



MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STEVEN COLE — SBCOLE@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Well, the Holiday Season is upon us and I want to take this opportunity to ensure that you each have an opportunity to make plans to attend our December 7th Christmas Party at the Brook Hollow Country Club. Arrive at 6 pm for hors d'Oeuvres and stay until 7 pm for the seated dinner with the following menu items:

- Hors d'Oeuvres: Herb and Cheese soufflés
- First Course: Field Greens, Grape Tomatoes, Spicy Pecans, Dried Cherries, Dried Apricots, Goat Cheese, Maple Balsamic Dressing
- Entrée Choice: 7 ounce Filet Mignon, Honey-Glazed Grilled Salmon, and Chicken Nanette,
- Dessert: Warm Apple-Cobbler with House Made Pumpkin Buttermilk Ice Cream.

While none of this bodes well for my waistline, the food, the fare, and the fellowship of good comrades always makes for a great evening. I hope to see you there!

I need your input regarding your desire to serve the Greater Dallas MOAA Chapter as a Committee Chair. I encourage you secure one of the following position. The rewards and feelings of contributing, in a meaningful way, are great! The following areas need assistance:

- JROTC Liaison
- Chapter Meeting Coordinator
- Greater Dallas Veterans Coalition representative

The following persons have agreed to continue to serve as appointed members of the executive committee for 2017. This executive committee is comprised of the officers of the Chapter and the following members:

Maj Gen KC McClain, USAF (Retired)
CAPT Benjamin Cole, USNR (Retired)
CAPT William Lavalley, USN (Retired)
LTC Mike Colon, USA (Retired)
Lt Col Paul Hendricks III, USAF (Retired)

COL David Briggs, USA (Retired) remains on the executive committee as Legal Counsel, as a non-voting member.

There needs to be three more voting members appointed to the executive committee. You know who you are! Get your name to me, before I start calling and asking. This is your Chapter and there is a great deal of work to do. Please be a part of our motion forward.

President's article continued on Page 2

MOAA-GDC receives 2015 Five-Star Level of Excellence Award



UPCOMING EVENTS:

NORTH TEXAS VETERANS SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 10

See Page 8 for more details for this event.



MILITARY HIRING FAIR NOVEMBER 10

See Page 2 for more details for this event.



DALLAS VETERANS DAY PARADE NOVEMBER 11

See Page 2 for more details for this event.



DECEMBER HOLIDAY GALA DECEMBER 7

See Page 3 for more details for this event.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on November 19.

See Page 8 for more details

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY STEVEN COLE

Allow me to close on a note of refocusing and redoubling our efforts here in North Texas. Our mission is to continue the promotion of the enduring values of military professionals. We do that in various ways; by shaping relevant government policies, delivering relevant value to our membership, as well as serving the needs of our membership, their spouses and survivors, and helping identify high-quality products and services that help our members meet their professional, financial, and family needs.

The North Texas Veterans Center is helping. There is no more satisfying work than volunteering your time to help other veterans. Contact them to get your name on the roster to help. They are located at 900 East Park Blvd., Plano, Texas. (214) 600-2966. This is a great work. Let's help.

There is much to do. I am humbled by the talent and desires to serve I see in our Chapter. I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party!

CAREER TRANSITION – JOB FAIRS

BY JOEL BATALSKY, MOAA-GDC CAREER TRANSITION OFFICER

The Texas Workforce Commission is proud to announce the fifth annual Hiring Red, White and You! (HRWY) statewide job fair to take place on November 10, 2016. In cooperation with 28 Workforce Solutions partners, the Hiring Red, White and You! Job Fair connects Texas veterans and their spouses with Texas employers who value the experience, discipline and other exceptional qualities inherent with a military background.



In the first four years, HRWY has connected more than 42,000 veterans with over 6,400 employers.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Please continue to check this website for updates on this event or contact redwhiteandyou@twc.state.tx.us.

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas - November 10, 2016

Gilley's Dallas
1135 South Lamar Street
Dallas, TX 75215
10:00am-2:00pm

Contact:

Linda Davis (214) 290-1045 ldavis@wfsdallas.com Job Fair Hotline: 214-302-5555

Job Seeker Registration: <https://jobseeker2016rwy.eventbrite.com>

Employer: <https://hrwy2016-dallas.eventbrite.com>

Dallas Veterans Day Parade 11 November



This year the MOAA Greater Dallas Chapter will have an opportunity to participate in the Dallas Veterans Day Parade. The parade is an outstanding event that honors our Veterans. This is a fun event and offers the opportunity for our MOAA Chapter members to interface with other Veteran groups and be recognized as a member of the North Texas Veterans community.

