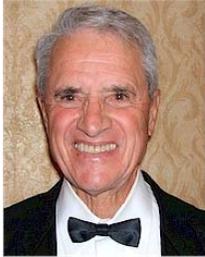




MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BILL LAVALLEE valleone@sbcglobal.net



Since we are members of The MOAA it may be appropriate to discuss things military. What is more military than war? Although we are not now constitutionally “at war”, we have to ask what is the real situation for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with regard to ISIS/ISIL since we have not declared war on these terrorists. There is a popular concept that we do have a “War on Terrorism” but that is only a metaphor like the alleged “War on Women” and the everlasting “War on Poverty”.

Most veterans will tell you that they are against war. It is not difficult to understand this attitude since during war the military are the ones most likely to be killed or wounded. While war is the rational culmination for all the training that military personnel are continually subjected to, it is by no means a desirable event. Let's look at some statistics on casualties for the last several wars. Starting with World War I, wars have become more universal, as the name suggests. Although wars within a nation occur sporadically, these civil wars (with the exception of our own “war between the states”) have not had the severe casualties that happen during universal type wars.

It has been reported that WW I had around 116,000 U. S. Military deaths and another 200,000 wounded. England, France and Germany suffered even more. In World War II the ante was upped with about 400,000 U.S. Servicemen deaths and a wounded total of approximately 675,000. Russia, Germany and England suffered more casualties. The Korean War (ended only by an armistice!) was a relatively isolated affair but still ate up 37,000 American casualties and another 100,000 wounded. The Vietnam War came next with 58,000 dead and about 150,000 wounded Americans. Our adversary, Vietnam (Viet Cong and North Vietnam), as well as China, had many more casualties. The Gulf War (1990-1991) was more sparing of the U.S. Military-although the Iraqis were not so fortunate. Only about 400 U.S. deaths and 500 wounded were recorded. The casualty totals were lower than expected largely due to better battlefield medical care. The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, starting in 2001, have had about 2300 Americans lost so far in Afghanistan and another 4500 killed in Iraq. Wounded have been about 20,000 in Afghanistan and 33,000 in Iraq. Unfortunately, there are casualties still occurring in that long lasting fracas in the Middle East.

You may have noted that other nasty little “deployments” of our forces have also taken place between these Wars. These include such spots as Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo. These deployments were not bloodless but casualties there did not reach the magnitude of the major wars.

President's article continued on Page 2



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:



February 25, 2016

Dallas All Veterans Job Fair at Irving Convention Center. See Page 8 for more information.

LUNCHEON MEETING — FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The Park City Club

Colonel William Dwiggins, USMC (Ret)

Page 3 for more details and reservations



LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26, 2016

Maggiano's North Park

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

Page 4 for more details and reservations



LUNCHEON MEETING — JUNE 28, 2016

George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Page 4 for more details and reservations



A SMILE FOR TODAY

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a leaking tire or an empty fuel tank!

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY BILL LAVALLEE

These statistics aren't meant to decry or discourage use of our military when our nation's interests require it but to point out that the military life has a definitive downside that isn't always appreciated by the more than 99% of the population that has never served in our military forces. A very small portion of our population is carrying the burden of potential death or grievous wounds for the remainder of our population. It is therefore unconscionable, in my mind, to ask this same military to be first to take cuts in pay and benefits or to pay higher fees for health insurance to help offset excessive expenditures for social programs or to provide subsidies to the politically well-connected. Is it fair to reduce military retirement benefits, charge higher Tricare premiums, increase drug costs, etc. for those who have given so much and then to increase the budget and expenditures for foreign aid and for subsidies of civilian health care, solar power, electric cars, ethanol, etc.? It is also discouraging to see that civil servants receive full COLA while the military COLA is capped! The recent increase in Medicare and Tricare premiums and fees (with the attendant jump in Medicare premiums based on income), seems aimed directly at retired military officers - most of whom spent most of their early military life living in "genteel poverty"! Perhaps we need to have a "War on Mistreatment of Military Veterans and Retirees"!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



Left Over Time

There is no such thing as left over time. You can't borrow it, save it, or give it away. You either use it or waste it. I am a pretty good waster of time and opportunities.

