



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.org. Bring a guest/potential member. CentTex 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 Buckingham

TX House of Representatives

Scott Cosper

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.

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

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

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

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 “widow’s 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 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

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

Chapter dues \$25 payable
in January every year.

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



**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

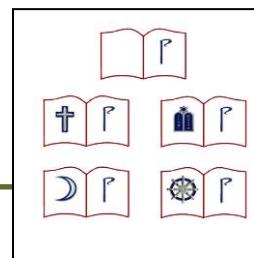
Chaplain's Corner

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	 PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!
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 sold go to CENTEX MOAA	May 25 Grand Avenue Theater, Belton a portion of concessions	
Chapter Monthly meetings June 16, July 21, August 17, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17.	11:30 hours Shilo Inn, Killeen, \$15. Register online: May 19,	
Fall social Scholarship Fund	October 21 Wildflower Country Club, Temple. Raffle tickets for	
Chapter Dues	January \$25.00	
Military History Symposium	October 14 Topic: " 100th Anniversary of WWI "	
Retiree Day Ft Hood	October 28 Carl R. Darnall Medical Center	
New Officers slate	November 17	

**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

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*





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

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.centexmoaa.com
Facebook too!



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

What Does It Mean to Be a Veteran?

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

The MOAA Newsletter is published quarterly by the CENTEX MOAA, an affiliate of MOAA, and is intended primarily for distribution to, and noncommercial use by, members and associates of the Chapter and MOAA. MOAA and CENTEX MOAA are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Editor: Koleta Thompson, email:mkthompson2013@icloud.com
Permission for reproduction of locally generated articles is hereby granted, with appropriate credit, to other MOAA chapters, or publications serving the military community, active, reserve, or retired.