We will assemble beginning at 0900 on November 11th along Sports Street and Hotel Avenue, just south of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The parade route is about 1 ½ miles long. We will plan to march (walk) the parade route since military vehicles are not available this year. If you would like to be part of this exciting and wonderfully patriotic event, please contact [Paul Hendricks, 469-667-7750](tel:469-667-7750) by Wednesday, November 9th.



PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

2016 ANNUAL HOLIDAY MILITARY DINNER GALA— WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 7

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: Herb Cheese Soufflés

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 7 ounce Filet Mignon

#2 Honey-Glazed Grilled Salmon

#3 Chicken Nanette

Dessert: Warm Apple Cobbler with House Made Pumpkin Buttermilk Ice

Send your reservation and payment by **December 2**. 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.moagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html. You may also call Dave at 214-577-4107. **All reservation payments must be received by Friday, December 2. No payments will be accepted at the door.**

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

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

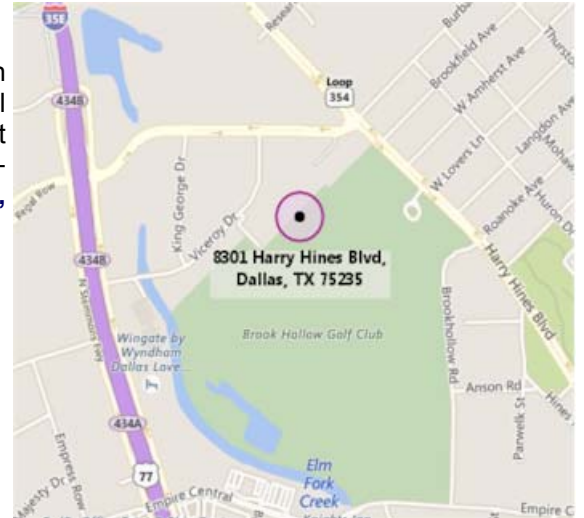
Directions

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.

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 intersection. Turn right on Harry Hines and the Club is on the right side.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



Memorial

I attended a memorial this past week for a dear friend. I want to share with you what was printed inside the little paper they hand you as you go in. He must have had my friend in mind!

To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the approbation of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—this is to have succeeded.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2016 BY JIM BROWN



HAZELWOOD ACT DEVELOPMENTS

MOAA's state legislative team is preparing to lobby the legislature intensively to preserve the Hazelwood Act's state college tuition benefit for veterans and their families. Based on his meetings with statewide MOAA leaders, COL Sam Wilder, President of the North Texas Chapter, has developed an Advocacy Guide for legislative efforts in the coming months.

The Advocacy Guide emphasizes the following facts:

1. The Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) represents 30,000 members in the state of Texas. In legislative matters, numbers count.
2. The Hazelwood benefit is very important to veterans. By primarily benefitting veterans' families, it benefits veterans.
3. Veterans are not demanding more than what they have now. In fact, they are willing to compromise to protect the most important educational benefits for the worthiest veterans.
4. The colleges are saying, "It's unfair to mandate that we educate Hazelwood students without adequate compensation".
5. Veterans and colleges are just asking the Legislature to live up to its duty to fund a program that they authorized when money is available.
6. Legislators from the Higher Education committees of both Senate and House can be influenced by the fact that Hazelwood students fit into the state's higher education strategic goal, the 60X30TX plan, which was approved by the state legislature and governor. The objective is to have 60% of Texans with a college education by 2030. The state has spent \$3.3 billion so far to support this plan. Hazelwood should be kept as part of this plan.
7. Former State Senator Leticia Van de Putte has told us that during the last episode of BRAC base closures by DOD, Hazelwood helped Texas avoid any closures, thereby saving Texas economy over \$10 billion. Hazelwood fit into the DOD criteria for saving bases because Hazelwood fit into the Quality of Life goals for military and veterans.
8. Some legislators will say that Hazelwood is just not financially supportable. We can show that money is available if we can convince legislators to fund the program. We suggest that \$300 million be provided. That is the projected cost by 2019 as estimated by the Legislative Budget Board and given to the legislature in the last session. We are suggesting a "60% Solution" whereby the veterans and colleges both get 60% of what they want and the legislature must fund the costs at a 60% level.

