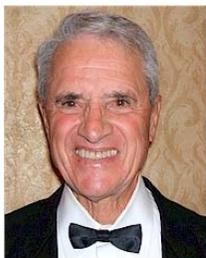




MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BILL LAVALLEE valleone@sbcglobal.net



We are accustomed to seeing restrictions on free speech run rampant in some foreign countries but we have basked in the knowledge that we are protected from such infringement in our country by our Constitution's First Amendment. However; it appears now that there is a new right guaranteed by our "living" Constitution; the right not to be offended! It is distressing to

find that many of our Universities, about one in six, have chosen to establish "free speech zones". This misnomer means that what we know as free speech is limited or restricted to only a small area of the campus; in all other areas dissenting views to the majority may not be expressed. Controversial speech outside these "free speech zones" is not only banned it may be punished! A few of the Colleges with this restrictive policy are Texas schools; Texas Tech and Texas A&M, for example, while most California State schools and Virginia Community Colleges have similar bans. These Colleges and Universities are no longer a marketplace for ideas but just a home for those views agreed to and expressed by the Faculty and those who agree with them. It is nearly unbelievable that our Institutions of higher learning, the historic sites for open debate and the exchange of ideas, have morphed into places that fear the same principles!

Our Constitutional First Amendment rights are at threat here. Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz has appropriately called the University Administrators who are imposing these fascist restrictions; "Cry-Bullies". Among the tools used by these cry-bullies are requiring "trigger warnings" for all course material that might be controversial or unsettling to students and establishing "safe spaces" on campus where such controversial viewpoints or ideas may not be expressed. The term of "microaggression" has been applied by these Institutions to any sort of statement that is not in consonance with their ultra-liberal viewpoint. For example, these are a few phrases found to be microaggressive: "Affirmative Action is racist"; "There is only one race, the human race" and "America is the land of opportunity". (Their explanation for calling this last one out was; the phrase suggests that the poor or disadvantaged do not do well because they are lazy or need to work harder!) In fact much intolerance is masked under the "political correctness" present on most campuses. There doesn't seem to be much support for the oft quoted words of Voltaire: "I cannot agree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it".

President's article continued on Page 2

A SMILE FOR TODAY

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country!



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 been selected as a 5 Star Chapter in 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FORT WORTH JOB FAIRS

Veterans Job Fair on Tuesday, April 22, 2016

Arlington Hiring Expo with Texas Rangers, April 25, 2016

[Page 8 for more details.](#)

LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26, 2016

Maggianno's North Park

Lt. Col. Allen West, US Army (Ret)



We will also honor outstanding JROTC Cadets

[Page 3 for more details and reservations](#)

LUNCHEON MEETING — JUNE 28, 2016

George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum

[Page 4 for more details.](#)

Reservation information will be available in our next newsletter.



The Texas Council of Chapters [TCC] will hold its next scheduled meeting at the Ridgewood Country Club, 7301 Fish Pond Road in Waco; 29-30 April; all interested Chapter members are invited to attend.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY BILL LAVALLEE

But these restrictions on free speech are spreading out from Colleges to other public spheres; we need to look no further than Texas to see where the DMV has taken upon itself to decide which license plates are "offensive", including any depiction of the Confederate Battle Flag! In the Dallas area the Dallas ISD has allowed children in middle school to vote on the removal of historic school names which the children deem offensive-or are being taught to deem offensive.

Many European Countries, some with the purest of motives, have enacted laws which find some "free speech" punishable. For example; many now forbid "holocaust denial" and others have caved in to terrorist threats and are forbidding any depiction of Mohammed. Are these actions so much different from the Hitler era which featured the burning of books, destruction of art and restriction of movies and other communications with which the totalitarians disagreed?

Of course it is easy to cry for the protection of speech with which you agree, it is much more difficult to support equal protection for ideas with which you disagree. An example of this inherent difficulty in protecting all speech is the "Stolen Valor Act" which was passed into law making it a crime to fraudulently claim to have earned or to wear Military medals and awards. Most active and retired military people, myself included, would agree that such fraud is a dishonor to those who have been honestly awarded such honors, yet the Supreme Court, moving correctly in defense of the First Amendment, struck down that law. (A new law has since been passed to punish those who gain financial benefits or other remuneration based on such fraudulent claims of a military honor.)

