



MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DAVE SCHAFER moaaschafer@att.net



MOAA North Texas Chapter

Two of the chapter's 2014 initiatives are now up and running: The Veterans Center of North Texas and the MOAA North Texas Chapter.

The Greater Dallas Chapter sponsored and provided seed funding for the Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) in May 2014. After many months of hard work VCONT received 501(c)(3) approval in January 2015. Although VCONT is still in startup mode, it has begun assisting Veterans out of its new Plano office. VCONT still needs volunteers to help finalize operating procedures and evaluate service provider partners. Contact Dave Schafer, 214-577-4107, or Paul Hendricks, 469-548-6933 if you are interested in helping.

The Greater Dallas chapter sponsored the formation of the North Texas chapter in 2014. MOAA National approved the charter for the North Texas Chapter in October 2014 and the chapter was officially chartered by VADM Ryan, the President of MOAA, in February 2015. The Greater Dallas chapter has continued to support the North Texas Chapter by allowing the founding members to remain members of the Greater Dallas chapter in 2015. All members of the North Texas Chapter will continue to receive the benefits of membership in the Greater Dallas Chapter for the remainder of 2015.

The North Texas Chapter serves MOAA members living northern Collin, eastern Denton, Grayson, and Cooke counties. Major cities included in the geographic area covered by the North Texas Chapter include Allen, Denison, Frisco, McKinney, Prosper, Sherman, and far north Plano. Since this area was previously serviced by the Greater Dallas Chapter, we have many current members who are eligible to join the North Texas chapter. We will be sending letters to members who live in these areas in April asking them which chapter they would like to align with. They will have the option of aligning with either chapter or both. MOAA National does not require a member to join the primary chapter that serves their geographic area so we will encourage members to align with and support both chapters.

Editor's Note: President's article continues on page 6



MOAA-GDC receives 5 Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2014.

MOAA's topnotch council and chapters compete annually to receive a four-star or five-star Levels of Excellence Award. The very best councils and chapters receive five-star awards. Our Chapter has been again selected as a 5 Star Chapter 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 28—April Luncheon Meeting

Revolution and how we can all change the world for the better

John Antal, Colonel US Army (Ret.) His last assignment was as Operations officer for the 62,000 soldier III Armed Corps at Fort Hood Texas. He held key positions in the U.S. Army, and was special assistant to the Joint Chief's of Staff. He's a West Point graduate, Army Command and General Staff College.



June 23—June Luncheon Meeting

Col. Brian D. Anderson, USAF (Ret.) Deputy Director of Council and Chapter Affairs in Washington, D.C. is our National representative. He has a wide range of command and staff assignments including U.S. Central Command, McDill AFB, and NATO in Brussels, Belgium.



August 25—August Luncheon Meeting

Lieutenant General Brett Dula USAF was Vice Commander Air Combat command with headquarters at Langley Air Force Base, VA. where he assisted the commander in preparing and sustaining combat ready forces and to secure national security objectives. His major awards and decorations are Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and a long list of other medals.

More information on our upcoming programs is available on page 3 and on our website.

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PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 23, 2015

Speaker Colonel John Antal, US Army (Retired)

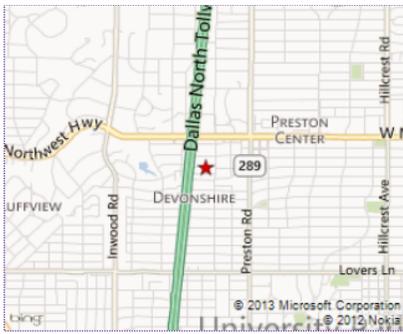
Revolution and how we can all change the world for the better

We have an Incredible speaker that we know you will like to hear. This is a very special luncheon and we are honored to have a man of this stature to speak for us. He has served his country for 30 years retiring in 2003.



His last assignment was as Operations officer for the 62,000 soldier III Armed Corps at Fort Hood Texas. He has held key positions in the U.S. Army and was special assistant to the Joint Chief's of Staff. He's a West Point graduate, Army Command and General Staff College. He schools ROTC groups and takes these groups to Normandy and also to Vicksburg, Miss. for reenactment of battle scenes. He holds a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences.

In retirement he is VP for Knowledge Operations for Gearbox Software in Plano, TX. and Founding editor of Armchair General - a military magazine. He is an author, historian, speaker and soldier.