I woke up this morning, and rushed into the day. So much to accomplish, no time to pray. Problems tumbled in, heavier came each task.

Why doesn't God help me? He answered "You didn't ask."

I wanted joy and beauty, but all was gray and bleak. Why doesn't God cheer me? He answered "You didn't seek".

So I approached His door trying all the keys in the lock. And God lovingly chided me. "My child you didn't knock."

I woke up this morning, and thought about the day. So much to accomplish, so I took time to pray!

Spend time with God and He will keep you out of trouble.

MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE BY DAVE SCHAFFER



We will wrap up the 2016 membership renewal campaign at the end of January and start to get ready for the 2016 membership recruiting campaign in February. It seems as though the retention and recruitment of members is a never ending job. We lose about 10% of our members each year due to moves and deaths and another 5% to persons who choose to not renew their memberships. This means we need to recruit about 40 new members each year just to maintain our membership. The chapter's Membership Committee will be responsible for signing up 40 or more new members this year. This is a big job and we need your help. If you have the time and are willing to help please contact me at 214-577-4107 or Jim Bass at 682-554-6657. You can also help by keeping a copy of the membership application form handy to give to prospective members. The application form is available on our website www.moagreaterdallas.org. Simply open the PDF version of the form and print as many copies as you need.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS ARTICLE BY BEN COLE

I was recently asked "Is a reservist who has not served on active duty eligible for burial at a VA National Cemetery?" The answer is generally "No!" Here is the way the Office of Public Affairs answers that question in Chapter 8 of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: An eligible veteran is one who is discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable or a service member who dies while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty for training. I am thinking that all of the members of our chapter would certainly be "eligible". I would also think that all of our members have service time of a minimum of twenty four months of active duty, but you may know of family members or acquaintances whose reserve careers do not contain any active duty tenure, so you may be able to advise them of this requirement.

Another comment was about the playing of Taps on a recording versus a live bugler. My experience on this subject is that if the military base does not provide a bugler, the funeral director or the family must do so.....otherwise, the National Cemetery will play a recording.

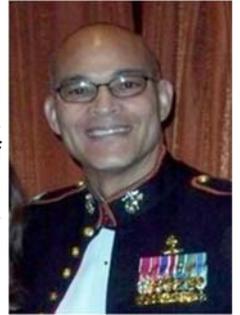
PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

LUNCHEON MEETING — FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, TX 75225



Our speaker for February will be Colonel William Dwiggins, USMC (Retired). Bill Dwiggins currently serves with the Texas Veterans Commission as the Veterans Education Regional Coordinator, Dallas/ Fort Worth. Dwiggins earned a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Wichita State University in 1977. In 1978, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He graduated with honors at the top of his recruit class and received a meritorious promotion upon graduation. He was subsequently selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commission Program and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1980.



Bill's numerous military assignments include several positions as Deputy Director, Commander, Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff, Joint Assignments, Logistics Officer, Inspector General, Marine Officer Instructor University of Texas and others.

His military career included worldwide combat tours, special-warfare assignments, capital reconstruction projects, international development/relations, public policy/administration, stabilization and conflict resolution to support the U. S. Government's efforts. Col. Dwiggins' is highly decorated and received many awards including two Legion of Merit awards, four Naval Commendation Medals, 2 Navy Achievement Medals (1 with Combat Valor), Army Achievement Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and many more. After completing 32 years of active and reserve service to our country, Col. Dwiggins was honorably retired from active duty and returned to Texas. He and his family reside in Dallas.

Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon \$25.00 each

[Map Link to —The Park City Club](#)

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 moaschafer@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.