In a final example of our free speech currently being restricted; those high ranking elected officials; the President, certain Members of Congress, Supreme Court Judges, etc., that have Secret Service Protection, are now being "protected" from seeing "offensive" protests or demonstrations. A House Bill [HR-347] that was passed into law in 2012, allows the Secret Service to decide just how big around a protected official a "protest-free" zone may be imposed. In other words we now have unelected Secret Service Agents deciding where free speech may and may not be allowed.

There is a bright light at the end of this particular tunnel. A few Colleges in the Country have stood up against the Harvard, Yale and Stanfords and signed on to resolutions affirming their support of freedom of debate and vowed to protect free speech when others attempt to restrict it. These resolutions are named for the Institutions that wrote and signed them; Cleveland, Chicago and Toledo Universities. The resolutions also allow any person or group the use of any publically assessable space at the University to express views, distribute leaflets and display signs, as part of their First Amendment rights.

As individuals, many of us may be graduates of schools that have restricted free speech with "zones" of intolerance. We need to express our displeasure and, as alumni, ask our alma maters to sign on to one of these resolutions [Chicago, Cleveland, Toledo] that honor First Amendment rights. If our Universities cannot tolerate the expression and discussion of all ideas, how can they be expected to honestly teach civics, the free enterprise system, and our Country's founders' belief in limited government and individual liberty?

PERSONAL AFFAIRS ARTICLE BY BEN COLE

"Hey! Are all of you current in your plans for covering your spouse at the time of your passing? I urge you to take inventory on this matter immediately...later may be too late! What actions must your spouse take at THAT time? I am gathering information to summarize and present in a future newsletter that should be helpful to your survivors when that time comes. Perhaps you have already made a listing of actions to be taken and matters to be considered. MOAA Headquarters has pamphlets that can be sent to you at no charge that can assist you greatly, and some of you have already taken advantage of the information and instructions contained therein. Also, please refer to Page 72, the last page, of your 2015 Membership Directory. There you will find sources of information which is essential at that time of need. I will be presenting some of that info in a future newsletter. And I plan to give you some information on some insurance policies offered to retirees by the American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) with lower premium costs.

"Now I want to cover a subject which perhaps will be among the most important items for your spouse, the SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN. This is a plan available to retired military personnel in which eligible beneficiaries will receive a monthly payment (annuity) of 55% of the retiree's elected amount of coverage. Generally, for our members the eligible beneficiary is the spouse only, although legal children could be included under certain conditions. Also, most of you are paying the premiums for this coverage through automatic deductions from your monthly retirement pay checks, and these deductions are usually 6.5% of your gross retired pay, and they will continue for 30 years (360 months). Annual reports from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will inform you where you are relative to the 360 months.

"Upon death of the retiree, immediate notification should be made to DFAS to stop the monthly retirement payments for the retiree and commence the monthly 55% retirement payments to the spouse. To report a death or inquire about annuity payments or other matters, call 1-800-321-1080 (toll free) Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. (Tuesdays through Fridays for shorter wait times.)"



PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26 2016 MAGGIANO'S NORTH PARK Maggiانو's North Park—205 North Park Center Dallas TX 75225 I-75 and Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX

Our speaker for our April meeting is a very dynamic speaker, Lt. Col. Allen West, US Army (Retired).

Allen is currently CEO at the Dallas based prestigious (NCPA) National Center for Policy Analysis. This is a Think Tank that was founded in 1983. West took the post because he believes it will be policy, not politics that secures a sound economic future for Americans – with growth, opportunity and returning the promise of the American dream for this generation and those to come.

In 2010 Allen was honored to continue his oath of service to his country when he was elected to the US Congress and represented Florida's 22nd Congressional District in the House 2011 - 2013. As a member of the 112th Congress he served on the Small Business and Armed Services Committees. In 2012, he was instrumental in passing the National Defense and Authorization Act.



He is the third of four generations of military servicemen in his family. During his 22 year career in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel West served in several combat zones and received many honors including a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals and a Valorous Unit Award. In 1993 he was named the US Army ROTC Instructor of the Year. His commands were: Field Artillery Fourth Infantry Division. He served in the Persian Gulf war, in Operation Desert Storm, the Iraq War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Army achievement medal.

He is a FOX News Contributor and a Senior Fellow at the London Center for Policy Research, and regularly writes for many media outlets. The primary mission of his Allen West Foundation is to educate and inspire the future generation. His organization supports JROTC, Young Marines, and NROTC. Lt. Col. West is a legacy life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, life member of the Association of the United States Army and life member of the National Rifle Association. He is married to Dr. Angela Graham-West and they have two daughters, Aubrey, a graduate student pursuing her master's degree and Austen, a college freshman.

