



# MOAA REPORTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**BILL LAVALLEE** [valleone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:valleone@sbcglobal.net)



I am honored to be elected as your Chapter President for 2016. I have served previously in this post so I do know what is expected of me and I promise to do my best to meet your expectations. I serve at your pleasure so I intend to be more your servant than your leader. To help the Chapter serve you better, perhaps it would be useful to remind everyone of our Chapter's range of activities.

As our Chapter population has aged we have become more concerned with such topics as pending Federal and State legislation, particularly as it pertains to Social Security, Tricare for Life, Veterans health and educational benefits, Commissary and Exchange Privileges, COLA changes, ID card renewal requirements and National Cemetery burials. Our Chapter has become more active with regard to these topics to assure that our rights and benefits are not sacrificed to political expediency.

We are blessed to have a very competent Legislative Committee headed by James Brown, to review and evaluate and make us aware of significant State and National legislation that affects us and may require us to take action. This action is usually written and e-mailed pleas to our representatives for their support of our position. The Chapter provides you with a recommended piece of advocacy correspondence that requires only a click on your computer for it to be sent to your Senators and relevant Congressmen. Jim and other Committee members also visit local congressional offices to explain our positions, ask for support and express appreciation for their help.

Another service provided to our members involves our support of surviving spouses regarding procedures for accessing earned benefits, renewing expiring ID cards and making arrangements for burial in a National Cemetery. The Personal Affairs Committee headed by Ben Cole has these responsibilities.

We have a Chapter Officer for Programs. Beverly Thompson evaluates, proposes, and introduces speakers for each of our Chapter meetings. Our goal is to make our meetings not only a place for camaraderie, eating and socializing but also a place where your interests and concerns can be expressed. We try to make the speaker and the topic relevant and pertinent to our membership. Beverly also photographs speakers, members and guests at those meetings for inclusion in our monthly Newsletter.

We strongly support the Veterans Center of North Texas in their activities to help our newest veterans gain the information and assistance they need to re-insert themselves into the population, achieve gainful employment and make use of the benefits due them.

*President's article continued on Page 4*



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

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Veterans' Day Parade November 11.**

MOAA-GDC will be participating in the parade. Contact CAPT Ben Cole 972-669-0619 See page 6 for more information.



Please join us in Celebrating the 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.



**Tuesday, November 10, 2015 - The Denny Farm @ 1200. See page 6 for more information.**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - Holiday Dinner/Dance. See Page 3 for more information.**



GIVE THEM A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.  
**GIFT A COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN.**

Education is one of the most valuable gifts you can give this holiday season. And with college costs rising, now is an ideal time to invest in a college savings plan for your child. With the holidays right around the corner, you can open an account and then invite family and friends to contribute.



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[usaa.com/collegesavings](http://usaa.com/collegesavings) | 800-235-5829



**Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the USAA 529 College Savings Plan (Plan) carefully before investing. Call 1-800-292-8825 to request a Plan Description and Participation Agreement containing this and other information about the Plan from USAA Investment Management Company, Underwriter and Distributor. Read it carefully before investing. If you or the beneficiary are not residents of the state of Nevada, consider before investing whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers a 529 plan that provides its taxpayers with state tax and other benefits not available through this Plan. Please consult your tax advisor.**

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates.

**Investing in securities products involves risk, including possible loss of principal.**

Financial planning services and financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California, License # OE36312), a registered investment adviser and insurance agency, and its wholly owned subsidiary, USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. Investments provided by USAA Investment Management Company and USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., both registered broker dealers.

