President’s Message

“New Beginnings”

It is my distinct pleasure to Welcome Aboard four more new members for 2014:
Dr. Stephen B. Montgomery, LTC, USA-Ret wife Carol
CPT Kenneth J. Werres, USA-Ret
Maj Jennifer L. Werres, USAF-Ret.
Maj George Marshall, USAF, wife Janet

The Werres even attended their first monthly luncheon in September. When you get a chance, “Meet and Greet” these new members and enjoy their new fellowship!

As I mentioned in last month’s newsletter, our Chapter has started our Membership Drive for 2015. Our Secretary, LTC Eugene Vecera, has been very successful in attaining from MOAA National a list of Charter non-affiliated National Members who live in our Greater Houston-Galveston area; it’s only 2316 names long! Your Board has agreed to start with the 848 Life Members first. And we need the membership’s help!

Your outstanding Board is fulfilling all of their duties and responsibilities, so we really need your help with this Project. Please read the article about this subject elsewhere in this month’s Newsletter, and become a Project Volunteer.

To our Jewish members and friends, I hope you had a Happy Rosh Hashanah last month and will have a Blessed Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, this month.

My apologies to all for missing the September luncheon: I was quite ill and had no voice. However, I hope to see you all at this month’s luncheon on October 25th. Please invite a potential new member!

ACTA NON VERBA "DEEDS NOT WORDS"

Very Respectfully,

CAPT Kerry B. Magee, USNR-Ret., President

Newsletter of MOAA Houston Area, October 2014, p. 1
MOAA Houston Area
Board Meeting
Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tues. Oct. 21, 11:30
Rudi Lechner’s
2503 S. Gessner

Future Meeting 11/18

All members are welcome.

MOAA
Houston Area
Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday Oct. 25
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet St
(near S. Gessner)
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad
Roast Pork Loin w/Apple Brandy Sauce
OR
Lightly Blackened Catfish w/Garlic Butter Sauce
Sweet Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea
Pecan Ball
$30

RSVP to Jeannette Evans, 281.495.2202 by Mon. 10/13 10 a.m.

See you there!

MOAA-HA
$ Treasurer’s Report
October 1, 2014

Receipts $ 920.
Expenses 1,765.
Balance $ 5,995.98

Martin J. Harris, Treas.
Maj USMC Ret.

Newsletter ad prices: the per-issue prices are $200 for a full page if paid monthly, discounted to $180 if paid annually; $90 for a half-page, $50 for a quarter-page ad, and $20 for a business card size.

Membership Directory ad prices are $300 for inside back cover (inside front cover is taken); $100 for full page inside; $50 for half page inside; $25 quarter page inside.

All ad prices are discounted 10% for payment for a year in advance.

2014 MOAA-HA Meetings
11/20 (MOWA)
12/6 (Dinner-Dance)

Speaker for October 25

DR. ROBERT IVANY
President, University of St. Thomas

In 2004 Dr. Robert Ivany became the eighth president of the University of St. Thomas, one of the great Catholic universities in America. He retired from the Army as a Major General having led soldiers in the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Germany and Vietnam, where he was wounded in action and decorated for valor.

After his Army service, he joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Business, Columbia University, as an adjunct professor in Executive Education. He worked with senior executives in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States in leader development, strategic planning, and cultural change. At the University of St. Thomas, he teaches leadership in the Cameron School of Business.
Bob has received many honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom, the Humanitarian Medal from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Association, the Americanism Award from the DAR, the George Washington Award for Distinguished Service from the SAR, and the Director’s Award from the United States Secret Service. The Republic of Hungary awarded him the Officer’s Cross, Order of Merit in 2012.

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Bugging you for money each month is not my idea of fun; however, we are supporting a worthy cause: The Houston Corps of Cadets. Your gift is tax-deductible by the University of Houston. Please take upon yourself to break out of few bucks by check and send it in to the tax-deductible Houston Corps of Cadets at the U of H. The form is in this Newsletter. You won’t regret it.

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.

SAVE THE DATE
Feb. 2015: Storm the Hill!

Who wants to help by contacting Texas members of Congress about upcoming legislation that affects us? Contact Eugene Vecera (email preferred, see page 1, VP) and let him know!

CHRISTMAS DANCE
NOW CHANGED TO FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5, AT
BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB’

Mark your calendars now for the first Friday in December, as we gather at 6, bring Toys for Tots, Install our 2015 Officers, and enjoy the Best DJ in Houston!

50th Anniversary
Vietnam War
1965-2015

All three years, 2015-17, there will be many events, so be mindful of this very special anniversary.