APRIL LUNCHEON WILL HONOR OUTSTANDING JROTC CADETS

The Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing the nominees for this year's JROTC scholarships. We have a number of outstanding candidates and the committee will be challenged making their selections this year. The scholarship awardees will be honored at the April general membership luncheon along with four participants of the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge Leadership Conference. Make plans to attend the luncheon on April 25th at Maggiano's in North Park Shopping Center. Meet this year's "best of the best" JROTC cadets. They provide a refreshing view of our next generation America's leaders. Make your reservations now to avoid being left out. We are expecting a sellout crowd for our nationally known guest speaker LTC Allen West USA (Retired).

**Maggiانو's North Park—205 North Park Center
Dallas TX 75225 214-360-0707**

Social 11:00 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon \$30.00 each

Sign up now for our annual JROTC Recognition Luncheon on April 26. **This month's luncheon will be limited to 150 attendees and we expect a sellout crowd.** Due to the size of this event, all reservations and payments must be received by **Thursday, April 21.** Walk-ins and payments at the door will not be accepted. Reserve online at www.moagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html or mail the reservation coupon to MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251; email Dave Schafer moaschafer@att.net or You may also call Dave at (214)577-4107. **Reservation Coupon on Page 7.**

MOAA-GDC accepts **PayPal** for paying for your luncheon at our website which allows you to pay by credit card.

www.moagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html



[Map Link to
Maggiانو's
North Park](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

LUNCHEON MEETING — JUNE 28 — PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH LIBRARY



Located in 15-acre, prairie-inspired park on the SMU campus, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). With 14,000 square feet of exhibition space, it houses a vast array of artifacts, original documents, and gifts presented to the President and First Lady.

As you enter the **Library's Freedom Hall**, you will see the one-of-a-kind 20-foot-tall, 360-degree, high definition video wall featuring hundreds of photographs of Texas citizens plus all 44 presidents. In the Museum's permanent exhibit, the Decision Points Theater allows visitors to gain insight into the President's thought process during this and other major crises, including declaring war on Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, the troop surge in Iraq, and America's financial upheaval in the museum's interactive "Decision Points Theater." This time lapse scenario feeds the participant critical information so you can compare your decisions with those made by the President.

The **9/11 Display** reminds you about that horrible day with a 22-foot, pulverized steel beam from the World Trade Center; the bullhorn the President used to address First Responders at Ground Zero; the notes he scribbled for his impromptu speech at Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Fla. when he learned America was under attack; and a port authority officer's badge, which the President carried every day after 9-11, given to him by a grieving mother. Take a look around the full-sized replica of the President's Oval Office, then sit at the Resolute Desk and enjoy the Texas Rose Garden.



The Museum offers four **Special Exhibits** each year. We are currently showing "Path to the Presidency," which gives visitors a fun, interactive peek into past presidential campaigns, the changing face of the American electorate, and a glimpse at life on the campaign trail. This entertaining exhibit brings historic campaigns to life with artifacts, documents, photos, videos, and many other interesting components.

For researchers, the **Archive Library**, which is a repository for textual, electronic, and audiovisual Presidential records, is open by appointment for research. Anyone can use the Research Room. You do not need to be an American citizen or present credentials or a letter of recommendation. Finally, a wide variety of classes offered periodically for school children and community groups.

The Library and Museum is a great learning experience and very enjoyable for people of all ages, nationalities, and political views.

Fun Facts

- Located in 15-acre, prairie-inspired park, which is home to 6 acres of native prairie plants
- 14,000-square-foot exhibition space
- 20-foot-tall, 360-degree high-definition video wall
- Approximately 43,000 gifts given to the President and First Lady
- Almost 70 million pages of textual materials
- Just over 3.8 million photographs
- Over 1,200 cubic feet of audiovisual materials containing at least 7,900 audio and more than 17,000 video recordings
- 227 cubic feet of photo negatives
- Approximately 80 terabytes of electronic records
- About 200 million email messages
- Full-size replica of White House Oval Office
- Average of 340,000 visitors each year
- America's 13th Presidential Library and Museum

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

"Did you know that only 2 of over 9300 association members of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) have ever won two Summit Awards, the organization's highest national honor? Did you know that MOAA is one of them?" These words are from an article written by Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, Jr., Chairman of the MOAA Board that was published in the March 2016 issue of THE MILITARY OFFICER. I am not surprised, however, because I have witnessed the support MOAA has given me from 1983 when my husband died. Now I see at close range how these MOAA veterans, along with over 200 Veterans Service Organizations, are helping veterans and dependents at the Veterans Center of North Texas at 900 E. Park Boulevard in Plano, Texas. This nonprofit organization connects veterans and their families with a multiple number of service providers.