Interests in the USAA College Savings Plan (Plan) are municipal fund securities issued by the Nevada College Savings Trust Fund (Trust). The value of an investment in the Plan will vary with market conditions. The Plan is administered by the Board of Trustees of the College Savings Plans of Nevada (Board), which is chaired by the Nevada State Treasurer. USAA Investment Management Company provides investment management services to the Portfolios, together with its affiliate, USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., and markets and provides related services with respect to the Plan. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, Inc., serves as the Program Manager. Interests in the Plan are not guaranteed by the Trust, the Plan, the state of Nevada, the Board or any other governmental entities, or any USAA or Ascensus entities, and you could lose money. © 2015 USAA. 222641-1115



## PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

# HOLIDAY GALA — DECEMBER 9, 2015

Presented by the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA (MOAA)  
North DFW Chapter and Greater Dallas Chapter at the

**BROOK HOLLOW GOLF CLUB 8301 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, TX 75235**

Club phone 214-678-0988 (Gate House Guard will direct you to parking)

Social Hour: 6:00 PM Seated Dinner 7:00 PM

Entertainment: Andrew Guarino with DJ music for listening and dancing.

DRESS: Dress Uniform, Service Uniform, Tux, Business Suit and equivalent for ladies

**Passed Hors d' Oeuvre:** Spinach Artichoke Stuffed Mushrooms

**First Course:** Field Greens, Grape Tomatoes, Spicy Pecans, Dried Cherries, Dried Apricots, Goat Cheese, Maple Balsamic Dressing

**When making your reservation please choose from three entrée options (includes the cost of the other courses)**

#1 French Onion Braised Short Ribs \$49.00

#2 6 ounce Filet Mignon \$52.00

#3 Bacon-Wrapped Breast of Chicken \$38.00

**Dessert:** Warm Apple Cobbler with House Made Pumpkin Buttermilk Ice

Send your reservation and payment by **December 1**. 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](http://www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html). You may also call Dave at 214-577-4107.

Link to [map](#). Directions below.

**From North:** Take I-35E south to the Regal Row exit. Turn left (East) on Regal Row to the Harry Hines Boulevard intersection. Turn right and the Club is on the right side.

**From South:** Take I-35E north to the Regal Row exit. Turn right (East) on Regal Row to the Harry Hines Boulevard intersection. Turn right and the Club is on the right side.

**From East:** Take I-635W to I-35E south to the Regal Row exit. Turn left (East) on Regal Row to the Harry Hines Boulevard intersection. Turn right and the Club is on the right side.

**From West:** Take Hwy 114 or Hwy 183 to Regal Row exit. Turn left on Regal Row to the Harry Hines Boulevard

## OCTOBER PICNIC

It was a perfect day for a picnic. Temperatures were in the 70's and a soft cool breeze blowing from the lake that was dotted with sailboats. The food was good and the camaraderie was great! This departure from the usual meeting at Parks City seemed to be a crowd pleaser. We had the swearing in of the 2016 board members. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up (tie) Col Marvin J. Harris 2014 award certificate from MOAA National was awarded to Bill and Sharon Hill, our newsletter editors. Our speaker Steven Cole who is just back from Afghanistan was an exemplary speaker and held our rapt attention for his very interesting talk about "Don't believe all that you hear or read". It was a very pleasant day and ended all too soon.



Speaker Steven Cole, CAPT USN (FAD) and MOAA-GDC members at our October 2015 Picnic.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER

### What? No Turkey?

However can we have Thanksgiving without turkey? It's tradition! The family gets together to eat candied yams, cornbread dressing, green bean casserole and oh yeah smashed potatoes for the giblet gravy.

A friend pointed out to me that turkey is not what makes thanksgiving special. I say she is right. It is the family getting together to listen to Gramp's old stories, Aunt Susie still has sore knees and cousin Ruby just had a brand new baby boy. Besides we are thankful every day we just don't give it a name.

Tradition is not always good. Remember the Pharisees? By the time Jesus was born, they had made up about 696 rules or traditions. I remember that number because it's Methushael's age upside down.)

Jesus upset those traditions. He came to show us the love of the father. And to do the father's will, which was to die for us. He said what is on the inside is what is important. Putting on a big show by measuring, weighing and counting doesn't do anything.

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## PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY BILL LAVALLEE

Our Membership Committee headed by Vice President Dave Schafer, looks to enlist new Chapter members, provide assignment to Committees, make personnel reports to MOAA National and handle the yearly dues and scholarship donations. The publication of our yearly Directory is also Dave's responsibility. This Directory is not just a list of Officers and members with their addresses and phone numbers but also contains, in its last few pages, useful information about the Chapter and provides points of contact for many programs.

