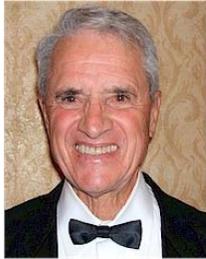




MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BILL LAVALLEE valleone@sbcglobal.net



The Military exists primarily to fight (and win!) wars. Our Military is good at that. It is not so good at nation-building, educating and training other nationals, rehabilitating drug addicts, becoming a bastion for transgender rights or assuming a wide range of other social welfare tasks. I remember particularly when Secretary of Defense McNamara in the 60's initiated "Project One Hundred Thousand"; whereby 100,000 unqualified people were purposely inducted into the Army so they could become educated and useful citizens. It was a complete failure; it was common on bases and on the battlefield to assign two other troops to watch over each member of that cadre! The resultant loss of effectiveness and readiness was palpable. An aroused and aware citizenry screamed for and got an end to this travesty.

Today we have no such common awareness of the purpose of the military. Some consider all military action to be morally questionable, much less a patriotic duty. This seems to be a repeat of an attitude that was prevalent in the 60's. Then, an anti-war fever was at a peak level and carried over into a strong bias against military personnel. Much of their antagonism was caused by the imposition of selective service: "the draft". The war in Vietnam was not popular and much effort by draft-age men was spent trying to avoid being drafted. Today, with no drafting, there is no such reason for an anti-military stance. In fact we may have returned to an attitude more like the 40's when service in the military was esteemed and applauded. There is a large difference, however, in the circumstances that prevailed. Almost every household in the 40's had a member that was serving in the Armed Forces. Now, less than 1% of our nation has seen military service. In Congress today about 17% have had some military experience compared to in the 40's when over 85% had such experience. In fact, one Congressman was elected while serving in combat in Italy!

The current situation begs for an informational response to Congress and to our fellow citizens so that we can provide a rationale for keeping reasonable force levels and prevent the antipathy that is unfortunately prevalent among those not aware of the dangers inherent in an "under nourished" military. There are a few of us old enough to remember the state of the military just prior to World War II. We then had about 250,000 men under arms. There was such a lack of equipment that soldiers in basic training marched with wooden toy guns. When we were thrust into the war we had to quickly expand to 12 million members in our Armed Forces and the entire country was put on a wartime footing! It was not certain that we would win that war until a couple of years later!

President's article continued on Page 2

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



UPCOMING EVENTS:

LUNCHEON MEETING — OCTOBER 25, 2016

Col. Miguel Howe, USA, Ret.
Director of Service Initiative at the President George W. Bush Library.
See Page 3 for more details



MILITARY HIRING FAIR

See Page 8 for more details for this event.

2016 TCC MEETINGS

The next TCC meeting in 2016 is October 21-22.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be November 19. See Page 8 for more details

SMILES FOR TODAY

A will is a dead giveaway.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When she saw that first strand of grey hair, she thought that she'd dye!

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY BILL LAVALLEE

The current state of the military is a concern to us. Our numbers of personnel, tanks, aircraft and ships have been reduced to levels not seen since WWII. Besides the ubiquitous greetings of "thank you for your service" that active and retired service people often hear, we need something more. We need to cancel the sequestration that has decimated troop and equipment levels. We need to stop cutting the pay of our active forces (and retirees) by COLA reductions; by redefining housing allowances, and by redesigning retirement policies. We also need to be honest with our justifications for such cuts. Despite the Pentagon's trying to justify these pay cuts by citing huge increases in personnel and healthcare costs incurred for the military, these costs are not soaring; in fact, they have remained at about thirty percent of the military budget for the last decade or so! It seems that the Sequestration answer to budget expansion only works against the military; social welfare and other entitlements and international aid programs continue unabated. Furthermore, the last two years of budgeting under this sequestration have resulted in deficits of 1 Trillion dollars in 2015 and about 500 Billion dollars in 2016! The real way to get our budget under control is not sequestration, it is to improve economic growth. Until we adopt tax reform programs and reduce the debilitating regulations on our businesses to encourage the growth that we used to have ten years ago we are doomed to continue these unacceptable budget deficits.