<http://www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html>

Reservation for the February 23, 2016 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:

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Need a ride? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____ Give a ride? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____

UPCOMING EVENTS



LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26 2016 MAGGIANO'S NORTH PARK

**Maggiano'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).

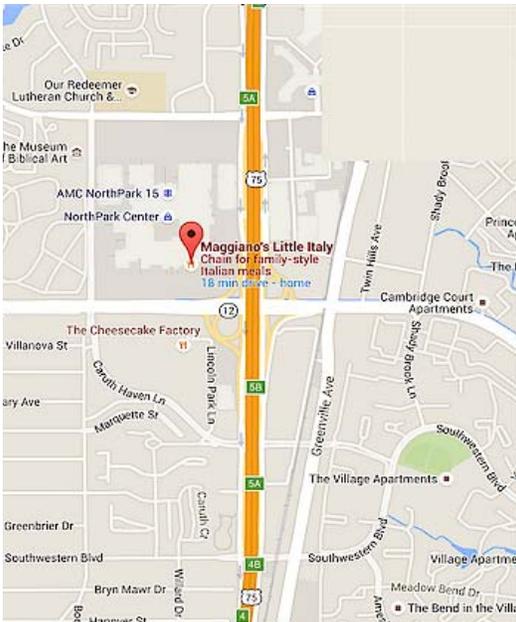
Allen is currently CEO at the Dallas based prestigious (NCPA) National Center for Policy Analysis. This is a Think Tank that was founded in 1983. West took the post because he believes it will be policy, not politics that secures a sound economic future for Americans – with growth, opportunity and returning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

Maggiano's North Park—205 North Park Center Dallas TX 75225 I-75 and Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX 214-360-0707



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

[Map Link to
Maggiano's](#)



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. **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.

<http://www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html>

LUNCHEON MEETING — JUNE 28 — PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH LIBRARY

More information to come in March newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2016 UPDATE BY JIM BROWN

Hazelwood Act Education Benefits for Veterans

Col. Sam Wilder, President of the North Texas Chapter, and I went to the Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) meeting at Randolph AFB in San Antonio on 22 and 23 January. Sam gave an excellent presentation on the legislative challenges to the Hazelwood Act educational benefits for Texas veterans and their families. He also proposed several alternatives for preserving as many of the Hazelwood benefits as possible. His position paper was approved by the TCC subject to modification after discussion with other veterans' organizations. On 27 January, the Texas Council of Veterans Organizations (TCVO) approved Sam's proposals.

Sam's position paper provides the following points for consideration by the Texas Legislature to revise the Hazelwood exemptions and to approve additional funds to alleviate the costs to Texas colleges:

- The costs have increased from \$25 million in 2009 to \$169 million in 2014 with projections to \$300+ million in 2017. The Legacy portion of the program for dependents has become the most expensive. Academic institutions do need relief.
- SB 1735, HB 3592 and HB 690, attempted to provide relief but failed to pass in 2015.
- The Hazelwood program is the only one of its kind in the U.S. It represents Texas' true appreciation of its military and veterans. The program is wildly popular with veterans. The Legacy exemption recognizes the families' sacrifices.
- The solution to this problem should be a combination of reducing the number of recipients, especially Legacy recipients, and some funding provided by the state to the academic institutions.
- The Hazelwood benefit is awarded for service, not for monetary need. The arduous service of active duty should be compensated more than inactive duty.
- The active service period should be raised for any Texas veteran to 3 years active duty or 6 years in the NG/Reserve. The requirement for the Legacy portion should be raised to 4 years active duty and 8 years in the NG/Reserve.
- The Legacy portion should apply to undergraduate courses only.
- Subsidies should be increased to colleges from the "*Permanent Fund Supporting Military & Veterans*" to \$200 million/year and to \$100 million/year from the General Fund.
- The benefit is available to any veteran who lists Texas as their state of residency on their DD214 or has established and maintained residency in Texas for eight years preceding the use of the Hazelwood benefit.
- All other current requirements and restrictions should continue to apply.
- Require the Texas Veterans Commission to study the feasibility of establishing a quota system based on a percentage of Hazelwood students between colleges to alleviate the situation whereby some colleges are required to take more Hazelwood students than others.



