



# 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:

- \* Initiatives
- \* President's Forum
- \* Scholarships
- \* Member Survey
- \* In the News
- \* Good Deeds and PAC
- \* Chaplain's Corner
- \* What does it Mean to be a Veteran
- \* Quotable Quotes
- \* Events and Activities
- \* We Want You!

## *Central Texas Military Officers Association of America*

### New Initiatives

The chapter's 501(c)3 Public Nonprofit Organization designation is official and the Board is working on revised By-laws.

This means for members: Organization is governed by the Board of Directors who must comply with federal, state and local legal regulations and is fiscally responsible for organization.

Committees operate the budget, membership, public relations, personal affairs, fundraising, scholarships and other related projects or

programs. Each committee should have one officer of the board.

Organization may not participate in political campaigns nor offer financial support to candidates. Limited lobbying activities may be done, i.e. no substantial part of activities in politics. Less than 2%-5% of budget may be used to influence legislation as lobbying.

Must pay taxes on unrelated business income activities. Cannot make a substantial profit on unrelated business income.

Donors may make charitable donations and receive a tax deduction. Donors may not receive consideration (money, meals, favors) in return.

Organization may receive public and private funding through individuals, foundations or philanthropic organizations. May qualify for federal and state programs.

Must file a 990 form with IRS annually.

When the organization dissolves, the assets must go to another nonprofit organization.

### President's Forum

The June 16, meeting will be at 11:30 hours at Shilo Inn, Killeen, TX. Guest speaker will be MG (R) Ken Cox, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance. Website <http://hotda.org/index.html>

Make your reservations early on our newly updated website: [www.centexmoaa](http://www.centexmoaa). Bring a guest/potential member. CenTex MOAA has contracted for a minimum of 40 attendees for each lunch at Shilo Inn.

In order to serve our members better, I encourage all members to answer the survey in this newsletter. As the premier

officer organization in the Central Texas area, we want to meet your needs and grow in fostering excellence in MOAA and in our community. Keep up the great work!

Have you ever wondered if you're making a difference? Let me tell you a story.

My dad taught me to pitch. He coached me in little league. When I was selected to play on a Pony League team in Brussels, Belgium, both my mom and dad took me and my family, and watched the game. Even though my Dad wasn't directly

involved in coaching, I always wanted him to be there in support.

In MOAA, you may not be an officer, on the Board, or on a Committee, but we all need your support. Your presence, whenever possible, at our monthly meetings is critical to our success.

I appreciate your sacrifices in the military and the sacrifices of each spouse and family. Thanks for being a part of our great organization. We can and will make a difference! MOAA - one team, one fight.

## Legislative Update

### Legislative Contacts list:

#### US Senators

**Ted Cruz**, Committee on Armed Services  
**John Cornyn**,

#### US House of Representatives

**Bill Flores**  
**William Hurd**  
**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**

**TX State Senator Dawn Buchingham**

#### TX House of Representatives

Scott Cospers  
 Hugh Shrine  
 J. D. Sheffield

## Scholarship News

**“Traits of a Good Leader”** was the topic this year for scholarship applicants to address in their essays as part of their applications. Another part is proof of enrollment at a university ROTC unit.

Samuel Little from Temple High School received the CenTex MOAA \$1,500 ROTC Scholarship. Sam will be attending Texas A&M University next year enrolling in Navy ROTC.

Nataniel Urbina from Harker Heights High School received the CenTex MOAA \$1,000 Scholarship. Nataniel will be attending the University of Texas at San Antonio next year enrolling in Army ROTC.

### Graduation Ceremony at Central Texas A&M

May 13, 2017, Lt Col Bill Nance UASF (ret) and Koleta Thompson, Newsletter Editor, presented each new 2Lt with the MOAA Gold Bars, a congratulatory certificate

and a card for them to mail in for a one year Basic Membership in MOAA. BG Robert F. Whittle, Jr. ADC for 1CD was the guest speaker.

Other dignitaries attending were Dr. Nigliazzo, President of TAMU-CT and Dr. Yeonopolus, President of CTC. Dr. Nigliazzo personally thanked us for our continued support of the TAMU-CT ROTC program.

ALL nine of the 2LTs were commissioned for active duty and seven of the nine were Green-to-Gold.

Commissioned Officers are: Alexander J. Gebhart, Kiasha M. Hamilton, Enrique C. Martinez, Lance E. McGill, Ricardo Medina-Sanchez, Melvin Monroe, Kateicha Ivette Rosado Cruz, Kelly C. Steele, and Jasmine L. V. Thompson

### JROTC LEADERSHIP MEDAL WINNER

Cadet Sirena Woodall, Killeen HS recipient of the CenTex MOAA JROTC Leadership Medal. Cadet Woodall has been appointed to the United States Naval Academy Class of 2021 and will report for Cadet Basic Training at the end of June 2017. She would like to commission in the USMC as an Aviator.