USAA Salute to Our Nation's Military Veterans

Special Luncheon for YOU

Monday, Nov. 10, 11:30

Maggiano’s Little Italy
2019 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston TX 77056

USAA, which has been such a great supporter and sponsor of ours for so many years, wants to do even more for us! They have scheduled a “MOAA Veterans Day Appreciation Luncheon” for up to 50 of our members, just as a thank-you. This is so special, and we hope we fill their capacity. The cost is FREE,

This will be the day before Veterans Day, such a meaningful holiday for our members.

If you can attend, let Mitch Seaborn know as soon as you can, but the deadline is 10/31:

MITCH SEABORN
MitchSeaborn@gmail.com
Phone: 281-409-2122

SHALOM! PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Kerry B. Magee
CAPT USNR-RET
Interim Chaplain

Newsletter of MOAA Houston Area, October 2014, p. 3
Report: Our Sept. Speaker

The Chairman of the Board of Honor Flight Houston, Ms. Ashley French, spoke at the September monthly MOAA-HA chapter meeting. The purpose of “Honor Flight” is to get WWII Veterans to visit Washington, DC—especially to see the WWII Memorial on the mall.

Started in 2004 by a Physician Assistant who was treating Vets at an Ohio VA hospital, the Houston branch began in 2013. Veterans are served on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to WWII and those with terminal illnesses. Funding comes from private donors and corporations.

Flights are on Southwest airlines and usually leave Hobby airport on a noon flight on a Saturday and return from Washington on Sunday in the evening (2 days). Applications may be submitted to Honor Flight Houston, PO Box 690545, Houston, TX 77269. Website is honorflighthouston.org; email contactus@honorflighthouston.org. Ms. French was an outstanding speaker and had many members come up to her after her presentation to talk. She wants all our members who are eligible, to sign up for the next flight!

(Thanks to Col. Eugene Vecera for this write-up.)

Can You Help?

MOAA Members in Houston Area

As we mentioned last month, Eugene Vecera has obtained from MOAA the list of members of MOAA (national) who live in the Houston area. We would like to get started on mailings to these prospects and need your help stuffing envelopes to the 800+ who are Life Members.

We can get this first phase of the project done at BraeBurn after the October meeting. Please call Kerry Magee, 979-236-2415, if you can help and plan to stay just a while after the meeting is concluded.

Photos From Our Sept. Meeting

Thank you again, COL Andy Parsons, for these great photos!

New Member Maj George Marshall, USAF, friend of Bill & Janice Taylor

New members CPT Ken Werres Army, and wife Maj Jennifer Werres, AF

Jean and Past-Pres Ervin Eggleston, feeling better!

WINNER Jennifer Werres with Maj Martin Harris, Treasurer

VOTE

NOV. 4

Newsletter of MOAA Houston Area, October 2014, p. 4
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Saturday
October 11
Retiree Appreciation Day
Ellington Field

Call Maj. Martin Harris, 713-436-0429, if you can help man our booth. Times begin at 8 a.m., done by 2 p.m.

Your trip will informative speakers and information booths to include the VA claims office and service organizations.

Of great interest is that there will be 4 ID card makers!

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MILITARY HISTORIES

The Board discussed a great new worthwhile project: Getting the military histories of our members recorded in a permanent form. We would like a volunteer to help with this project. Please call Don Couch, 713-782-5876, or by email, couchdon@hotmail.com. More details to come.

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TAPS

Lucy Sommers, who was a very active member of BOTH MOAA-HA and the Auxiliary until her health failed, passed away on Thursday, September 25, 2014, just two days after her 100th birthday. Our prayers are with her family.

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RIP GENERAL GREENE

Two-star Major General Harold Greene was killed in Afghanistan on August 5, 2014, while serving his country in pride for 34 years. As of 1972, he was the highest ranking officer in the military killed in action since the Vietnam war. He was buried August 14 in the Arlington National Cemetery.

He was buried with full military honors, including a caisson, two escort platoons, casket team, firing party, colors team, and a caparisoned horse. The U.S. Army band, “Pershing’s Own,” played softly as the funeral procession made its way down the long hill past the rows of simple white gravestones to bring General Greene to his final resting place.

The graveside service began with a few words, followed by a 13-gun salute. The major general’s widow, Dr. Susan Myers, was seated in the front row with their son 1st Lt. Matthew Greene, his daughter Amelia Greene, and Major General Greene’s father, also Harold Greene.

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After three rifle volleys and the playing of Taps, the American flag, once placed on the major general’s casket, was carefully folded as the band played America, the Beautiful.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno presented the flag to his widow, and additional flags to his children and father.

Neither the President, Vice President, Secretary of State, nor Secretary of Defense attended the funeral.

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CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Please get in touch with your legislators and make sure they know that we are watching how they vote! Many items affect veterans. We have 2 U.S. Senators and 9 U.S. Representatives, as well as 9 State Senators and 29 State Representatives, making a total of 49. Here is one site:

www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

MOAA members can also go to Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations (TCVO), then go to Federal Legislative Update followed by Texas Legislative Lookup.