The rationale for the positions taken above is:

1. **Objective:** We accept the reality that the costs of the Hazelwood Act, especially the Legacy portion, have become unsustainable. A solution must be found.
2. **Background:** To put practically the entire burden of the costs of the Hazelwood onto the colleges constitutes an "unfunded mandate" for which the colleges deserve some relief.

Legislative article continued on Page 8

CAREER TRANSITION – JOB FAIRS

BY JOEL BATALSKY, MOAA-GDC CAREER TRANSITION OFFICER

February 25, 2016 DAV Dallas All Veterans Job Fair at Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039 from 11 am to 3 pm.

<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/dallas-all-veterans-job-fair-february-25-2016>

The event will take place in Exhibit Hall which is immediately accessible through the Main Lobby. FREE parking is available in the Irving Convention Center Parking Garage.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

Now that the boomer generation is entering into their retirement years and as they discover they will likely live many years longer than previous generations, they are wise to have their children help to consider palliative care in order to avoid the stress that comes with aging. They need to study their options and make sure to look into all aspects of care whether health based, financial and many other aspects of living. Palliative care includes all these considerations. Quality of life is most important. These issues need to be addressed. As the January 2016 issue of AARP magazine states: "Medicare should facilitate more appropriate use of palliative care . . . and let beneficiaries know about it as an option." Geriatric care management is one aspect to examine.

A geriatric care manager can be a godsend when parents live at home and adult children live far away. But it is not a cheap decision because an upfront assessment can cost \$300-\$800. After this assessment, each hour costs \$50 to \$150. Also, New Hampshire is the only state that requires a license. So contact National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers at caremanager.org to help find a qualified manager. The person should be a social worker, a registered nurse, a therapist or care-related professional, according to Business Week (July 12, 2004). The geriatric care manager may supervise home-care aides, get a lawyer for legal matters, take care of transportation needs for the client and fill out forms for benefits, for example.

An alternative is a free assessment program and reduced-cost case management that many states now offer. For people in the Dallas area, call Dallas Aging at (800)548-1873 or Texas Department of Aging at (800)252-9240. Eldercare Locator at (800)677-1116 may be another source.

Kiplinger Magazine suggests that the family remain involved by watching over financial matters. Arrange with the bank to pay ongoing bills such as utility bills by automatically debiting the parent's checking account. Arrange to be informed if payments are missed. Also, call Social Security (800)772-1213 to direct deposit its payments to the parent's bank account. In other words, even though you may use the services of a geriatric care manager, you are not off the hook. But at least you will have a professional who can assess most needs and find services so that the family can rest more easily.

Do not wait until the parent has broken a hip or had a stroke. Get busy now. Find out all the assets your parent has including home equity and cash-value life insurance. Which assets can be used, for instance, to pay for extra care? Examine all insurance coverage. Make sure your parent has at least a durable power of attorney so that you can handle financial affairs, if need arises. These are only some issues to address when your parent has reached the rocky years. It is hard to believe that we are including the boomer generation. Who would ever believe that they would join the ranks of the aged?

V.W.I.N BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

Army Distaff Foundation, a retirement home in Washington D.C., sent V.W.I.N. their annual report recently. They welcome retired career officers and their spouses, or widows or widowers. The officer must have had twenty years commission in order for their spouses to be qualified. Contact VWIN for details.

Another recognition is that the Honorable R. James Nicholson Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs and Honorable James C. Miller III Chairman, Board of Governors United States Postal Service have invited VWIN to attend the First-Day-of Issue Ceremony for the Purple Heart Commemorative Stamp.