## Member Survey

1. Why did you join CenTex MOAA?
2. Are your special skills and talents used in helping the chapter achieve our goals?
3. Has anyone thanked you for your service to the chapter?
4. How could membership in MOAA help you gain experience? (choose all that apply or add your own ideas)  
Leadership? Working in Committees? Community Awareness?
5. What MOAA services do you like?
6. What services do you not like?
7. How does the chapter add value to the communities?
8. Do you feel a part of the chapter?
9. How does the chapter engage you? (Choose all that apply) Education? Advocacy? Share information? News Letter? Lunch meetings? Social activities? Email? Website? Speakers? Community Projects? Scholarship Fund?
10. What do you think we could do to attract new members?
11. Does the chapter need to have a special project to help in the communities? In Killeen? In Gatesville? In Belton? In Temple? In Lampasas? In Kempner?

**Send your responses by June 30, 2017** to CenTex MOAA, PO Box 2986, Harker Heights, TX 76548-2986 or email to [mkthompson2013@icloud.com](mailto:mkthompson2013@icloud.com)

## In the News

Excerpt from the March 2017 MOAA Magazine

### “WIDOW’S TAX’ COSTS FAMILIES OF FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS \$15,000 EACH YEAR”

Susie Brodeur was living in Alaska with her 3- and 7-year old children when her husband, Air Force Maj. David Brodeur, was killed in an insider attack during a 2011 deployment to Afghanistan. After Major Brodeur’s death, Susie moved her family to her home state of Colorado, away from their military network in Alaska. She saved up to buy a house and has been raising her children as a single parent ever since. “Money can be tight”, she says. With her children still coping with their dad’s death, Brodeur is careful not to work too many hours. But the loss of her husband’s income was a big adjustment. Military spouses who lose a servicemember on active duty and some spouses of retirees who die from service-connected illnesses or injuries receive a monthly benefit payment called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA. (The tax-free payment comes out to about \$1,258 per month.) Spouses also can receive Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity payments if their servicemember opted into the voluntary program at retirement, and spouses whose servicemember died while on active duty automatically receive SBP annuity payments.

**But** current law requires every dollar spouses receive in DIC benefits be **deducted** from their SBP annuity payment. That offset leaves most surviving spouses losing out on about \$15,000 annually, in what’s often referred to as the “widows tax.” “The fact that the government is withholding that from us is really sad,” Brodeur says. “It really surprises me that they’re not taking care of all families as well as they possibly can”. After several years of advocacy from MOAA and The Military Coalition, Congress agreed and authorized a special allowance in 2008, which helps survivors recoup a portion of the offset. That Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) serves as a rebate, giving spouses of the fallen an additional \$310 per month - equal to about 25 percent of what they lose from the SBP/DIC offset.

Now the future of that allowance is at risk too, since it's set to expire at the end of May 2018. Losing SSIA would leave families like Brodeur's down \$3,720 annually. MOAA urges lawmakers to take another look at the widow’s tax. Congress should end the SBP/DIC offset entirely - or at least extend and increase the SSIA to help make up the difference, says Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA’s vice president of Government Relations. “The SBP/DIC offset is grossly unfair and should be repealed,” Merry says. “When military service causes the death of the servicemember, VA indemnity pay [DIC] should be paid in addition to the SBP annuity - not subtracted from it.” Brodeur is one of more than 60,000 military spouses who lose a portion of their SBP annuity each month.

**HR.846/S339 115<sup>th</sup> 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

## Membership

Statistics **108 members**

### New Members:

Rodney Thomas CW4(R)

Rich Miller CW5 (R)

Ronald Meyer CW4 (R)

Mary Ann Rothwell

Surviving Spouse

Join your local MOAA and enjoy fellowship and exchange information with

our members. Go to website and follow the prompts to print an application. Then send the completed form to me: *Reggie Bass, 5825 Greenforest Circle, Killeen TX 76543* or call 254-291-9522. Our annual dues are \$25.00 due January of each year.

Hope to see you soon.

I have chapter business

cards and to order name tags. Name tags are \$10.

Member application on website:

[www.centexmoaa.com](http://www.centexmoaa.com)

Chapter dues \$25 payable in January every year.

Opportunities are available for **Board Leadership** now. Send your name and interest to me today.




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*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”.*

## Good Deeds

Good Deeds are part of your Personal Affairs Committee. When someone is, sick or hospitalized we do or can do these things:

Walk your dog. Take the dog or cat to the veterinarian. Bring you a meal. Order a meal to be brought to you. Drive you to a doctor's appointment. Water your plants. Call your friends or neighbors.

