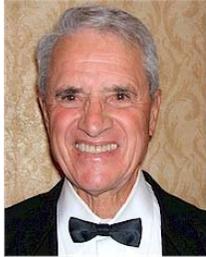




MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BILL LAVALLEE valleone@sbcglobal.net



MOAA National has re-designated those who used to be our "Auxiliary Members" as "Surviving Spouses". In accordance with this direction we have established a Chapter billet; "Surviving Spouses Liaison" and Beverly Thompson has accepted this position. We may expect more emphasis on women in our Chapters as more and more women are recruited into the Armed Forces. I would think that the recruitment of women will be more favorable as more promotion and command opportunities are opened to them.

The U.S. Army is currently developing plans to use women in all of its military specialties; without exception. Each of the Military Chiefs has been tasked with this direction from Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dunford has spoken out against women being used in a few Marine "jobs" [Like Machine Gunner-whose position entails carrying extremely heavy amounts of ammunition]. It is expected that the "no exception" rule will be universal. There is also an initial move in Congress to have young women at age eighteen register for any potential draft as men are required to do now.

The use of female warriors has been a feature of many communities, especially during times of extremes, when women took their place alongside men on the fighting lines. The name "Amazon" did not always refer to an internet retail and shipping company!

It appears that we are at another point in history where women's rights, obligations and opportunities are on the ascendency. It may be enlightening to review what history has shown us about the role that women have played in our country's earlier days. Our nation's experience with the assignment of women has always officially excluded combat but there have been exceptions where women have stood next to their husbands to fight off aggressors. The myth of Molly Pitcher was based on a real person, Margaret Corbin, who fought and was wounded during the Revolutionary War as a cannonier; while taking the place of her wounded husband. Her grave is in the West Point cemetery. The wholesale organized effort to recruit women for military roles started in World War [WWI] although Military Nurses were active in wartime hospitals from the Civil War on.

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:



FORT WORTH JOB FAIRS

Veterans Job Fair on Tuesday, April 22, 2016
Arlington Hiring Exp with Texas Rangers, April 25, 2016
[Page 8 for more details.](#)

LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 26, 2016

Maggiano's North Park

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

[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.



A SMILE FOR TODAY

An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you in to something great. So just focus, and keep aiming.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY BILL LAVALLEE

During WWI women were encouraged to serve under the slogan; "free a man to fight". In the Navy they were designated as "Yeomanettes" and were initially enlisted to perform secretarial and administrative duties. This program was initiated under Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels; later more renowned for banning alcohol from Navy ships! Women's roles in WWI were eventually expanded (as the need expanded) to radio operators, draftsmen, pharmacists, telegraph operators, photographers, etc. The total women serving reached about 11,000 by the end of the war-when they were unceremoniously "released from active duty".



With the advent of World War II women were once again recruited to release men for combat. Each service had a name for its female component. The Army chose the name WAACS [Women Auxiliary Army Corps] later shortened to WACS. The Navy chose the name WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Service). The Coast Guard chose SPARS as their name. Enlistment for any of these cadres was for "the war's duration plus six months". These female components were modeled after the British Ambulance Transportation Service [ATS] and the "Land Army" (releasing agriculture workers for military service). Our national response to the need was encouraging, (over 150,000 WACS served in WWII and the Waves had about 80,000 enlisteds and 8,000 Officers). A sad but interesting situation occurred in 1943 when women in uniform were smeared by a national campaign featuring citizen complaints and slandering accusing the Servicewomen of loose morals. The source of some complaints was found to be men in uniform whose "safe jobs" were being taken by women resulting in their being assigned to much less safe combat outfits. These alphabetized Women's Services were disbanded in 1978 when they were integrated into the regular forces.

Since then, women have served in every fracas and war including Iraq and Afghanistan, suffering capture as well as casualties; wounded and deaths. It is now recognized that death or capture by the enemy is a non-discriminatory event that we will have to accept as women move into these new combatant specialties.



PERSONAL AFFAIRS ARTICLE BY BEN COLE

There are two issues that continually grasp my attention, and I want to be sure our members stay alert about them:

No. 1. TRICARE costs and benefits are big items in the proposed Defense Budget for FY 2017. Although most of the members of our chapter have TRICARE-FOR-LIFE (TFL) coverage and expect little changes thereto, some of you are still dealing with TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard or other plans from employers or commercial sources. At our February luncheon, CAPT Lavallee announced that changes are on the horizon. Also LtCol Brown is providing more detailed information to you in this edition and future editions of your monthly newsletter. **DON'T PUT THIS ASIDE. STAY ON TOP OF IT FOR YOUR FAMILY AND YOURSELVES!**

No. 2. Now, about those MILITARY ID CARDS: As you know, we are suggesting that the Visitors Control Center of NAS Ft.Worth JRB be your main source for the reissue of your ID card sans your Social Security Numbers. The VCC has now put out some written information that you should keep close:

Address: 1304 Military Parkway (Inside the Main Gate) Fort Worth TX 76127
 Telephone: (817) 782-5244 Fax: (817) 782-3950
 Hours of Operations: Tuesday-Saturday 0730-1600 Excluding Federal Holidays

NOTE: Walk-in cut off hours are dependent upon the number of appointments, customers currently awaiting service or other services.