When our Chapter Officers visit our local Congressional Offices to advocate for our active and retired military personnel we are usually greeted warmly but we find that their knowledge of military life and its inherent sacrifices is generally not understood. There is a general feeling that we need to stop ISIS but that doesn't seem to reflect into a need to strengthen the military and to support their morale by maintaining reasonable benefits. The possibility of another big war seems remote to many people. This may be because many are oblivious to our recent history of combat situations. After WWI; "the war to end all wars", it wasn't twenty years before we were faced with WWII. Then five years later we had the "police action" in Korea. Ten years later we had Vietnam, followed by a series of "little wars" that few remember. To wit: El Salvador in 1981; Lebanon in 1982; Grenada in 1983; Panama in 1988; Liberia and the Congo in 1990; Somalia in 1992; Bosnia and Kosovo in 1998; and, of course, the last ten years of the Middle East wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now the war on terror in Syria. There has been little time between deployments for many of our service personnel.

The truth is that there will always be some bully in the world's play yard who will want to take your lunch or lunch money if he is not deterred. Our military is that deterrent. We must honor the commitments of pay and benefits that we made to these warriors and not break our promises to them by citing budget exigencies. The next antagonist may be North Korea, Iran, China or Russia or some State not yet perceived as a threat (Turkey?) But our military cannot fight that "bully" with promises; it must fight with the personnel and equipment that it has at that moment. It is time to recognize that the best insurance policy against disaster that our nation can buy is to maintain a strong and competent military!

This will be my last message as I retire (again!) from the Office of Chapter President. I am grateful for the opportunity with which you have entrusted me. We have once again won the MOAA National Level of Excellence award – due mainly to the expertise and dedication of our Chapter Officers. It is their efforts and results that have won us this award. I congratulate and thank them! A "fair wind and following seas" is wished to our new President and our Chapter.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

Random acts of kindness are heartwarming in today's topsy-turvy world. As a result, the example of kindness on page 83 of Woman's Day of the October 2016 issue is a delight to read. High school students, Angelica Niemann with her friend, Jordan Obert, collect items to make up care packages of soldiers. Angelica created the Quincy Notre Dame Kindness Club at her school to help out military in need of help throughout the year. She also has visited veterans at the VA hospital. She is much appreciated.

We can find people being kind to both active and veteran military if we look around us.

At St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Plano, Texas, Dale and Donna Heidenreich head a military support group called St. Michael's. They and their group make up care packages to assist military in need. Anyone willing to help may join the group. I called the volunteer office of the VA at (214) 742 8387 to find out how people can help.

The person who answered said that donating books, used and new, boxes of underwear, socks, toothbrushes and other toiletries, and lap blankets or robes for those in wheel chairs are most welcome. He also said that a call to the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars could yield other ways of aiding our wounded veterans and active military. Look in the yellow pages of the telephone directories for their offices near you.

We are wise to work to make our world a better place to live and work in and if we all do our own little bit, we can build a world of peace.

PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

LUNCHEON MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2016—COL MIGUEL HOWE, USA (RETIRED) The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, TX 75225



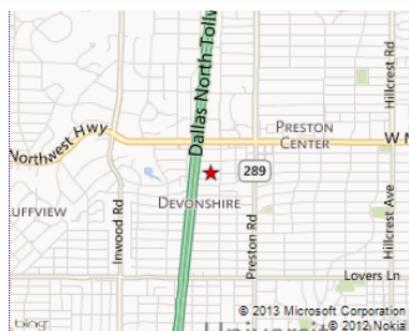
Col. Miguel Howe, USA, Ret. is the Director of Service Initiative at the President George W. Bush Library.

He is responsible for leading the Bush Institute's work to honor the service and sacrifice of post 9/11 veterans, service members and their families and to unite the efforts of non-profits, businesses, universities, individual citizens and communities to empower all post 9/11 veterans to continue to serve as national assets after they take off the uniform.

Colonel Howe served 24 years in the Army in a myriad of command and staff assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the commander of the Afghan National Army Special Operations Advisory Group, Camp Morehead Afghanistan. He also deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom as the Chief of Staff for the NATO Training Mission in Al Rustamiyah, Iraq.



