



MOAA

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STEVEN COLE — SBCOLE@SBCGLOBAL.NET



The month of June certainly has its share of military-related dates. As always, my thanks go out to you and your families, the brave men and women that sacrificed self for America. It is your actions that allow this great country to prosper. Here are some of the most prominent events:

- June 6 – Anniversary of the WWII Allied invasion, D-Day 1944
- June 14 – Flag Day & US Army Birthday!
- June 23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday!
- June 25 – Anniversary start of the Korean War 1950
- June 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day

Keep all of our active, reserve, retired, and deceased service men and women (and their families) in your prayers.

Many of you might know that among the millions of other men and women, many of the world's most recognizable names and faces answered the call to serve during World War II. Here is a list of nine military careers of some notable World War II vets.

Sir Alec Guinness was piloting infantry landing craft in the Mediterranean. A trained thespian, Guinness put his theater career on hold in 1939 to join the Royal Navy. He landed some 200 British soldiers on the beaches of Sicily during the July 1943 invasion of Italy, and went on to ferry arms to partisan fighters in Yugoslavia.

Mel Brooks enlisted in the army in 1944 at the age of 17. He later served in 1104th Engineer Combat Battalion, a unit that braved sniper fire and shelling to build bridges, clear blocked roads and deactivate landmines ahead of advancing Allied forces.

Lenny Bruce dropped out of high school at age sixteen and enlisted shortly after the United States entered World War II. He spent the next several years working as a shell passer aboard the U.S.S. Brooklyn, a light cruiser that acted as a fire support vessel in North Africa and in Italy during the Allied invasions of Sicily and Anzio.

Medgar Evers forged a remarkable career as the NAACP's first field secretary by working to desegregate colleges in Mississippi. Still, the fight for racial equality was not the first time he put his life on the line for a higher cause. Evers had left high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943, and served with distinction in Europe as part of the 325th Port Company, a segregated unit of black soldiers who delivered vital supplies during the Normandy invasion. Though Jim Crow limited black troops' involvement in combat, Evers saw front line action as part of the "Red Ball Express," a famous supply convoy that trucked fuel and other provisions to General George Patton's tank units as they cut their way through France

MOAA-GDC receives 2016 Five-Star Level of Excellence Award



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lt Col Paul Hendricks, USAF (Retired) will be our June luncheon speaker.



See Page 4 for more information.

Independence Day Program: The Colonel Is A Lady presented by author Beverly Thompson
See page 8 for more information.



Saturday October 7, 2017. 50th Anniversary Dinner.

See Page 4 for early reservation coupon.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

A frantic friend called me recently. Her bank had sent her a letter telling her to contact the office as proof that she still was aware of her account with them. She was concerned because the bank sent her interest statements regularly. The bank told her that she must contact the bank once a year or her account could become dormant. After three years of dormancy her account would be turned over to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

I called the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) office and mentioned that my friend was the widow of a military veteran. The agent said that this situation of assets being turned over to the state is not uncommon and people who move frequently, like the military families, are apt to be affected. People need to keep careful records of all their assets and frequently update them.

One way to discover unclaimed funds that you may have is to contact the unclaimed property office in each state where you have lived. Law commands the state to locate owners of forgotten bank accounts, brokerage firms, tax records, etc. But it is still the primary responsibility of the owner of the assets to contact each place where accounts are held and to keep records and update them.

Go directly to the state office that keeps unclaimed assets. Use the telephone directory, the public library or the Internet. The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrator's Internet site (NAUPA) is the best national source I could find. Specific to Texas unclaimed property visit www.claimitexas.org.

It is also wise to contact former landlords, utility companies that you once used, former employers, credit unions, banks, etc. where you might have funds that belong to you. Hunt through the house to find checks you forgot to cash or deposit. Even though by law an uncashed check is worthless after six months, you can return the check and ask for a new one. Contact FDIC. Their Office of the Executive Secretary, Record Services Group, 550 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20429 can answer questions about savings banks and credit unions no longer operating. The FDIC can answer many other questions as well on this topic.