I remember also that MOAA allowed me to write a column monthly in the **THE MOAA REPORTER** newsletter to recruit members for VWIN. For a number of years I had been the Texas representative of Veterans' Widows(ers) International Network, Inc. and when we recently disbanded, I suggested VWIN allot MOAA of Greater Dallas \$500 from funds on hand because MOAA had been so cooperative through the years.

Our local MOAA has been most obliging through the years. They had given \$500 in 1987 to help us wives establish Military Officer's Wives Club here in Dallas. Of course, we wives repaid that sum when MOWC disbanded a few years ago. It is a pleasure to allot money when we can. That is the reason I am pleased that VWIN will award our MOAA of Greater Dallas \$500. We MOAA members cannot give Summit Awards to our veterans; but we can donate time and money to MOAA as well as to other organizations such as the Veterans Center of North Texas where MOAA veterans continue to lead.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY APRIL 2016 - CHAPTER CROSSFEED

Entitlements to Federal Tax Refunds Based on Delayed VA Disability Determinations

(Adapted from a recent discussion at [MOAA Connect](#))

Original posting by Harvey T. Kaplan

I have been discussing with our National staff the question of possible entitlement of many of our members nationwide to refunds from the IRS. Are any local members affected by a **retroactive** decision by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Agent Orange-related or otherwise) that grants a Veteran a percent of disability retroactively to the time of initial detection of symptoms or limitations? *FYI and in brief*, there is in U.S. statute a provision that IRS cannot make a refund to a citizen of an overpayment of Federal Income Tax that is more than five years old.

It appears that MOAA actually may have many members who were granted retroactive disability--and the VA Decision Letter calculated the disability to go back more than five year. IRS, under current law, **will not allow** such payment, even though it was authorized by another Federal agency in writing. Some states have similar restrictions as well. Others establish their Statute of Limitations (e.g., 12 months) from the date of each IRS reimbursement check for each tax year.

The purpose of this message is to ask everyone to reach out to our members to see how many are affected by the IRS Statute of Limitations--and are not able to reclaim their tax-free Veterans Compensation by submitting corrected tax forms to the Internal Revenue Service for each calendar year involved. Kindly note that many members with a VA approved disability probably are not aware of this legal limitation on their entitlements. Clearly, many thousands of dollars per member may be involved--and reimbursements of overpaid Federal taxes do include IRS-calculated interest (frequently substantial). [IRS, by the way, doesn't want to deal with this matter--and has no interest in updating the law governing its Statute of Limitations. Worthy of note is that sometimes VA takes more than 20 years to make a final Disability Determination--often involving several submissions of paperwork by a Veteran (or his/her agent) to that organization. This appears to be equally harmful to our Veterans as the VA's malfeasance in management of some medical appointments and treatments in its facilities.]

I am of the opinion that this matter deserves the attention of our leadership across the United States.

Harvey T. Kaplan; Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Ret.); Vice President, Maryland Council of Chapters.

Response by Paul J. Cancelliere

The term 'entitlements' could be stronger. I find the term, 'Earned Benefits,' adds value to my military service.

Response by Lou Annacone

BTW
USAA financial advisers are all over these subject.

Louis Annacone; CAPT, USAF (Former) and Past President, Austin Chapter - Military Officers Association of America



Act Now to Block Harmful DoD Budget Proposals

DoD's FY17 defense budget proposes a number of significant changes to military pay and benefits.

If enacted as a whole, these proposals will curtail the military pay raise and raise retired families' health costs.

Please use the message provided at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=70211626&PROCESS=Take+Action> to urge your legislators to avoid imposing disproportional financial sacrifices on those who serve and have served.

MEMBERSHIP BY DAVE SCHAFER

Dave Schafer and Jim Bass are wrapping up the 2016 membership renewal campaign and getting ready to publish the 2016 Membership Directory. The final membership tally for the start of 2016 is 357 members; 291 regular members and 65 Auxiliary (Surviving Spouse) members. Look for your 2016 Membership Directory in the mail in late April.

FREE GOLF BY DAVE SCHAFER

Many of you have been asking about a golf tournament. Well you are in luck! The Veterans Center of North Texas is holding a golf tournament on Monday, April 25th at the Twin Creeks Golf Course in Allen. The Veterans Center of North Texas has received donations from several sponsors who will pay the entry fee for Veterans. If you want to enjoy a day of free golf and camaraderie with fellow Veterans and members of our community. Get your reservation in early – the sponsored positions will be filled on a first come basis. Contact Paul Hendricks, 469-667-8850 or phendricks@vcont.org, or Dave Schafer 214-577-4107 or dschafer@vcont.org, to register. See the ad in this month's newsletter for more information.