Our Chapter Secretary, Chuck Kelley, maintains our records, takes and publishes Chapter and Executive Committee minutes and is our continuing contact with MOAA National and our Webmaster.

The Chapter has an active Website; Sharon Hill is our webmaster. The website has current information about the Chapter meeting dates and scheduled activities are provided].

Our Treasurer, overseeing our budget; our income and expenses. He publishes details on our financial matters –with the goal of ensuring consistency and correctness in our financial actions.

Our Scholarship Committee, headed by Lyle Metzler, evaluates and selects JROTC cadets from area High Schools to receive our yearly scholarship funding from donations made by our members. We also award MOAA medals to deserving cadets at these JROTC schools.

We publish a Monthly Newsletter; transmit it by email to our internet-accessed members and by "snail-mail" to the others. Sharon and Bill Hill act as our editors for this function.

Finally we have an Executive Committee that oversees our Chapter activities and reviews Committee and Officer actions and provides guidance and advice to all our Chapter Officers.

So, as you can see, your Chapter is not just a "let's get together for lunch" organization. With your support and encouragement we will continue to be a force for good and act always in your interests on those matters called out in our Mission and Aims Statement found in our Directory.

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## MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE BY DAVE SCHAFER

The 2016 membership renewal notices were mailed on 9 October. We had a few collating problems matching renewal notices to envelopes so, if you have not yet received your notice, please contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107. We will be sending second notices in mid-November to persons who have not responded to the first notice. Typically the second notice costs about \$100 so please help us cut this cost by responding to your first notice.

Join me in welcoming the following new members for November:

Maj Juan and Mrs. Nelda Perez, USAF (RET) Cedar Hill  
 COL Ralph and Mrs. Connie Cross, USA (RET) Dallas  
 MAJ Karen and Mr. Steven Rutherford, USAR (ACT) Terrell

## LEGISLATIVE TEXAS SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2015 UPDATE

BY SAM WILDER

Last week, as promised, President Obama vetoed the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. In a May statement of administration policy, White House officials said that lawmakers' use of a budgetary gimmick in which the overseas contingency operations (OCO) fund was used to increase the base defense budget failed to provide budget stability, did not prevent sequestration, and circumvented budget spending caps for defense while not helping non-defense programs.

A vote to override the veto of the defense authorization bill is scheduled in the House for Nov. 5. However, it is unlikely they have the votes to support an override. Earlier this month, the House adopted the conference report by a 270-156 vote, with only 37 Democrats supporting the measure. That count would be 20 votes short of the majority needed to override a veto, assuming all 435 members of the House are voting.

On Monday, in a move that surprised many, lawmakers unveiled the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 which would provide budget stability for two years at funding levels above the 2011 Budget Control Act and sequestration, while suspending the debt limit until March 2017 which will avoid a default on America's debts.

The agreement raises defense and non-defense discretionary budget caps by \$25 billion each in fiscal 2016 and \$15 billion fiscal 2017 with a total price tag of \$80 billion. It would add OCO funding at \$16 billion above the president's fiscal 2016 request, for a total of \$73.5 billion and also sets fiscal 2017 OCO funding at \$73.5 billion.

The downside: The budget agreement provides the Defense Department with \$5 billion less than the president's budget request and the GOP's budget proposal. Accordingly, DoD will have to make up the shortfall somewhere. Still, the agreement stabilizes the defense budget and provides some certainty for the department during a presidential election year.

Since the Bipartisan Budget Act raises defense and non-defense spending, Democrats who opposed the defense bill could either support a veto override or lawmakers could write a new bill that reflects provisions contained in the budget agreement. In any event, a failure to pass a defense authorization bill has serious consequences for the military. They would be forced to stop paying new enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses and some other incentive pays on Dec. 31, unless authority is extended. Even temporary halts to these pays would disturb recruiting and retention programs.

The House approved the bipartisan budget agreement on Wednesday by a vote of 266-167. It is expected that the Senate will act early next week.