Please send your reservations early to ensure we can make an accurate and timely reservation count. Mail the reservation coupon to MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251; email Dave Schafer moaaschafer@att.net or reserve online at www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html. You may also call Dave at (214)577-4107.

MOAA-GDC accepts **PayPal** for paying for your luncheon at our website which allows you to pay by credit card. We would appreciate you also filling out the RSVP form and checking your type of payment at the website.



UPCOMING EVENTS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

June 23, 2015 Luncheon Speaker - Col. Brian D. Anderson, USAF (Ret) Deputy Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

Anderson served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force in a wide range of command and staff assignments, including tours at U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium.

He retired in November 2010 following his last assignment as the mission support group commander at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., where he led a multidisciplinary 1,500-person group in the operations and administration of the base to support more than 40,000 Air Force personnel and family members in the national capital region.

Anderson compiled more than 4,000 flying hours in various aircraft and was awarded an Air Medal and Combat Action Medal as a B-52 aircraft commander during Operation Enduring Freedom.

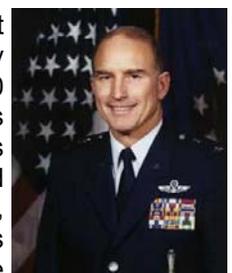
He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a Master of Arts in public administration from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colo.

He joined the staff of MOAA's Career Transition Services Department in August 2011, and in December 2012, he was named deputy director, Council and Chapter Affairs Department.



August 23, 2015 Luncheon Speaker - Lieutenant General Brett Dula USAF

Lieutenant General Brett Dula USAF was Vice Commander Air Combat command with headquarters at Langley Air Force Base, VA. where he assisted the commander in preparing and sustaining combat ready forces and to secure national security objectives. He assisted in managing a force of more than 140,000 active-duty people, 130 bombers, 1,300 fighters and 500 support aircraft at more than 30 locations. He has held key duties in the intelligence community. He's a command pilot with more than 4,400 flying hours including 380 missions in Southeast Asia. He's a graduate of the AF academy. His major awards and decorations are Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and a long list of other medals. His command stations and service record is lengthy. He is an incredible speaker and will speak on the topic of: "The Dark Side of Military Aviation." He resides in Austin, TX with his wife of many years.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



Recharge

Did you know that dead batteries don't work? Good batteries are supposed to operate for a certain amount of time, say a year or so. I came out of church last Sunday, and it was raining and cold. I was anxious to get home. My car wouldn't start. It's just a year and 5 months old. USAA sent a man out to charge it. He said it was a good battery. I thought the best thing to do would be to take it back where they make them. They knew just what to do. They put in a new battery. They knew the right size for my car. The

trucks and buses need more power.

I always go back to the one that made me when I get into trouble. He knows where it hurts, and just how to steer me in the right direction. I have 66 books to find an answer. They are called the Bible. They are full of his love for me.

In Philippians 1: 6 the apostle Paul wrote: "God began a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again." In this book there is quite enough love for all of us.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS BY BEN COLE

HOW WILL YOU BE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TRICARE PROGRAMS?

If you are over the age of 65 and currently under Medicare, you are probably under Tricare For Life (TFL), a program where Medicare pays 80% of the approved Part B charge and Tricare pays the remainder. **THAT PROBABLY WILL NOT CHANGE!**

But, if you are retired from qualifying years of active duty and are under the age of 65, and you have elected to use the benefit of Tricare coverage (vis. Tricare Prime, Tricare Standard or Tricare Extra, and most of you are probably under Tricare Prime), you just might have some "choices" in you near future. The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) in Washington DC has recently proposed changes to Tricare that will "save the Pentagon billions of dollars while greatly enhancing health benefits for nearly 9.2 million active duty family members, retirees and their dependents." (The words in quotation marks are a direct lift from a recent issue of Navy Times.) Congress now awaits inputs from the White House and DOD, and will then decide to take action. If so, it will probably be part of the FY2016 Budget and become effective 1 October 2016 (FY2017).

The proposed new coverage will be called "TRICARE CHOICE". Here are some of the ways it will affect military retirees under 65:

1. Annual premiums will replace annual enrollment fees, starting at 1% above Tricare Prime enrollment fees and increasing by 1% each year for 15 years;
2. Annual deductibles will range from zero to maybe \$1,250, depending on which plan one "chooses";
3. The co-payment for outpatient care will possibly range from \$25 to \$40 for "fee for service" visits or \$20 per visit to PPO's and HMO's;
4. Catastrophic caps will be in different sets of ranges and could be set as high as \$10,000 per family.