If you need help, or have

an interest in helping your fellow chapter members, please contact *Charles Sweeney, PAC Chairman*

We all recognize the Good Deeds of Sarah and Jeff Davison for all their contributions to and for our Social Events and activities. Kudos to them and others who make our Social Events Awesome and give us the

opportunities to support the Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to our sponsors of prizes:

- \* Adolphus Hotel
- \* Historic Menger Hotel
- \* Jennifer's Nails
- \* L&R Meats
- \* T-Bonze Fried Catfish
- \* Michele Clanci-Strata
- \* Dead Fish Grill

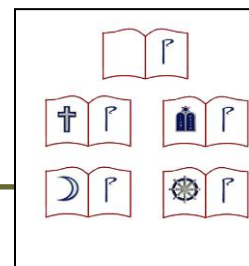
## Chaplain's Corner

Lord, Lord, Lord.  
In the silence of Your house this morning,  
Teach us to breathe spiritually.

Teach us to pray as naturally as we breathe  
For when we pray,  
We breathe in the Holy Spirit of God. (**Breath in** and let it quickly quietly out.)

Help us in this peaceful place, to understand  
That we do not have to speak to You in long formal sentences.

We can simply send you our breath prayers,  
As we breath out the air. (**Breath in** quietly and loudly **Breath out**...)  
Just as we say, (*breathlessly*)  
"Thank You Lord for listening".  
Amen.



Events and Activities

- Holiday** January 1,2017
- Elect Officers** January 20,2017
- Executive Board meetings** Day before chapter meetings,1700 hours Shilo Inn, Killeen
- Chapter Scholarship Applications due** April 1, 2017
- National Scholarship Applications due** March 1, 2018
- ROTC graduates** May Present bars and medals
- Spring BBQ** May 20 11:30-1400 hours 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: May 19, June 16, July 21, August 17, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17.
- Fall social** October 21 Wildflower Country Club, Temple. Raffle tickets for Scholarship Fund
- Chapter Dues** January \$25.00
- Military History Symposium** October 14 Topic: **“100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWI”**
- Retiree Day Ft Hood** October 28 Carl R. Darnall Medical Center
- New Officers slate** November 17



Stay up-to-date.



**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.

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, or anything chapter members enjoy learning about. Try to keep your articles 700 words or less. Humorous, factual stories are welcome.

Articles due 2 weeks prior to the month of next issue. Some contributions may be edited for length to comply with newsletter space allocation.

Email articles to:  
[mkthompson2013@icloud.com](mailto:mkthompson2013@icloud.com)

Your donations to the Scholarship Fund are fully tax deductible. Plan to attend the Fall Social to take part in the great opportunities to win prizes to support our Scholarship Fund.

We are proud to recognize recent donors to the Scholarship Fund:

**VFW Post 4008 Belton**

**VFW Post 1820 Temple**

*Thank you and all your members!*

*Photographs are always welcome.*

*Centex BBQ Belton Lake 5/20/17*





## What Does It Mean to Be a Veteran?



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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.centexmoaa.com](http://www.centexmoaa.com)

Facebook too!

Members let us know what they think it means to be a veteran.

*"Duty, Honor, Country. Still the best motto for serving! The fellowship, team spirit cannot be*

*found in any other place. Serving this great Nation is a high honor. And the faith of many sustain us also!"*

*"It means to have a tie to my brothers who have*

*also worn a uniform, regardless of my experience.*

*"Brotherhood of Veterans. Honor. Courage. Respect. Sacrifice"*

### Sound Off: Quotable Quotes of the Month

**"I can fly anything".** -- Statement by a 2Lt just out of flight school.

**"There are those who have had crashes, and there are those who are waiting to have one".** --Statement by Instructor Pilot at flight school to new pilots.

**"Make sure he has a good breakfast at 4 am before he hits the flight line at 5 am. No boiled eggs, apples or beans,"** --Flight surgeon's words to wives at primary flight school at wives briefing.

**"It don't mean nothing".** --

**"Silence is compliance".** --

**"You will die in Viet Nam".** -- Threatened to be sent to VN when goof off.

**"Good soldiers do it right when no one is looking."**— LTG Paul Funk, Jr

**"We stand on the shoulders of giants. Thank you on behalf of my generation.**

**Thank you for your service."** -- LTG Paul Funk, Jr. to CenTex MOAA members.

**"Make sure your unit is ready to deploy, fight and win. Take care of your soldiers and families. Do the right thing."** -- BG Robert F. Whittle, Jr. to new 2Lts at TXA&MU-CT Army ROTC Commissioning.

**"I didn't say that I was better than you. I said I was a helicopter pilot. The rest is just understood."**

Send us the quotes you remember from service days, who said them and/or the circumstances under which they were said.

#### DISCLAIMER

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