Once the budget agreement passes with new budget caps and the debt limit debate is off the table, then an omnibus appropriations bill becomes more likely prior to the December 11th expiration of temporary funding (continuing resolution), and decreases the likelihood of a government shutdown. Overall, this is good news for defense, and for the possibility of compromise in our Federal government.

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## SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

The Veterans' Administration since October 2008 has supported the VA Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) that is most helpful in providing information on benefits and services of the survivors of veterans who have died. The Office of Survivors Assistance is designed to provide dedicated and comprehensive support to Survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and members of the Armed Services.

OSA assistance includes home loan guaranties, health care insurance, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, civil service preference, commissary and exchange privileges, "no fee" passports etc. For more information visit the OSA's website at [www.va.gov/survivors](http://www.va.gov/survivors), call 202 461 1077 or email [officeofsurvivors@va.gov](mailto:officeofsurvivors@va.gov) to find out how to get help.

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## CHALLENGE COIN BY DAVE SCHAFER

MOAA Greater Dallas Challenge Coins are now available for purchase at general membership meetings. Come to the next luncheon to purchase yours for only \$6.



## PERSONAL AFFAIRS ARTICLE BY BEN COLE

Here is an update on the ID card situation that may be useful to each of you. Last week I actually visited the JRB in Fort Worth. It was on a weekday, and the gate sentry on duty was a contract employee. He told me that his instructions were to check each ID card for Social Security numbers, and, if it contained such a number, he must confiscate it and direct the person (s) to the Visitors Center to apply for a new ID card. He stated that this is to protect the card holder from any fraudulent action that might occur if an SSN were disclosed. (JRB has even cut a new driveway entrance to the parking lot of the Visitors Center.)

So, my next stop was a visit to the Visitors Center (VC) where I made a direct inquiry to the civilian employee at the "ID Window". She confirmed what the gate sentry had told me and advised that the VC issues ID Cards on Tuesday through Saturday from 0900 to 1600. She said that no reservation is required, then added that applicants who arrive before 1400 will probably have no waiting to be served.

Here are you best bets for getting your ID renewed:

Surviving Spouse: JRB.

Retirees and Dependents: Grand Prairie and JRB. Grand Prairie requires taking a digital finger print (with scanner) and matching to records via uploading to the DoD/DEER records. If the print matches you are issued a new ID. If not you will need to go to JRB. Your ID card will not be going with you and will remain at Grand Prairie if your fingerprints do not match.

Dependents: Grand Prairie **with your Sponsor**. No finger prints required. You can also go to JRB. Sponsors must be present or see the website (link below) for other options/documentation required if Sponsor is not available to accompany you.

JRB 1304 Military Parkway 1st Floor Fort Worth, TX 76127(817) 782-5244. Tuesday-Saturday 0730-1600. Appointments can be made online.

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/appointment/building.aspx?BuildingId=255&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Grand Prairie: 599 Camden Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75051. Monday - Friday 0800 - 1530 appointments only. Call 972-343-4399

For the convenience of some, we can collect a group and go *en masse*. I will help this happen. My number is 972-897-6418.

Please join us in Celebrating the 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
of the United States Marine Corps.

Tuesday November 10, 2015 @1200  
The Denny Farm

1130 Gates Open- Welcome Aboard!  
1200 Colors

National Anthem performed by Jamye Henderson

1215 Mess Hall Opens  
Invocation by Chaplain Jay Henderson

1300 (approx) Cutting of the USMC Birthday Cake



Rides in Marine Corps WWII Jeep available throughout the day!

Uniform: Military or Casual

Veterans of all Branches are encouraged to wear their uniform or parts thereof  
(hats, jackets, medals, ribbons, badges etc)

You are welcome to bring items of military memorabilia to show and are encouraged to drive any military vehicle.

Directions:

One mile north of Celeste on Highway 69, turn east on County Road 1049 (Cloudline sign)  
Continue on CR 1049 until road comes to a "T" at CR 1048--Turn left (North) on CR 1048  
Go about a ½ mile – look for red roofs of the Denny farms on your right.