The thoughts expressed above are presented for your consideration for future health insurance decisions and they have not been enacted yet or become law. You may want to go to www.tricare.mil to start charting your own course through this complex sea. There are also some other useful websites listed in your Membership Directory. Good Sailing!

Think Twice Before Eliminating TRICARE

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recently presented its findings after two years of study. One of the commission's proposals is to eliminate TRICARE and shift beneficiaries into a federal civilian-style health plan. Ask your elected officials to think twice before making dramatic changes to military benefits.



<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=64180926>

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY APRIL 2015 UPDATE BY PAUL HENDRICKS

Advocating on the Texas Hill

On February 26, 2015 Sam Wilder (North Texas Chapter President) and Paul Hendricks (Greater Dallas and North Texas Chapter Legislative Team) supported the Texas Council of Chapters and the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations while advocating with the 84th session of the Texas Legislature in Austin, Texas. The goal of the Texas MOAA team was to meet with each of the 31 Texas Senators and 150 Texas Representatives or their staff members and highlight issues and bills that impact current and future benefits for Texas Veterans. Your MOAA Legislative team had the opportunity to meet with the offices of Senator Van Taylor – District 8 as well as Representatives Dan Flynn - District 2; Scott Turner – District 33; Scott Sanford – District 70; Susan King – District 71; Jodi Laubenberg – District 89; Bill Zedler – District 96 and Dwayne Bohac – District 138.

There were four issues that were presented to the members of the Legislature. The issues included:

- ◆ Issue One: Adjustment of the ad valorem tax exemption for partially disabled veterans.
This initiative proposed revising the state tax exemption rate from 1991 assessed values to current assessed values for homes and authorizing partially disabled veterans to receive a proportional reduction in their Texas property taxes.
- ◆ Issue Two: Veteran's Preference in State hiring.
This initiative would provide support to provide a true and enforceable veteran's hiring preference for state agencies. The MOAA target hiring rate is for at least 7% of veterans in Texas state government offices.
- ◆ Issue Three: Support for the Hazlewood Act.
The Hazlewood Act exempts qualified students taking classes at public institutions of higher education in Texas from tuition and fee charges, but does not include property deposits or student services fees. MOAA requests continued support with no changes in the current program.
- ◆ Issue Four: Military absentee voting.
MOAA advocated that grace period be doubled to allow military absentee ballots to be returned to local clerk's offices. The extended grace period would accommodate process time for mailing of ballots and ensure proper counting of military absentee ballots due to deployments and off duty assignments.

The visits to our Texas State legislators resulted in exceptional dialogue about issues and support for our Texas Veterans. Following the completion of the 84th Legislative session we plan to solicit feedback our area legislators on the activities and results from bills filed that impact our Texas Veterans. We will provide a summary of findings and actions in a future newsletter.

Also, as part of our visit we were honored with the presentation Senate Resolution 226 by Senator Van Taylor recognizing the members of MOAA and the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations during our visit to the State Capitol. The photo on the right is Senator Van Taylor (second from left) presenting the Resolution to Paul Hendricks, Pat Christ (MOAA State President) and Sam Wilder.



If you have comments or recommendations, please contact Paul Hendricks, pnh1004@sbcglobal.net or other members of the MOAA Legislative Teams.



SEND A MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Please go to the MOAA Legislative Action Center to send a message to your congressional representatives that they should Stop the 21% Medicare-TRICARE Cut.

Unless Congress changes current law, Medicare and TRICARE will have to cut payments to doctors by 21 percent as of April 1, 2015. Use the MOAA-suggested message below to urge your legislators to reverse this draconian cut and protect beneficiary health care access. <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=62956216>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! By Dave Schafer moaschafer@att.net

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Salute to the Armed Forces Concert May 24 Klyde Warren Park

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra will be performing a Salute to the Armed Forces Concert on May 24 at the Klyde Warren Park in downtown Dallas. The concert will include video clips of veterans talking about how music influenced their life in the military. The concert starts at 8:30PM and is free. So bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and enjoy a collection of patriotic favorites honoring our Armed Forces. You may see one of MOAA compatriots on the big screen.