To Make Appointments Online: Rapids Appointment Scheduler at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>
 View Calendar for Available Dates. Gray = no available appointments. Green = available appointments.

Prior to visiting VCC please ensure you have TWO valid forms of Identifications (State or Federal Issued) For more detailed information. Please visit the site above.

PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON



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.

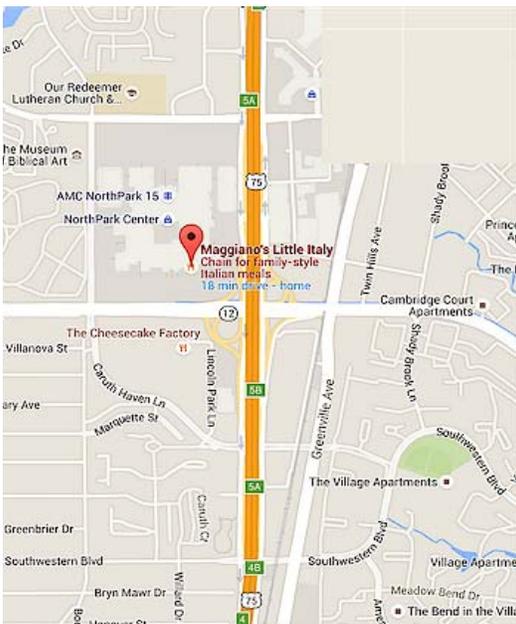
He is a FOX News Contributor and a Senior Fellow at the London Center for Policy Research, and regularly writes for many media outlets. The primary mission of his Allen West Foundation is to educate and inspire the future generation. His organization supports JROTC, Young Marines, and NROTC. Lt. Col. 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 214-360-0707
I-75 and Northwest Highway



Social 11:00 AM
Meeting 12:00 Noon

[Map Link to
Maggiano's](#)



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

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.

Visitors may sit at the Resolute Desk in the full-size replica of the White House Oval Office and take a photo in the seat of power.

Courtesy George W. Bush Presidential Library and

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
- Over 1,200 cubic feet of audiovisual materials containing at least 7,900 audio and more than 17,000 video recordings
- Just over 3.8 million photographs
- 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



The 9-11 Display features a 22-foot, pulverized steel beam from the World Trade Center; the bullhorn the President used to address First Responders at Ground Zero; and a port authority officer's badge, which the President carried every day after 9-11, given to him by a grieving mother.

Courtesy George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

For many years the Collin County Veterans Service Office in Plano, Texas has been a Godsend for me as a widow. The help they have offered was caring and precise. But until now I did not know that their services have been augmented by a new nonprofit organization – the Veterans Center of North Texas. While the Veterans Service Office focuses on assisting veterans with VA disability claims and VA benefits, the Veterans Center of North Texas provides a full range of referral services to veterans and their families. The extent of their outreach is amazing – they are helping veterans and their families and survivors find assistance to health care, transportation, employment, finances, education and other issues. I recently received an email from Jeff Leach, State Representative of District 67 in Texas. He recently visited their office at 900 E Park Blvd, Suite 155, in Plano and had the opportunity to witness the veterans and their work helping fellow veterans to find assistance with their particular needs. The Veterans Center of North Texas is a nonprofit organization operated by veterans. They are ready to help the 167,000 North Texas veterans connect with over 200 Veterans Service Organizations. He was so impressed by what he saw, he devoted an entire page in his newsletter to talk about their services. Their phone number is 214-600-2966 and website address is www.vcont.org. Let's spread the word.



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY MARCH 2016 UPDATE BY JIM BROWN



Defense Department seeks higher fees for Tricare plans

Tom Philpott in Military Update reported on Valentines Day that in keeping with congressional leaders' desire to overhaul the military's health insurance benefit, the Department of Defense has sent revised recommendations to "reform" Tricare. Defense officials say that they want to simplify insurance options, improve access to managed care and drive greater and more efficient use of military medical staffs and treatment facilities.

The Defense Department proposes to save Tricare about \$1 billion annually, starting in 2018, by raising beneficiary fees and co-pays, particularly for retirees, their family members and survivors. Once fees and co-pays are reset, they would climb automatically each year to keep pace with inflation in the health care industry -- just like most commercial health insurance plans.

The Tricare reforms are part of the department's fiscal 2017 budget request and very similar to proposals offered last year. Those ideas were poorly timed, however, as they were overshadowed by the final report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

The commission called for Tricare to be replaced with a menu of commercial insurance plans, like those offered to civilians through the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. But the commission also proposed giving military beneficiaries a new health care allowance that would have covered most of their commercial insurance premiums.

After months of review, Congress and defense officials rejected the commission ideas as going too far. Tricare, they decided, need not be discarded. The Senate Armed Services Committee in particular signaled it was much more inclined to support Pentagon health reform proposals.