Enter your ZIP Code in the ZIP Code entry block, to learn your Reps.

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EARLY VOTING

BEGINS
OCTOBER 20

CHRISTMAS DANCE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

Newsletter of MOAA Houston Area, October 2014, p. 5
FIND OUT WHY 92% OF USAA MEMBERS PLAN TO STAY FOR LIFE.

USAA Auto Insurance.
Save up to 15% when you garage on base.¹

At USAA, our commitment to serve the military community is without equal. We understand military life. Just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them.

GET A QUOTE. usaa.com/insurance or 800-531-8722

92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey.
¹This is a reduction in your premium for Comprehensive coverage, except in CA, where it also applies to your premium for Collision coverage. Not available in MA and NY. Other restrictions apply. Use of the term “member” or “membership” does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. “Honorably served” means a discharge type of “honorable.” Membership and product eligibility and underwriting restrictions apply and are subject to change. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance if the member obtained USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2014 USAA, 206225-0614
MIILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA
Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
(Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

Please Print Donor name:_______________________________________________________
Mailing Address______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Phone:  Day_______________Evening_____________e-mail__________________________
My pledge of $_________ should be designed to support MOAA,HA Houston Corps of Cadets
My gift will be made with installments of $______ to be paid ______ monthly____ quarterly____ annually___.
Beginning date:_______ The Office of Stewardship will send reminders.)
Enclosed is a check (made payable to University of Houston) for the first pledge payable.
Please charge my credit card for the amount of my gift, as scheduled above:
___________________________ Visa   ___Mastercard    ___American Express     ___Discover
Account Number_________________________________ Expiration date:_______________
Name as it appears on card:____________________________________________________
Signature:_______________________________________________________________
______ I would like to be contacted about fulfilling my pledge with a gift of appreciated securities.
My pledge payment will be matched by: __________________________________________
(Please specify company for our records)
Donor signature:___________________________________date_______________________
Donor Signature:___________________________________date_______________________

Thank you for your support of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA,
HOUSTON CORPS OF CADETS ROTC ENDOWMENT FUND, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

____________________________________________________________________________
University of Houston; Advancement Services; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867
Attn: Nancy V. Clark    E-mail: uh.edu/giving

__________________________________________________________

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area
Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven
uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for
application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

NAME: ____________________________________________________________________________
(Please print) Last                                          First                   Initial                  Grade      Service
Branch_____________________________________________________________________________
Spouse’s first name: ________________________Tel. For Directory___________________________
Home address:______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Civilian Occupation:_________________________________________________________________
Business Firm ____________________________________Business phone_____________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________________
Dues: Regular Membership $30 first year; annual renewal $30 ($20 for each addn’l year pd w/renewal)
Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) $15 ($10 for each addn’l year pd w/renewal)
WOULD YOU SERVE ON A COMMITTEE?_______________________
Cmments___________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA
PO Box 1082   Houston TX 77251-1082
For more information, call LTC Eugene Vecera 713.516.3459

Newsletter of MOAA Houston Area, October 2014, p. 7
NEW VA Secretary Announces New Plans

Robert McDonald, the new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, announced a 90-day plan for fixing the scandal-tainted agency, promising to put former troops at the heart of his strategy.

“It’s very simple: What does the vet want?” McDonald said during a news conference at the VA headquarters, where he announced his plans. “We will see everything through the eyes of the veteran, through the lens of veterans. If we have work that doesn’t add value to the veteran, we’ll stop doing it and redeploy those assets to veterans.”

The secretary’s short-term plan for fixing the VA medical network includes hiring more clinicians, building a climate where every employee can “be a whistleblower,” and replacing the VA’s ancient Web sites. He said there are 14 Web sites, for which veterans “need 14 different usernames and passwords” to obtain the services they need.

McDonald also said the VA needs to hire “tens of thousands” of medical professionals and that their pay needs to be on par with private-sector wages for the same work.

“Call me Bob, I’m Bob,” the secretary said, drawing a pyramid on the back of a placard that explained his reform plan. He wrote “veterans” at the top and put himself at the bottom. “We want an organization where everyone is called by the first name,” he said.

And he reportedly gave his cell phone number to all the reporters present.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said the new secretary is “off to a good start.”

What Is STEM?

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is an initiative of the US Government to motivate, educate, and inspire middle and high school students to recognize the importance of taking such courses in school to better prepare themselves to be successful Americans and leaders tomorrow.

The Houston Military Affairs Committee and the Gathering of Eagles are sponsoring 900 JROTC Cadets to attend a symposium on November 15, 2014, at Chavez High School in Houston and listen to speakers on STEM topics. For more information go to www.goehouston.com.

Please add one more date to your November calendars: November 15. More information in the November newsletter, or feel free to call me.

LT. COL. (USA Ret) Eugene A. Vecera