty, honor, country but not everyone did. Protestors were vocal everywhere and their harsh words impacted military families.

The impact, in my life, came during the first 15-month tour when I went back to North Carolina. A next-door neighbor would often berate me for "letting" my husband go to Viet Nam. He said things to my children about their father "killing people, shooting them down from the sky and not even seeing what they were shooting at because they were killers and didn't care." It took a lot of prayer and patience to comfort and explain to an 8 and a 6-year-old that what the neighbor said was not true.

The second 15 month Viet Nam tour was different in that we were in a neighborhood of military affiliated families who knew what our pilots were doing to help South Vietnams people. We banded/bonded together to help each other. Our second son was born just after my husband left for Viet Nam and neighbors jumped in to baby sit the older children. They were the ones who picked us up from the hospital. "How did I get there?" I was working as an American Red Cross volunteer in Fort Wolters Hospital that day when I felt a twinge in my back. The physicians took one look and sent me upstairs to the delivery room.

My husband died of a souvenir that he picked up in Viet Nam, called Agent Orange. Many of our military personnel came home with this toxic chemical, unbeknownst to them, embedded in their bodies. My choice of places to live is near a military base where the CH47's, and other helicopters fly over my neighborhood. It is home.

It's a lot like hearing taps play: "Fading light dims the sight, and a star gems the sky, gleaming bright, from afar drawing night---Falls the night. Day is done, gone the sun, From the lake, from the hills from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Then goodnight, peaceful night, 'Til the light of the dawn shineth bright, God is near, do not fear---Friend, good night."

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Membership

Statistics 104 members

New Members:

Tom Clady

Contact Reggie Bass for chapter business cards and to order name tags. Name tags are \$10.

Member application on website: centexmoaa.com
Chapter dues \$25 payable in January every year.

What is a PAC?

Your **Personal Affairs Committee** is a small group of chapter who volunteer to assist members and particularly surviving spouses. Our goal is to have at least one representative from each service. We will help solve your problems related to your military service on how or where to get retired pay forms for your tax returns, you may have questions about renewing an ID, or what to do when your spouse dies. Many new

widows think their income stops now that the retired officer died... how will the rent or mortgage get paid? How can I arrange a burial or get a military honor guard? PAC can provide you with information and referrals. PAC previously included the chapter directory or very important phone numbers and actions to be taken that were time sensitive as well as actions that needed to be done soon. Surviving spouses may

not have the knowledge or documentation to receive all the benefits available from the Gov't and for which they are entitled. And your PAC can provide info to Gray Area Reservists / Guard... folks who have completed their years of service to retire, but have not reached age 60 to draw pay. If you need help, or have an interest in helping your fellow chapter members, please contact *Charles Sweeney, PAC Chairman*

Know a member who is sick or hospitalized? Now is the time to call PAC and arrange a visit or a call to help out".

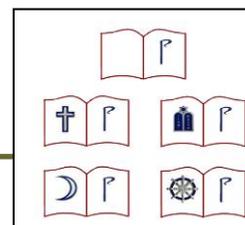
Chaplain's Corner

Do you know what today is?

'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.' Psalm 118:24
Today is all we have.
We can't change yesterday.
And we may not know what tomorrow may hold, ...
but we know Who holds tomorrow!

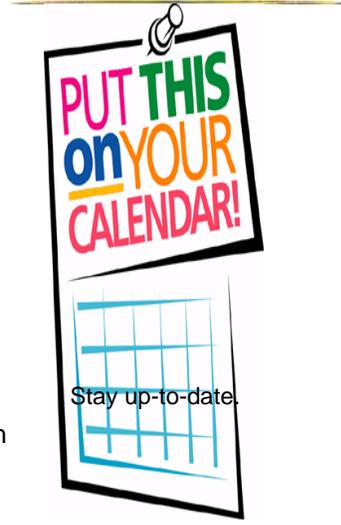
If you have a prayer request, you can text it to me to my cell phone at 254.449.6444
Of course, I will always hold our conversations in confidence.
Take care & God bless,
Greg

Life is short & God is good
... no matter what!
Pro Deo et Patria
Ezekiel 36:26



Events and Activities

- Holiday** January 1,2017
- Elect Officers** January 20,2017
- Executive Board meetings** Day before chapter meetings, 1700 hours Shilo Inn, Kille
- Chapter Scholarship Applications due**
- National Scholarship Applications due** March 1, 2018
- ROTC graduates** June Present bars and medals
- Spring BBQ** May 20 Franks Pavilion near Dead Fish Grill @Belton Lake
- Scholarship Fund Raiser** May 25 **Grand Avenue Theater, Belton** a portion of concessions sold go to CENTEX MOAA
- Chapter Monthly meetings** 11:30 hours Shilo Inn, Killeen, \$15. Register online: March 17, April 16, May 17, June 17, July 17, August 18, Sept. 17, Oct. 17, Nov. 17.
- CENTEX MOAA Picnic** July 22
- Fall social** September 16 Wildflower Country Club, Temple. Raffle tickets for Scholarship Fund
- Chapter Dues** January \$25.00
- Military History Symposium** October
- New Officers slate** November
- Surviving Spouse Coffee**
- VA Hospital Visit**



WE WANT YOU!

Editor’s Desk

One benefit of CENTEX MOAA is keeping in touch with likeminded people who value military service to our country and who are serving or who have served in the military arena. With this issue, we are introducing our new quarterly newsletter.

We would like to read about your memories of service. War stories, events in your career, experiences with

personnel, experiences at posts, bases, airfields, aboard ships, war zones, campaigns and deployments. Submit your stories of experiences, places stationed, events during your service, TRICARE benefits or anything chapter members may use to have a better quality of life.

You can write about a variety of topics, but try to keep your articles 700

words or less. Humorous, factual stories are welcome.

Please submit your article 2 weeks prior to the month of next issue. Some contributions may be edited for length to comply with newsletter space allocation.

email:
mkthompson2013@icloud.com
 Corporate Level sponsorship donations with benefits will be announced later.

Photographs are always welcome.



MOAA Central Texas
Chapter 22
PO Box 2986
Harker Heights, TX 76548-2986

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.centexmoaa.com

Name Your News

Now that we have initiated a new newsletter, we need your help in naming the publication.

Some suggestions are:

Brass News

Brass Bulletin

CENTEX MOAA News

Officer Slate

Centex Messenger

CENTEX MOAA Voice

Officer's Watch

CENTEX Times

Sound Off

Articles about:

Places to go in the local area.

Quality of life issues.

Great gyms, therapeutic pools, walking paths.

Gift giving ideas for

seniors who have everything or who have been everywhere.

National MOAA Goals

Tricare info @ Tricare.mil

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Editor: Koleta Thompson, email:mkthompson2013@icloud.com

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CENTEX MOAA
PO BOX 2986
Harker Heights, TX
76548-2986