This method of inquiry is best because independent "tracer" companies can be costly and also scammers, especially those who want money up front or use other tricks against you, are costly diversions. Do it yourself and you will be well served.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS BY BEN COLE

Good day, members. I heard a story recently that lifted my spirits, and I want to share it with you this month. I did a little research and found that it is not totally accurate, but it leaves a message that one remembers. Here is that story:

"His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

Note: Personal Affairs article continues on page 8.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE BY STEVEN COLE CONTINUED

New York Yankees catcher **Yogi Berra** played in 14 World Series and enjoyed a successful career as a big league manager. The man who inspired the name of a famous picnic-stealing cartoon bear was also a veteran of the D-Day invasion. On June 6, 1944, as Allied troops stormed the beaches at Normandy, Berra and his fellow sailors manned a small Navy support craft that lobbed rockets at German defenses on Omaha Beach. The future all-star was later grazed by a German bullet during the invasion of Marseilles, but supposedly declined the Purple Heart because he didn't want to alarm his mother back in the states. Berra's career was just getting started when the war broke out, but he wasn't the only major leaguer to serve. Among many others, **Ted Williams, Bob Feller, Joe DiMaggio, Stan Musial** and **Jackie Robinson** were all veterans of World War II.

Marcel Marceau was serving as a member of the French Resistance during World War II. Along with his brother Alain, Marceau forged documents and doctored identity cards to help prevent French children from being conscripted into German labor camps. He also smuggled some 70 Jewish children out of the country by posing as a Boy Scout leader and leading them through the wilderness to safety in neutral Switzerland. The silent performer later joined the Free French Forces under Charles De Gaulle, and served as a liaison officer to General George Patton's army.

Tony Bennett was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944, and spent the later stages of the war in the 63rd Infantry Division in France and Germany. Bennett's unit was responsible for mopping up after the Battle of the Bulge, and he participated in intense urban combat while searching for Nazi stragglers in bombed-out German towns. The singer also witnessed the horror of the Holocaust firsthand when he helped liberate the Nazi concentration camp at Landsberg, Germany.

Josephine Baker first won fame in 1920s Paris for her risqué dance routines—including one in which she wore a revealing dress made entirely of bananas. Baker became a French citizen in 1937, and went on to serve her adopted country during World War II as an agent in the French Resistance. Her good looks and jet setting lifestyle served as a perfect cover, allowing her to shuttle military intelligence and secret messages in and out of the country by hiding them with her sheet music or tucking them away in her underwear. Baker also sheltered refugees in her home, and spent time entertaining troops in North Africa and the Middle East. This unlikely spy later received the French Croix de guerre for her high-risk work with the Resistance.

Jimmy Stewart was a bona fide movie star before World War II, having starred in such big screen hits as "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "The Philadelphia Story," for which he won an Academy Award. In early 1941, Stewart became one of the first Hollywood stars to enter the armed forces when he traded his tailored suits for a bomber jacket and joined the Army Air Corps. He had to pack a few pounds onto his lanky frame to meet the Army's minimum weight requirement, but Stewart eventually became a squadron commander in the 445th Bombardment Group in England. He flew 20 combat missions as a B-24 pilot and won a Distinguished Flying Cross and several other honors for leading bombing raids over Germany and France. All the while, the everyman's actor continued to send his Hollywood agent ten percent of his meager military salary. Stewart ended the war as a colonel, and remained in the Air Force Reserve even after jumping back in front of the camera. He was later promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1959.

October 7th – Save the date! Please join us in celebration of 50 years of the MOAA Greater Dallas Chapter.

We are honored to have Lt Gen Dana Atkins USAF (ret), President and CEO of MOAA as our guest speaker. Thank you for making The Greater Dallas Chapter of MOAA a great organization!

Where: Maggiano's Little Italy on the East side of Northpark at US 75 and Northwest Highway.

Costs? Only \$50 per person.

When: Social hours starts at 1600 (hours), dinner at 1700 (hours), and the program from 1800 (hours) to no later than 1930 (hours).

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY BEN COLE

Here is an interesting and instructive narrative from the sixth chapter of Luke about the Wise and Foolish Builders:

"(Jesus said) Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck the house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

It is not difficult to apply this story to our lives. We must make our plans based upon sound principles to assure their success. Now that is a very practical lesson for each of us.

PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON**June 27, 2017—Lt Col Paul Hendricks. USAF (Retired)**

Paul Hendricks is a retired Air Force officer who after retirement worked for Rockwell International and Boeing companies and now devotes his time to many endeavors. He works as an officer in his church and in leadership positions with the Military Officers Association of America and Rotary International.



He is also actively engaged with State and National elected officials with the goal to ensure that active and retired military members are recognized and afforded earned benefits. He served on the Fairview Planning and Zoning Commission for 9 years and is currently serving as a Fairview Councilman.

Additionally, he is associated with both the Allen Fairview and McKinney Chamber of Commerce. He also manages the Veterans Center of North Texas. The volunteer non-profit organization assists Veterans and their families find the benefits and resources to become productive citizens within their communities.

Paul Hendricks and his wife of 47 years live in Fairview, Texas. They have two adult children and four grandchildren.

He will speak about "Serving Veterans in North Texas."

The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, Texas 75225
Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon

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.



50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017

Mail Early Reservation for the October 7, 2017 50th Anniversary Dinner
Social 4:00 PM — Dinner 5:00 PM — Program 6:00 to 7:30 PM

of Attendees _____

Contact Information: Name _____

Mail Reservation to:
 MOAA-GDC Programs
 PO Box 515495
 Dallas, TX 75251

Phone _____

Email _____

You will be contacted you in August for payments.

Reserve online at www.moaagreaterdallas.org/rsvp50th.html

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY JUNE 2017 BY JIM BROWN CONTINUED



Trump Proposes Generous VA Budget

On 24 May at a House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing, the VA announced a generous increase in the VA's budget, supporting the president's commitment to veterans and their families to improve health care and benefits. Chairman Phil Roe (R-Tex.) praised the president and the secretary for their leadership and commitment to veterans.

Trump requested \$186.5 billion total for the VA, a \$6.4 billion increase over 2017 appropriations. Of that total, \$82.1 billion was discretionary funding (5.5 percent above 2017), mostly for health care programs, and \$104.3 billion in mandatory funding for disability compensation and pensions, including funding to continue the Veterans Choice Program.

Additionally, for FY 2019, advance appropriations for medical care is projected to be \$1.7 billion and \$107.7 billion for mandatory programs above what was allocated in the 2017 MILCON-VA budget for FY 2018.

The budget proposal also included increased funding to the Board of Veterans' Appeals in anticipation of the new disability claims processing system Congress is currently considering. VA officials explained the increased funding would be used to hire more employees at the board to both implement the new system and make progress on the current backlog of appeals. The appeals modernization legislation passed the House and advanced out of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs this week. The full Senate is planning to vote in June.

Here are some improvements the FY 2018 budget would buy for VA health care:

- expand access to community care;
- long-term care;
- mental health care;
- programs for homeless and at-risk veterans;
- Hepatitis-C treatment;
- treatment for traumatic brain injuries; and
- gender-specific health care services for women.

While a generous budget, increased access to community care through the Choice Program comes at the cost of cuts to some veterans' benefits, which include:

- Capping Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit for some flight training programs to curb excessive costs at certain public schools that offer courses through contracts with private institutions.
- Rounding down COLAs to the nearest dollar for disability compensation payments, reinstating an earlier practice in existence for nearly 15 years, up until 2013. The VA expects an individual veteran to pay no more than \$12 a year as a result of this change.
- Stopping disability compensation benefits to veterans receiving individual unemployability benefit payments once they are eligible for social security benefits. The administration sees the unemployability payment as a duplication of a federal benefit. 225,000 veterans are receiving the benefit today.

Congressman Mark Takano (D-Calif.) stated that "I am concerned about the proposal to terminate the individual unemployability benefit at age 62 for veterans," said Takano. "Most of the savings for this [VA] budget comes from this proposal - paying for the Choice program by ending a benefit to a veteran who is unable to be gainfully employed or who is unable to pay into social security or other retirement saving. ... If you end the unemployability payment, don't you risk plunging veterans into poverty by shutting off the benefit?" He cited more than 7,000 veterans over the age of 82 receiving the benefit today.