REVAMPING THE VA

This is an edited version of an article by Christina Wood for MOAA:

VA Secretary Bob McDonald and the veterans' community are counting on MyVA to change the way the agency does business. "We're trying to put the veteran at the center of everything we do," McDonald says. With MyVA, the organization hopes to set a course of long-term excellence and reform and rebuild trust with veterans and their families and the American people. Its objectives seek "to achieve meaningful near-term improvements and quick wins for veterans" while also moving the VA closer to long-term success. Among them are increased access to health care, improved community care, modernization of VA contact centers, simplification of the appeals process, and a continuing reduction of homelessness among the nation's veteran population.

A VETERAN-CENTRIC APPROACH

Since the access crisis in Phoenix, the VA has handled millions more appointments annually, both within its facilities and out in the community. And, as Dr. David Shulkin, VA undersecretary of health told the advisory committee in Boston, 97 percent of those appointments now are completed within 30 days of the veteran's preferred date. Thirty-four medical centers, he said, now offer access to same-day primary care, and as of April, 90 percent of mental health patients are seen within seven days. Only 14 percent of community psychiatrists can match that, he noted.

The VA also is finding innovative ways to serve veterans, from a new prosthetic arm developed in conjunction with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and adaptive sports programs to telehealth services that deliver much-needed mental health care services. "This isn't happening in the private sector because it's not cost-effective," Shulkin said. "We are by far the largest user of telehealth in the country. No one else comes close."

Legislative article continued on Page 5

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2016 - CONTINUED

Forms are being simplified. Letters are being translated into plain English. Call centers have opened. As of June 30, veterans now have the option of a true digital enrollment process, which takes an average of only 24 minutes to complete. A mobile app allowing veterans to schedule appointments quickly and easily will be released soon. The VA's new website, www.vets.gov, fulfills its promise of being the only website needed to access all VA services and benefits. At this point, it's still a work in progress.

The VA also is well on its way to creating 100 community veteran engagement boards to leverage all community assets - not just those of the agency - to meet the needs of local veterans. "Those are a way of reaching veterans in a positive way and improving the way that they see [the] VA - as a partner instead of an uncaring bureaucracy," Szymanski says.

THE PACE OF CHANGE

"Access continues to be the biggest issue, but solving it in a way that does not erode the quality of care is ultimately what veterans want and what our organization seeks to achieve," says Carlos Fuentes, deputy director of the National Legislative Service at Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Overwhelmingly, veterans are satisfied with the care they receive. Our surveys have determined that 87 percent of veterans who use VA health care would recommend it to their fellow veterans. The quality is undisputed."

VA leadership now is actively trying to engage VA employees in the transformation process and is cultivating transparency and accountability throughout the organization. A dynamic program - Leaders Develop Leaders - is facilitating the necessary change of culture at all levels.

Comprehensive planning is in place, based on a high-performance organization model, and out-of-date technology is being replaced.

"Unfortunately, Congress's inability to move key pieces of legislation has really slowed up the transformative change that MyVA is all about," says Bill Rausch, executive director of Got Your 6, referring to the Veterans First Act, which received full bipartisan support from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee but has yet to be brought to the floor for a vote. "There's legislation sitting on the Hill that would allow the VA to provide better service to more veterans across the country, and no one is taking action to push it though."



Photo on left: Bev Thompson presenting MOAA-GDC challenge coin to guest speaker Col Miguel Howe, USA (Retired) at October luncheon.



Photo on right: MOAA-GDC President CAPT Steven Cole, USNR (Retired); Speaker Col. Miguel Howe, USA, (Retired) and MOAA-GDC President-Elect Col William Dwiggins, USMC (Retired).



October 2016—November 2017 Officers being sworn at October meeting.

Left to Right:
Steven Cole, President; William Dwiggins, President Elect; Dave Schafer, Treasurer; Beverly Thompson, VP Programs; and Chuck Kelley, Secretary.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

Sometimes I consider my computer a modern miracle and sometimes I think it is possessed by demons. It can deliver a message by email in seconds; but it can flood the works with a virus in the same time frame. That's why we must keep vigilant about what goes on.