By fall, House-Senate conferees on the defense authorization bill decided to embrace one-time pharmacy fee increases and make changes to ensure more timely appointments when using Tricare network providers.

Conferees vowed to work with the Pentagon this year on more comprehensive reforms to "improve access, quality and the experience of care for all beneficiaries; maintain medical readiness of military health professionals; and ensure the long-term viability and cost effectiveness" of the military health system. By reshaping fees, Tricare says it will drive more patients into managed care, with the added efficiency of using military facilities to maximum capacity. The higher fees are targeted at non-medical retirees and their families. Active-duty members and their family members would have no co-pays for services on base or through Tricare civilian provider networks.

The package asks Congress to streamline and more clearly define Tricare options. Prime, the managed care option now available on base or through primary care civilian providers, would be renamed Tricare Select and become a military treatment facility managed care option.

Tricare Standard, the fee-for-service insurance plan, would be renamed Tricare Choice to emphasize that users can choose to get care from network providers or pay more to use non-network providers.

Now, only users of Prime pay an annual enrollment fee, \$282.60 for individual and \$565.20 for family coverage. Effective in 2018, if Congress agrees, those fees would jump, but only for retirees younger than 65, their families and survivors. Renamed "participation" fees, they would be \$350 for individual and \$700 for family coverage. They would continue to be adjusted annually, but based on medical inflation and not, as now, linked to retiree cost-of-living adjustments.

A bigger surprise is that younger retirees and family members also would face a participation fee to use Standard. That annual fee, starting in 2018, would be \$450 per individual and \$900 for family coverage.

Retirees who don't pay the fee would forfeit coverage. Indeed, all Tricare beneficiaries after 2017 would have to enroll in their health benefit annually or lose coverage.

Also for the first time, Medicare-eligible retirees using Tricare for Life as supplemental insurance would pay an annual means-based enrollment fee. For 2018, it would be set at 1 percent of gross retired pay, but not to exceed \$300. It would climb to 2 percent of gross retired pay, not to exceed \$600, by 2020. General and flag officer retirees using Tricare for Life would face slightly higher fee ceilings.

Catastrophic caps on total out-of-pocket health costs, which haven't been raised in a decade, would be reset to \$1,500 a year, from \$1,000, for active-duty families and to \$4,000 a year, from \$3,000, for retiree families. The new participation fee paid by retirees would not count toward the caps.

2016 PRESIDENT'S CLUB BY DAVE SCHAFER

A special thank you to the following members who donated \$100 or more to the 2016 Scholarship Fund:

Mrs. Dottie Alder	Auxiliary	LTC David Blakeley	USA (RET)
MG James Champion	USA (RET)	LTC Clarence Chase Jr.	USAR (RET)
Lt Col Paul Hendricks III	USAF (RET)	CDR Joe Hood	USNR (RET)
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Mrs. Patricia Pritchard	Auxiliary	CDR Nicholas Ricco	USN (RET)
Lt Col Ernie Rose	USAF (RET)	Col Jim Rowland	USAF (RET)
Lt Col David Schafer	USAF (RET)		



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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Editor, William Hill, LCDR, USN, Retired ♦ 8358 San Leandro Drive ♦ Dallas, TX 75218-4317
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Annual dues are \$20.00 for members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY MARCH 2016 UPDATE (CONTINUED) BY JIM BROWN

MOAA's Response to Proposed Increases:

In its Legislative Action Center online, MOAA asks its members to contact their congressional representatives, urging them to resist the Obama Administration's initiatives to impose disproportionate financial penalties on current and retired servicemembers and families by shifting more costs to them. MOAA's suggested message states that your representatives should avoid budget changes that would:

1. Increase existing fees and add significant new ones, effectively raising costs 50-100% for typical military families.
2. Cap the military pay raise below the average American's for a fourth consecutive year.
3. Slash \$221 million in commissary funding which would force a significant cut in the value of this key military benefit.

Please help ensure that Congress fairly treats current and retired service families who already have sacrificed so much for our country. MOAA has a suggested letter that will be forwarded automatically to your representatives. It is located at: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



Furry Friends

A friend in North Carolina called her mother, my neighbor, and friend to tell her that her dog had died. She was very upset, and her heart was broken. We had dogs and cats all the years our children were home. Of course the pets stayed behind when the children left home. They were just loyal loving pets to us. We kept them healthy, loved and fed. We grieved when they died. There is nothing like a furry pet to meet you and lick you to death when you come home.

However, to Debbie, their dog was more than a pet. Their dog was their child. She thinks her dog is going to be in heaven with her (this is a grown married lady). I explained that animals do not have a soul like us and do not go to be with the Lord when they die. 2cor 5:8 tells us to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. That's us. There will be animals during the thousands of years that Jesus rules on David's throne in Jerusalem. Jesus redeemed man, land and animal.

The best answer to that question was given by Billy Graham to a little boy who asked him will there be dogs in heaven? Billy Graham said if that is what it takes to make you happy. We have no idea what awaits us in heaven.

1cor 2:9 says it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

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>