VETERANS CENTER OF NORTH TEXAS 2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT



**Join Business Leaders and Veterans in our
Community for Our First Annual Golf Tournament!**

When: Monday, April 25 2016

Where: Twin Creeks Golf Course, Allen, Texas

Registration: 0630 to 0730; **Tee Off:** 0800

Format: 4 Player Scramble

Cost: \$75 per player/ \$300 per team

Includes: green fees, cart, lunch and prizes

Trophies for: Top Three Teams

Longest Drive

Closest to pin

Hole in One



Register at: <http://vcont.org/2016-Golf-Tournament.htm>

Questions - contact: Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 or
Paul Hendricks at 469-667-7750

**Join this fun event while sharing community and
military experiences!**

Sponsorship and donation opportunities available



LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26, 2016

MAGGIANO'S NORTH PARK



This month's luncheon will be limited to 150 attendees and we expect a sellout crowd. Due to the size of this event, all reservations and payments must be received by **Thursday, April 21**. Walk-ins and payments at the door will not be accepted.

Reservation for the April 26, 2016 Tuesday Luncheon Meeting

Social 11:00 AM — Meeting 12:00 Noon

_____ Person's at \$30.00 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? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____ Give a ride? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____

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Personal Affairs Committee: CAPT Ben Cole USNR, (Ret)

JROTC Liaison: CDR Dan Murphy, USN (Ret)

Career Transition: LTC Joel Batalsky, USA (Ret)

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary

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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:
Editor, William Hill, LCDR, USN, Retired ♦ 8358 San Leandro Drive ♦ Dallas, TX 75218-4317
The MOAA-Greater Dallas Chapter is a nonprofit organization chartered on November 28, 1967.
Annual dues are \$20.00 for members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members.

IN MEMORIAM—ED TATGE



Our long-time Chapter member and very hard worker on the Legislative Committee, LTC Ed Tatge, USA Retired, passed away on February 20, 2016. For many years Ed worked tirelessly organizing visiting teams and scheduling visits to our Dallas area members of Congress in furtherance of MOAA's legislative goals.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention that Ed was not only an effective and valued Legislative Committee member during his long and appreciated service with this Chapter but also one of the Chapters founding members. Ed was also a member of the Mended Hearts Chapter 142 Medical Center of Plano



Ed is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Carimonde Tatge; son, Edward E. Tatge, of Elgin, South Carolina; and grandson, Evan P. Tatge of Elgin, South Carolina.

Ed grew up in Ramona, Kansas and received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Kansas. He was a retired veteran of the US Army and became a LTC serving in the Adjutant General Corps. He was very proud to serve his country and serve in the US Army.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



Easter

Easter was last week. I hope you all celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. That is going to happen to us.

Jesus took the sting out of death. I'm scared to die because I never did it before. He will be there so it is something to look forward to. When I was at home alone for the first time after the empty nest and my husband had died; I did something odd. I dyed all the eggs in the refrigerator. Needless to say that was

dumb. I got so tired of colored eggs.

I miss the days when I was up at mid-night sewing on buttons for the Easter dresses to wear to Sunday School and dying eggs to go in baskets. It occurred to me that I sound sad. I am anything but. I teach a bible class, sing in the choir, travel with church groups, and family.

Jesus said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus. "I am the resurrection and the life; He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

If you need a phone call or visit, call me or e-mail me. 972-412-3940 dottiewalder@aol.com

CAREER TRANSITION – JOB FAIRS

BY JOEL BATALSKY, MOAA-GDC CAREER TRANSITION OFFICER

Veterans Job Fair on Tuesday, April 22, 2016 from 9 am to 12 noon at the Goodwill Regional Headquarters, 4005 Campus Drive, Fort Worth, TX, 76119 Open to all veterans, military dependents, and spouses.

Arlington Hiring Expo with Texas Rangers, April 25, 2016 from 9:30 am to 2 pm: Hiring expo for service members, veterans, and military spouses at Globe Life Park in Arlington. All registered veterans and military spouses are eligible to receive up to two free tickets to attend the evening's game between the Rangers and the Yankees.

Event Schedule: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Employment Workshop 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hiring Fair.

<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/arlington-hiring-expo-texas-rangers-0>