



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.

Website:
Centexmoaa.org

Special Interest Articles:

- * New Officers of the Board
- * President's Forum
- * Legislative Update
- * Scholarship News
- * Military Discounts
- * Spotlight on Members
- * Membership
- * Events and Activities
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Central Texas Military Officers Association of America

New Officers of the Board

January 19, 2018, Guest speaker will be GEN J D Thurman and begins the New Year with the swearing in of the new board members:

President: Dewitt Mayfield
1st VP: Dick Archer
2nd VP: Reggie Bass
Secretary: Tom Brautigan
Treasurer: Tony Kosta
Past President: Aaron Zook

Appointed:

AVAC: John Grimme
Scholarship Chair: Bill Nance
Social Chairs: Jeff Davison & Michele Cianci
Surviving Spouse Liaison: Koleta Thompson
Chaplin: Greg Schannep
Legislative Chair: Pat Christ
Personal Affairs: Charles Sweeney

Public Relations: Koleta Thompson
President Emeritus: Jack Oliver
Directors: 2018 Charles Sweeney, Ed Bandas, 2018-19: Dick Chapin, Pat Christ, 2019-20: Michele Cianci, Lou Gulig

These dedicated volunteers will proudly serve the CenTex MOAA for the next two years.

“Exciting Days Ahead” says President Aaron Zook

By the time this newsletter hits the streets, our new 2018 MOAA CenTex Chapter President, Dewitt Mayfield, Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army, will be ready to assume his position and lead our Chapter to new heights. He will contribute greatly to the legacy of our Chapter.

I smile when I think over the past two years that I have served as President for our Chapter. I've enjoyed the excellent meetings, superb speakers, but best of all, great friends—comrades in arms. Everything we accomplished has been due to the hard work of our terrific officers and those on the Board of Directors.

My hat is off to the following who have served as officers on our Board during the past two years: Past President Dick Archer, my mentor; 1st VP, Dewitt Mayfield who has fielded superb speakers for our

group; 2nd VP, Reggie Bass who has taken care of new members and nominations for our officer slates; Secretary, Charles Sweeney (2016) and Tom Brautigan (2017) who both have done incredible behind the scenes work, Treasurer, Tony Kosta, a pillar of stability. Other appointed positions and Board Officers were Greg Schannep, Chapter Chaplain, our spiritual leader, President Emeritus, Jack Oliver, Social Committee Chair/Fund-Raising Chair, Jeff Davison (and his wife Sarah) who have raised the capabilities and finances for our Scholarship Fund, which Chair, Scholarship Committee, Bill Nance has masterfully managed for many years; Pat Christ, our consistent representative to the Texas Council of Chapters, legislative issues liaison, and co-representative

of AVAC with John Grimme; Leona May DeGraw (Personal Affairs Chair 2016 (Charles Sweeney 2017)); Mari Meyer, Surviving Spouses Liaison, Koleta Thompson, serving faithfully as our Public Affairs Chair, Ed Bandas, Dick Chapin, and Len Gulig.

Without each of these incredible individuals, all who contributed in ways invisible the members, our organization would not have grown or consistently served others in our community as we have in the past two years.

I look forward to the coming year and our new leadership. Thanks for the opportunity to serve! Aaron M. Zook, Jr. COL, U.S. Army (Ret) President 2017, CenTex MOAA



Legislative Update

Texas Voters passed the **Texas Constitutional Amendment: Proposition 1**. This amendment is a **homestead exemption for partially donated homes of disabled veterans.** "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing

certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.

SBP

Unfortunately, HR.846 and S.339, *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*, and end the widows tax, has not passed.

Speaker Prevue

February

Lt Gen P.K. Carlton,
USAF (Ret)
Former Surgeon USAF

March

Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins,
President National MOAA



Colonel Richard Best USA,
(R) Commander VFW Post
presents Colonel Jeff
Davison UASF (R) check
for CenTex MOAA Scholarship Fund



Scholarship News

Notifications will go out in February to 7 high schools in the area. Belton, Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Killeen, and Temple. This year the essay subject to be announced 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.

Applications are due back in April, 2018.

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

The Scholarship Fund is doing well. More than \$4000 has been raised from the monthly ticket sales and the October Raffle and Social. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

Thanks again to Sarah and Jeff Davison for the success of the October Social event and the raffle. Jeff has served as Social Chair with great distinction. He has also, arranged the raffle fund raiser for The Scholarship Fund for many years.

Assistant to Secretary and Treasurer Wanted:

We need your volunteer services to raise funds to continue to build our Scholarship Fund to help more students and maybe to increase the amount of each award. So step up to the plate and join a great team!

Military Discounts

Military discounts are all around us. Some offer better deals than others. Some are advertised. Some are little known secrets that are revealed only when requested. Some expire, some are seasonal, and some last forever. Some military discounts are custom-made for service members.