## VETERANS DAY PARADE NOVEMBER 11, 2014 DOWNTOWN DALLAS

2015 Parade Theme: "Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II". MOAA-GDC will be participating and needs some members to take a ride in the parade. Contact CAPT Ben Cole 972-669-0619 to reserve a seat on the float.

The Veterans Day parade will be in downtown Dallas. It will be on **Wednesday**, November 11th, with massing of the colors and the 11th hour (11:00 AM) ceremony in front of City Hall. The parade will commence following the official ceremony (approximately 1 hour). The route will start at Reunion Arena, will proceed north on Houston Street, east on Main Street, south on Ervay Street, west on Young Street, south on Akard Street and pass in review in front of City Hall.



[www.vetsdayindallas.org/plans.htm](http://www.vetsdayindallas.org/plans.htm)



# HOLIDAY GALA — DECEMBER 9, 2015



Reservation for the December 9, 2015 Holiday Dinner and Dancing Gala  
 BROOK HOLLOW GOLF CLUB 8301 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, TX 75235

Social 6:00 PM Seated Dinner at 7:00 PM

Please choose your entrée:

When making your reservation please choose from three entrée options (includes the cost of the other courses)

#1 French Onion Braised Short Ribs \$49.00 | #2 6 ounce Filet Mignon \$52.00 | #3 Bacon-Wrapped Breast of Chicken \$38.00  
 Number of Entrees \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Entrees \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Entrees \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make payable to "MOAA - Greater Dallas Chapter"

MAIL YOUR RESERVATION AND CHECK BY DECEMBER 1, 2015 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER OFFICERS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** William F. Lavallee, CAPT USN (Ret)

**PRESIDENT—ELECT** Steven Cole, CAPT USN (FAD)

**VICE PRESIDENT — MEMBERSHIP** David J. Schafer, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

**VICE PRESIDENT—LEGISLATIVE** James R. Brown Lt Col USAFR (Ret)

**VICE PRESIDENT—PROGRAMS** Beverly Thompson, Surviving Spouse

**SECRETARY** Charles Kelley Lt Col USAF, (Ret)

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Bev Thompson, Auxiliary

Dave Schafer, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

Jim Brown, Lt Col USAFR (Ret)

Chuck Kelley, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

William F. Lavallee, CAPT USN (Ret)

David C. Briggs, COL USA, (Ret)

**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.

## CAREER TRANSITION – JOB FAIRS

BY JOEL BATALSKY, MOAA-GDC CAREER TRANSITION OFFICER

Nov 19, 2015 DAV Dallas All Veterans Job Fair at Hurst Conference center, 1603 Campus Drive, Hurst, Texas 76054 from 11 am to 3 pm.

<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/dallas-all-veterans-job-fair-november-19-2015>

USAA's local Wealth Management team is presenting a seminar **prior** to the career fair at 10:00 AM. The seminar is titled "Five Steps to Informed Financial Transition". All veterans are welcome to attend this session that is intended to provide information for all veterans and spouses to use as they consider their future retirement. Space is limited, so please register separately for this seminar at, [rmvets.com](http://rmvets.com) dallas nov usaa .



2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up (tie) Col Marvin J. Harris 2014 award certificate from MOAA National was presented to William Hill, LCDR, USN, (Ret) and Sharon Hill, newsletter editors by MOAA-GDC President Dave Schafer.

**WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

All proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project®  
[www.WoundedWarriorProject.org](http://www.WoundedWarriorProject.org)  
 Wounded Warrior Project® is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.

**Call 972-618-6963 by November 10 to RSVP**

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**FOLLOW US!**

## CASINO CHARITY NIGHT

**Thursday, November 12  
 4:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

Conservatory At Plano is bringing Las Vegas to you! Try your luck with casino-style gaming alongside friends and family. Lucky players will have the chance to win a variety of prizes. Our talented culinary team will be serving delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as Conservatory's signature cocktail. You won't want to miss this exciting night devoted to a good cause and charitable giving. Join us as we experience Las Vegas without leaving home!



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[www.ConservatorySeniorLiving.com](http://www.ConservatorySeniorLiving.com)

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