For example, I recently received an email from what purported to be my homeowners and auto insurance company. Their message was that I needed to update my information for their records. It sounded shady to me so I called my insurance company. They said they had not sent the email and asked that I forward the e mail that I questioned. Before long the insurance agent came back on the phone and thanked me. He said the message was a form of phishing to get my personal information that could be harmful to me.

Another instance of scamming involved a pop-up browser window pretending to be an anti-virus program that instructed me to download for my use. I was irked by this sudden intrusion. I shut it down and contacted my own anti-virus program that told me not to open that contact because it was likely a fake. In fact, it could be a scam to open any or all information that is on my computer. Any disreputable person could access my personal data to use against me.

Still another scam I encountered was not an email but simply a link with the name of a friend. I simply called that friend who had no part in the link that was sent to me with her name. I was warned that it could be an attempt to infect my computer to steal passwords and other personal information to create an identity theft. So, I simply deleted the link without opening it.

I feel my personal calls to the persons or companies who are named in such messages helps me avoid identity theft and other deceit. I do not contact the perpetrators. But I also keep on hand a newspaper article dated August 2016 of Military Officer. They warn us to keep advised by using Adult Protective Services. First, call Eldercare Locator that our government sponsors on a national resource line: 1 800 677 1116. Also, their website follows: www.eldercare.gov

Let's keep alert.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS BY BEN COLE

You may know that VA provides benefits and services for Veterans, but did you know that VA also has a number of services designed specifically to support you in your role as a Family Caregiver?. The programs are available both in and out of your home to help you care for the Veteran you love and for yourself. Asking for help isn't always easy – especially if you're not exactly sure what kind of support would be the best fit for your needs.

Caregiver Support Line

With VA's Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274, assistance is just a phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center (clinic in Plano, Texas, now) near you.

Caregiver Support Coordinator

Your local VA Caregiver Support Coordinator is a licensed professional who can support you by matching you with services for which you are eligible, and providing you with valuable information about resources that can help you stay smart, strong and organized as you care for the Veteran you love.

Peer Support for Caregivers

The VA has developed a Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program to connect Caregivers to one another, to provide support, and to learn from each other. Peer Support Mentoring provides an opportunity for Caregivers to share their experience, wisdom, skills and passion with each other and benefit from the guidance of others.

Below are various services available to Family Caregivers of Veterans. If you'd like additional information or are interested in signing up for any of the services listed below, contact VA's Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274.

Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Centers
Skilled Home Care
Home Telehealth

Home Hospice Care

Home-Based Primary Care
Homemaker and Home Health Aide Program
Respite Care



HOLIDAY GALA — DECEMBER 7, 2016



Reservation for the December 7 Wednesday Evening Dinner—All reservations and payments must be received by December 2.

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

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

____ Person's at \$50.00 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 choose your entrée:

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

#1 7ounce Filet Mignon

Number of Entrees _____

#2 Honey- Glazed grilled Salmon

Number of Entrees _____

#3 Chicken Nanette

Number of Entrees _____

CHAPTER OFFICERS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT—ELECT Col William Dwiggin USMC (retired)

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

VICE PRESIDENT — MEMBERSHIP CDR James Bass, USN (Retired)

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

VICE PRESIDENT—PROGRAMS Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary

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Personal Affairs Committee: CAPT Ben Cole USNR, Ret)

JROTC Liaison: OPEN

Career Transition: LTC Joel Batalisky, USA (Ret)

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



North Texas Veterans Symposium

10 November 2016 0900 to 1500

Sponsored by

Plano Community Homes & Veterans Center of North Texas



This is an opportunity to talk to representatives from 10 great organizations serving the North Texas Veterans community. Admission is free and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Find out how the following organizations can help you:

- Attitudes and Attire Boots to Heels
- Family Endeavors
- Hire Heroes USA
- Plano Community Homes
- Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare
- Texas Veterans Commission
- VA Plano CBOC
- Veterans Center of North Texas
- Veterans Land Board
- Veterans Service Office of Collin County

Location: 1932 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074 (Just south of Public Storage)
For more information call 214-600-2966

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 Lather Drive, Dallas, TX 75214:

2016

19 November

2017

21 January, 18 March, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, and 18 November

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