**Join Veterans' Widows/ers
International Network, Inc.**

Send \$18 to VWIN and send to
P.O. Box 441043 Aurora, CO 80044-1043



LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26, 2016

MAGGIANO'S NORTH PARK



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

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 Annual dues are \$20.00 for members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2016 UPDATE (CONT) BY JIM BROWN

The Hazelwood Act is the most significant tribute to veterans and is by far the best of all the states. This is perhaps the veterans' most prized compensation for their arduous duty to and sacrifices for the nation. It also rewards the families who have sacrificed!

3. Objective:

- This first bullet is the most important statement of the proposed solution in the point paper. It is a **combination** of reducing the numbers of recipients **and** providing increased subsidies to the colleges from state resources. This takes it out of the category of an "unfunded mandate". This is key to a solution that works.
 - The benefit is awarded based on service, not monetary need. There are other scholarship programs based on need. The arduous services of a 15 – 20 year military career are unrivaled in sacrifices for both the military member and family.
 - Very short periods of active service (e.g. 180 days) do not justify the same benefits that are awarded for 15 – 20 years of active service. Since the Legacy portion is the most expensive, raising its requirements to 4 years active duty would be reasonable. Six years is far too drastic; it loses 70% of vets. Recent study shows that the numbers of eligible vets will be going down.
 - Restricting the legacy portion to an undergraduate degree is reasonable.
 - The state should take a much greater responsibility in reimbursing the colleges. In the first place, ensuring that the Hazelwood veterans and family can pursue college degrees is a perfect contribution to 60x30TX plan, which is the state's higher education strategic plan for the next 15 years. It contributes to improving the state's workforce which makes Texas's economy tick. Secondly, the state should provide more concrete evidence of its gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans by increasing the funding provided to colleges. The Texas economy is diversified and growing. The state can afford it. It keeps the promises made to our Texas veterans. The Governor proposed \$532 million reimbursement.
 - The residency requirements stated in the proposal are reasonable and legal.
 - A system to take the load off certain colleges and spread the load of Hazelwood students would seem to be a reasonable course of action.
4. Recommendation: We strongly recommend this as a workable solution! It keeps Texas' pledge to thank and reward veterans for their arduous service.

MOAA Operational "Snapshot" for 2016

Col. Barry Wright, USA (Ret), Director of MOAA's Council and Chapter Affairs, also gave a presentation to the TCC. He emphasized the importance of chapter recruiting focused primarily on 300,000 MOAA members who are not affiliated with a chapter. He urged timely submission of chapter member rosters and prompt reports of new chapter members. He reviewed MOAA's incentives and support for recruiting and retaining members and awards for communications efforts.



There is a new Council and Chapters Policies and Procedures Guide and a Recruiting Guide. Online membership and dues paying tools are available. MOAA will provide electronic recruiting messages for chapters. There were ten training webinars in 2015 and more are planned for 2016. In addition to the Military Officer Magazine, MOAA also publishes *The Affiliate* online for chapter leaders, weekly online legislative updates and council and chapter updates for members.

Among other activities, MOAA is planning the annual Storming the Hill/Council Presidents' Seminar in Washington, D.C. for April 10th through the 14th and the Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA for October 24-25.

Tricare to maintain over-the-counter drug program

Military Times reported on January 29 that the Defense Health Agency announced that Tricare beneficiaries who use their prescription drug benefit to obtain certain over-the-counter medications will be able to continue doing so.

Starting February 1, Tricare's over-the-counter drug coverage benefit will become permanent, allowing beneficiaries to receive some medications at pharmacies or by mail for the same price they pay for a generic medication.

Under the program, patients must have a doctor's prescription for the over-the-counter drug and will pay \$10 for a 30-day prescription at a retail store or nothing for a 90-day prescription through the home-delivery program. The medications also are available at no cost to patients at military pharmacies.

Covered medications include the antihistamines cetirizine and loratadine, Plan B One Step Emergency Contraceptive (available without a prescription and without a co-pay), and omeprazole, the generic version of Prilosec OTC. Prilosec OTC will no longer be covered but the prescription version of Prilosec will.

For more information, contact the Tricare pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303.