- 1. Disney:** Through Disney's Armed Forces Salute program, military personnel can get discounted tickets to Disney theme parks, as well as discounts off select rooms at Disney Resort hotels. These deals are good for military spouses of eligible service members even without the member being present.
- 2. Amusement Parks:** Busch Gardens or Sea World or Colonial Williamsburg. Make sure you call ahead, check their website, or visit your local ITT office to ask about military discounts.
- 3. Deployment Items:** Sweet Dream Picture Pillows offers free pillows to children of deployed service members. Celebrate the end of a deployment with a memorable homecoming? BuildASign offers free homecoming banners.
- 4. Home Depot/Lowes/Discount Tire:** 10% year-round military discount.
- 5. Restaurants:** Hard Rock Cafe, Greene Turtle, Ryan's, Melting Pot, lots of restaurants offer military discounts. Even though some chain restaurants like Chick-Fil-A may offer a military appreciation night or a discount in one location, it doesn't mean all of them do
- 6. Clothing and accessories:** Stores like Old Navy, Banana Republic, New York and Company, Rack Room Shoes, Payless and many, many more. Some stores offer discounts both in store and online, call or check the website for details.
- 7. Cruises:** cruise lines like Norwegian Cruise Line, MSC Cruises and Disney Cruise Line and book your trip through MOAA.
- 8. Home Décor:** Kirkland's, Sam's Club, BJ's, Costco and Build.com.
- 9. Movie theaters:** Cinemark and Regal offer military discounts on tickets.
- 10. Target** matches Amazon, Costco and Sam's prices and you don't have the membership fees.

Spotlight on Member *Colonel Aaron Zook, Jr*

By the time Aaron Zook was 10 years old he knew he wanted to become a member of the military. His dad, as an Air Force NCO, took him to the flight line to watch the jets take off at Soesterberg Air Base, Netherlands. Aaron enlisted in the USAF in January 1974 to see the world. By becoming a Korean Linguist, he began his journey.

The first permanent duty was in Okinawa, Japan after the training and technical schools including Airborne. But, he didn't stop there. He served 2 years inactive Reserve while attending Penn State University, then applied for OCS and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. US Army in 1984. His initial plan was to advance to General and he served his country well to retire as a Colonel in 2009.

Aaron looks for areas to serve others through organizational leadership, performing to achieve excellence in any endeavor. He is a generalist, visionary, and creative leader who enjoys working with other leaders for the betterment of their organization or community. When working with others, he enjoys spending time learning who they are and what they would like to accomplish.

Looking back, his favorite assignment was Okinawa, Japan where it is sunny, warm, tropical paradise and where he met his wife, Joyce. She has enjoyed every assignment as a family. Even understanding the necessity of deployments and long training exercises. He even enjoyed the duty at the Pentagon in the Personnel Transformation Directorate. He keeps in touch with a network of friends he made throughout the military including his best friend while he served in Goeppingen, Germany and began his affiliation in the Officer's Christian Fellowship.

One of the funniest things to happen to him was in basic training where he was on fire-watch. "We were not to allow anyone, no matter what, into our area through the only entrance (a steel fire-door) unless they were recognized as a Training Instructor (TI) and showed their ID card. A TI came by to test me. After he ranted and raved, pounded on the door, and threatened me with a court-martial, I opened the door. He didn't show me his ID card. Needless to say, I was in hot water! I ended up scrubbing the showers with a toothbrush for what seemed like 3 days."

Organization, proactive leadership, connecting with others and strategic thinking are the key components in the training and experiences that we should use in other organizations when one retires. "Whether it's an organization such as MOAA or something different, our hearts should be bettering the world in the local or national way. Until the end time arrives for each person, great or small, we can contribute to the very end."

The military is an "excellent place to start. It might not be the right career path for many, but it does not fit all. The military is exciting, adventurous, enjoyable, and world-spanning—a great way to serve our country. If you want to figure out what is the right thing to do in your life, the training and experiences of the military will be a superb foundation to begin your journey into adulthood."

Some examples of the confidence and will to succeed in the military are:

"If your desire is to be in a place where you can be paid for your work every month as long as you perform the minimum requirements, the military provides a place for that person. If you desire to obtain confidence and determination, the basics of the military will help instill that in any individual as long as they are willing to learn. For those who already have confidence and will to succeed, becoming a senior NCO or officer provides the opportunities to lead others and to succeed in many ways."

"Officers never stop serving."



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Ft Hood Retiree Day



Membership

New Members:

Ted VanLief, W4 (ret)

Shirley McClintock
Auxiliary

Sarah Davison, Auxiliary

Membership is the role of every member in the chapter. Grow our chapter and help our military personnel and families,

MOAA is depended on to advocate for them. You can do this by contacting potential members and bringing them to a meeting. "Every member bring a new member!"