Shulkin responded by saying he was very sensitive to the issue, but "I also have a responsibility to make sure our current mandatory programs are managed the right way. ... At age 62, veterans have access to other funds like social security - this change is necessary to make the program more responsible."

MOAA does not support this portion of the proposed budget. MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), called on Congress to find better ways to fund the Choice Program and still protect the benefits of other veterans. MOAA also historically has opposed a cost of living "round down" to the nearest dollar, as was proposed in this budget for VA COLAs.

Trump Proposes to Increase Defense Spending

Note: Legislative article continues on page 6.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY JUNE 2017 BY JIM BROWN CONTINUED

President Trump's 2018 budget includes \$603 billion in defense spending. That amount would be an increase over the Obama administration's proposed budget but short of the \$640 billion House and Senate Armed Service Committee members want to see. In a worst-case scenario, we could see another round of military pay caps, commissary funding cuts, and higher TRICARE fees. But the new administration said throughout the campaign trail national defense would be a priority. So what would a best-case scenario look like?

Full military pay raise: For the first time in four years, Congress passed in FY 2017 a full military pay raise for servicemembers. This helped slow the military-civilian pay gap. According to MOAA's estimates, the military pay gap currently stands at 2.6 percent.

At the very least, the administration should provide a pay raise matching that of private sector wage growth, currently projected at 2.4 percent. In a best-case scenario, the administration would provide a pay raise plus an additional 0.5% to help narrow the wage gap.

No new health care fees: Previous administrations on both sides of the aisle often turned to health care fees as a way to save money. Proposals included means-tested enrollment fees (an uncommon practice in the private sector and something no other federal employee faces), new enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life, and steep increases in pharmacy copays. MOAA believes health care costs to military families should only increase by the commensurate increase in COLA.

Eliminating the "widow's tax:" Under current law, eligible survivors are penalized with a dollar-for-dollar offset of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Congress was able to provide some relief for military survivors, passing what's known as the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. Absent congressional action, funding for the \$310 allowance will expire in May 2018.

Last month MOAA flew in members from across the country to Storm the Hill on this issue. MOAA members visited nearly every congressional office urging lawmakers to end financial penalties for military survivors. At this time, it's uncertain what is going to be passed.

Proposed Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act of 2016

COL. David C. Briggs, our Chapter Legal Counsel, has brought to our attention that there is a serious danger to pretax 401(k) contributions to retirement savings accounts. White House National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn was reported to have discussed "ideas that would remove pretax benefits from retirement accounts including 401(k)s and shift them to after-tax benefits" in a meeting with the Senate Banking Committee in April. The White House has so far denied the danger, but President Trump needs to find new revenue to offset the cuts he is seeking.

Employers, who offer their workers a defined-contribution, or 401(k), plan, or a similar option, fear that Trump and Congress will reduce or eliminate the pretax status of those 401(k) contributions as part of the tax legislation they're pursuing. The government gets its taxes on that money only once people start drawing down their accounts, after maybe 30 or 40 years of saving. Congress, on the other hand, typically thinks in terms of just 10 years when it crafts a budget.

The proposed act would require IRA or other qualified plan distributions upon death be made within five years to non-spouse beneficiaries, and include other unfavorable provisions affecting IRAs or qualified plan benefits inherited from a spouse. These provisions could result in huge tax consequences for inherited IRAs and qualified plans that are the principal means by which middle-class taxpayers and career military families can build savings to pass on to their spouses and children. Please write to your congressional representatives to urge them not to change the current rules.

Hazelwood Act

The Texas Legislature did not pass any bills related to the Hazelwood veterans' educational benefit during the session just ended. We expect that this issue will come up again at the next legislative session in 2018, so your legislative team will be working in the interim to maintain as much of the benefit as possible.



Take Action Repeal Sequestration

Unless current law is changed, sequestration will return next year and automatically trigger deep cuts to the Defense Department. These severe cuts will exhaust our resources and capabilities in immeasurable ways—the toll on our military and their families will likewise be incalculable.

The congressional session is just getting underway. Please engage your member of Congress—encourage them to make it their priority to repeal sequestration.