35th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games June 21-26, 2015 Dallas, TX

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Dallas from June 21 to June 26. This event, which is co-sponsored by the Veterans Administration and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, needs an army of volunteers to help with the games. Volunteers are needed to help with the games, transport athletes, set up the event, and many other areas. Volunteers are needed at many different locations around the city and at many different times of the day from June 17 to June 27. Bottom line is that you have a lot of flexibility in what, where and when you volunteer. The chapter is not supporting this as a community outreach program; however, we encourage everyone to consider volunteering to help make this event a success. You can find more information about the games and available volunteer positions by visiting www.wheelchairgames.org. Contact Paul Pfrommer, 974-365-8443, if you have any questions.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE BY DAVE SCHAFFER (CONTINUED)

Following this survey we will begin to separate chapter membership based on responses from our members and the chapters will begin to operate more independently. It is important to note that, even though the two chapters will be operating more independently, all current Greater Dallas Chapter members will continue to be Greater Dallas Chapter members though the end of 2015.

While this process may be confusing to some members, we believe it has helped get the North Texas Chapter through the start up process more quickly. Please contact me via email, moaschafer@att.net, or phone, 214-577-4107, if you have any questions.



April 28

2015 Meetings



June 23

August 25

October 27

December TBD

Reservation for the April 28, 2015 Tuesday Luncheon Meeting

The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, Texas 75225 Phone: (214) 373-0756

Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon

____ Person's at \$25.00 each Check enclosed \$ _____
payable to "MOAA - Greater Dallas Chapter"

Mail Reservation to: Dave Schafer

MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251

Please print name's below exactly as you wish you name badge's to read:

 (Spouse/Guest)

Need a ride? _____
Give a ride? _____

If yes, your ZIP code _____
If yes, your ZIP code _____

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See the website www.moagreaterdallas.org/officers.html for the complete listing of committee chairs and external organization representatives.

MOAA—GDC THE REPORTER is published monthly by the MOAA-Greater Dallas Chapter for the information and benefit of its members. Members are encouraged to submit letters and articles for publication to:
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Annual dues are \$20.00 for members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members.

V.W.I.N BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN



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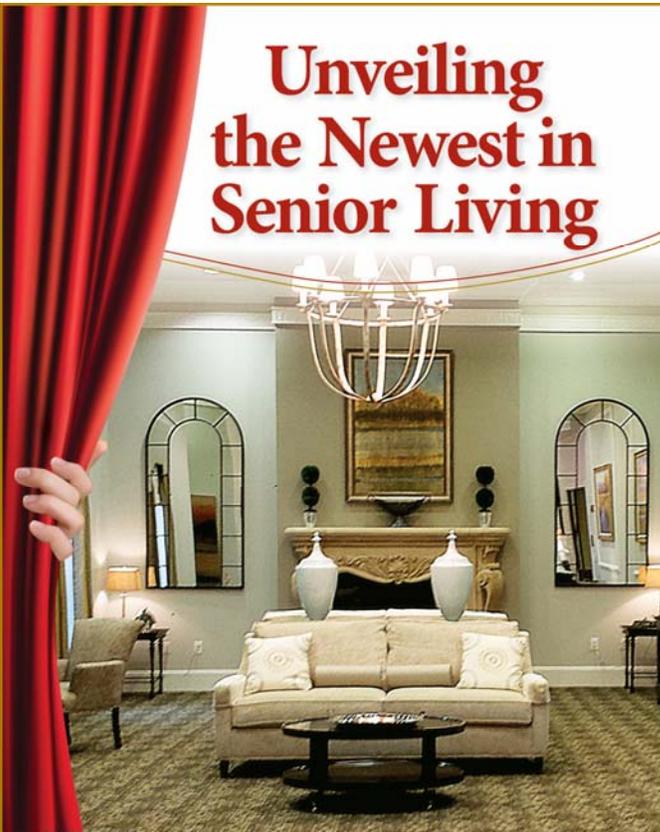
TRICARE has a new nurse advice line. Call (800) 874-2273 when you have a major concern about whether your condition warrants immediate emergency care or if it can wait for an appointment. Of course you would start out by first trying to contact your Primary care doctor. If you tried and did not succeed, then call this TRICARE service that is available every day of the week to give answers to urgent needs in the continental U.S.A, Hawaii and Alaska. Again, the advice line is (800) 874-2273 or visit <http://www.tricare.mil/Home/ContactUs/CallUs/NAL.aspx>

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