Applications are on website: centexmoaa.org. Chapter dues \$25 payable in January every year.

Chapter business cards and name badges may be ordered.

All votes are done in person at the November meeting for Board Officers. No proxies, no emails, no texts, no other method for voting.

PAC

Your **Personal Affairs Committee** is a small group of chapter members who volunteer to assist members and particularly surviving spouses. Our goal is to have at least one representative from each service.

If you have an interest in helping your fellow chapter members, please contact *Charles Sweeney*,

Good News

Texas A&M ROTC Commissioning Ceremony was December 9, 2018. CentTex MOAA members participate in these ceremonies when we give certificates and pins to the commissioned officers.

A one-year membership to MOAA is our gift to newly commissioned officers. Centex MOAA members are encouraged to be there to welcome potential CentTex MOAA members!

Faith's Corner

I wish you a Happy New Year!

We all hear it and say it, especially during this time each year, "Happy New Year"!

We all hope 2018 is a "happy" one.

The truth is we don't know what a year may bring for us, and it is probably a good thing we don't know.

For some of us it will be a Happy New Year. Unfortunately, for others of us it may not be so happy.

Happiness depends on what "happens" to us. I'd rather live more proactive and not wait to see what happens to me.

Your New Year doesn't have to depend on what the future will bring your way.

We can be "Happy" when our restless hearts find our rest in Him. "Cast all your cares on Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

I don't know about you, but that assurance brings more "happiness" to me than an unknown future.

So,... I wish you a Happy New Year!

Greg Schannep, USA COL(Ret) Chaplain

Events and Activities

| | |
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| Holiday | January 1,2018 |
| Chapter Dues Due | NOW This month! |
| New Officers Swear In | January 19, 2018 |
| Chapter Monthly meetings | Third Fridays, 11:30 hours Shilo Inn, Killeen, \$15. Register online |
| Spring Social | February 3, 6pm – 8pm, Stage Coach Inn, Salado, TX \$20 |
| Executive Board meetings | Day before chapter meetings,1700 hours Shilo Inn, Killeen |
| National Scholarship Applications due | March 1, 2018 |
| Chapter Scholarship Applications due | April 1, 2018 |
| Golf Tournament | April 2018 Clear Creek Golf Club, Ft Hood, TX |
| Belton Lake Cookout | May 19, 2018,11:30-1400, Pavilion next to Frank’s Marina |
| Scholarship Fund Raiser sold go to CENTEX MOAA | May Grand Avenue Theater, Belton a portion of concessions |
| ROTC graduates | June Present bars and medals |
| Fall social | Wildflower Country Club, Temple. Raffle tickets for Scholarship Fund |
| National MOAA Meeting | October 22-26,2018, Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, Arlington, VA |
| New Officers slate | November 16. 2018 |
| No meeting December | Now would be a great time to visit the VA Home in Temple |



WE WANT YOU!

Editor’s Desk

Keep in touch with other members and families and learn what is news with MOAA.

Please submit your (700 word or less) articles 2 weeks prior to the month of the next issue. Issues go out the first **of January, April, August and December.**

Some contributions may be edited to comply with newsletter space allocation. email: mkthompson2013@icloud.com

Auxiliary Memberships

Open to all spouses and surviving spouses of members who are paid up members of MOAA and CenTex MOAA.

Join the fun. Pay your Auxiliary membership dues now. Help raise funds for the Scholarships and spread the word about spousal military benefits. Help plan events to benefit CenTex MOAA. Sign up today.

If you know of potential

members, please invite them to join at our next meeting or invite them to the next social.

It’s a great way to meet new people and see old friends.

Ft Hood Retiree Day





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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.centexmoaa.com

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CentexMOAA/>



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

Important Birthdays

- US ARMY**, June 14, 1775
- US Navy**, October 13, 1775
- US Air Force**, September 18, 1944
- US Coast Guard**, August 4, 1790
- US Marine Corp**, November 10, 1775
- Public Health Service**, July 16, 1798
- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration**, December 5, 1807
- National Guard**, December 13, 1636
- Flag Day**, June 14, 1775

Quotable Quotes

"When the warriors are all beaten into submission by the cries of the weak minded and weak of heart; who then will defend the nation of these weak souls living in it?" --A Tired CW4 Apache Warrior

"Backyard soldier" is one that lives nearby and goes home on weekend.

"Kill something every day just to maintain proficiency." -- Infantry NCO

"One digit midget" = 9 days left on enlistment.

Never worry about the bullet with your name on it. Watch out for one addressed, "to whom it may concern."

"Get up early. War starts at

the break of day." --MG (Ret) Alvin Gillian

"I never trust a fighting man who doesn't smoke or drink." --ADM Elmo R. Zumwalt, JR

HOOAH is an acronym for HUA or Heard, Understand, Acknowledged.

ROAD = Retired on Active Duty

DISCLAIMER

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