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=74607626>



JUNE 27, 2017



Reservation for the June 27, 2017 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

 (Spouse/Guest)

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

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

CHAPTER OFFICERS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRESIDENT CAPT Steven Cole, USNR (Retired)	(972) 333-4895	sbcole@sbcglobal.net
PRESIDENT—ELECT Col William Dwiggins USMC (retired)	(903) 669-7681	billdwiggins@yahoo.com
VICE PRESIDENT — TREASURER Lt Col David J. Schafer, USAF (Ret)	(214) 577-4107	moaaschafer@att.net
VICE PRESIDENT — MEMBERSHIP CDR James Bass, USN (Retired)	(628)554-6657	jimbass9661@tx.rr.com
VICE PRESIDENT—LEGISLATIVE Lt Col James R. Brown USAFR (Ret)	(972) 407-1092	jimbrown510@sbcglobal.net
VICE PRESIDENT—PROGRAMS Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary	(972) 617-0858	bevartalk@aol.com
SECRETARY Lt Col Charles Kelley USAF, (Ret)	(214) 559-3619	chuck.kelley@yahoo.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Editor The Reporter : William Hill, LCDR, USN, (Ret)	(214) 321-8241	bill@hillengineeringservices.com
Chaplain: CAPT Ben Cole USNR, (Ret)	(972) 669-0619	ben19320428@att.net
Legal Counsel: David C. Briggs, COL USA, (Ret)	(214) 559-3619	moaabriggs@gmail.com
Scholarship Committee: CH COL Lyle Metzler, USA (Ret)	(972) 772-5459	lmetzler@charter.neet
Personal Affairs Committee: CAPT Ben Cole USNR, (Ret)	(972) 669-0619	ben19320428@att.net
JROTC Liaison: OPEN		
Career Transition: LTC Joel Batalisky, USA (Ret)	(214) 908-3708	joelbat@aol.com
Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary	(972) 617-0858	bevartalk@aol.com
Webmaster and Email Distribution: Mrs. Sharon Hill, Auxiliary	(214) 321-8241	moaagdc@yahoo.com
Meeting Coordinator: OPEN		
Greater Dallas Veterans Coalition representative: OPEN		

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.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS CONTINUED BY BEN COLE

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill .His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill

Someone once said: What goes around comes around."

But you know, this story seems to illustrate a rather important biblical principle set forth in the sixth chapter of the book of Luke.

"Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Pretty inspirational, don't you think?

Upcoming Events at C.C. Young Retirement Center

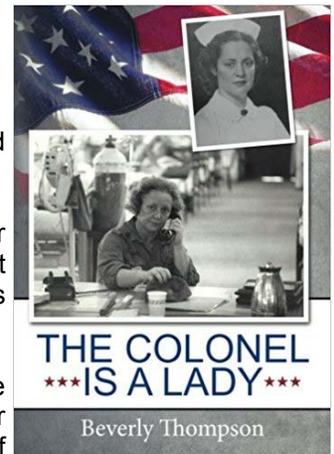
Independence Day Program: The Colonel Is A Lady presented by author Beverly Thompson

Beverly Thompson will be speaking about her "The Colonel is a Lady" at an Independence Day Program at 10:30 AM on July 7.

"The Colonel is a Lady" is a poignant and revealing story of an Army Lieutenant Colonel who served as a nurse in World War II, the Korean War, and in Vietnam.

The courage of our fighting men and women, and the dedicated skill of those who helped heal their wounds is well told in this inspiring account of Evangeline P. Jamison. She is a woman of great success, not only in treating patients, she also fulfilled important leadership responsibilities throughout her career.

After retiring from the Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jamison became a guiding force in the establishment of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., which she describes as her "greatest accomplishment". Lieutenant Colonel Jamison is a one of a kind heroine and a patriot of the highest order." quote: "Zip" Rausa, former Navy fighter pilot. Editor of Association of Naval Aviation's magazine, "Wings of Gold" since 1988."



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following is the meeting schedule for the Executive Committee of the Greater Dallas Chapter of the MOAA.

Meetings are held from 9 am to 11 am at the Point Building, C.C. Young Retirement Community, 4847 West Lawther Drive, Dallas, TX 75214.

2017

15 July, 16 September, and 18 November

All Chapter members are welcome to attend any Executive Committee meeting.