As Special Forces Officer, he has commanded special operations forces on numerous deployments in Latin America with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Colonel Howe served as the Special Assistant to the CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and commanded the U.S. Army Southern California Recruiting Battalion. He began his Army career in the 25th Infantry Division as a Rifle Platoon Leader. Colonel Howe was selected in 2006 by President George W. Bush to serve as a White House Fellow. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and earned a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from Georgetown University. He is married with two children.



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

Please send your reservations early to ensure we can make an accurate and timely reservation count. Mail the reservation coupon to MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251; email Dave Schafer moaaschafer@att.net or reserve online at www.moagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html. You may also call Dave at (214)577-4107.

MOAA-GDC accepts **PayPal** for paying for your luncheon at our website which allows you to pay by credit card. <http://www.moagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html>



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER

Time To Show Up

It's almost time to vote. I am so glad I was born in the US of A. We know freedom is not free. Some of you who may be reading this, gave a good price to keep us free.

In Romans 13 we read: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. That lets me know that my vote will count.

I got a notice that I can vote by mail. As long as it isn't electronic, I can handle it. I say we've come a long way. Both of my husbands were veterans. My first husband of 44 years was a foot soldier in WWII. The second was a chaplain, and helped men die in Korea, and Viet Nam. Those are the families that paid the ultimate price for me to vote.

Thanks to all of you who served.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY OCTOBER 2016 BY JIM BROWN



CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

During the past month, I and other members of our chapter visited offices of U.S. House of Representative members representing our chapter members. Legislative aides to all local representatives told us that our representatives were favorable to our positions on pending armed forces benefits legislation. The issues that we emphasized this year are as follows:

1. Maintaining the 2.1% pay increase dictated by statute and already approved by the House of Representatives. The Senate has only approved a 1.7% increase.
2. Providing funds for additional personnel to ease pressures on current forces.
3. Rejecting the Senate's proposal to cut housing allowances for thousands of troops, including a 50% cut for dual-military couples.
4. Rejecting the Senate's proposal to nearly double out-of-pocket Tricare costs for currently serving and future service personnel within a few years.
5. Rejecting the House of Representative's proposal to dramatically increase Tricare costs for future entrants.
6. Requiring improvements in access, quality and continuity of care in Tricare before there is any increase in costs.
7. Finding funds to maintain and increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) currently at \$310 per month without imposing higher drug co-pays.

MOAA reported on 30 September that House and Senate Armed Services committee leaders have said they have nearly completed negotiations on the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill that will determine TRICARE fee changes, troop levels, the size of the military pay raise, housing allowance changes, and survivor benefit payments, among many other things.

Much depends on whether Congress will allow extra money in the DoD budget above the spending caps set under last year's budget deal. Congress has yet to resolve inter-party disputes on overall federal spending, and whether a rise in DoD spending would have to be matched by a rise in non-defense spending. Until that's resolved, the defense bill - and the final action on all of the personnel and benefit issues - remains in limbo.

So we're back where we were last year, waiting for a lame duck Congress to work these issues out in November and December.

PRESENTATION TO TEXAS LEGISLATURE JOINT HEARING ON HAZELWOOD ACT

Col. Sam Wilder, President of the North Texas Chapter, attended a state legislative hearing in Austin on maintaining the state college tuition benefit for veterans and their families and told the representatives that although the benefit is extremely valuable to veteran families, "... we also realize that the current situation puts practically the entire burden of the 'costs' or the 'unrealized income' onto the universities, which is an unfunded (or at best an 'underfunded') mandate. So we are proposing a compromise solution... (that) is a combination of reducing the numbers of recipients and providing increased subsidies to the colleges from state resources. This eases the burden of an 'unfunded mandate'." He made the following statements in support of maintaining the benefit with a few changes:

- The benefit is awarded based on active federal service (NOT state service). The arduous services of a 15 – 20 year military career are unrivaled in sacrifices for both the military member and family.
- Very short periods of active service (e.g. the current 181 days) do not justify the same benefits that are awarded for 15 – 20 years of active service. Since the Legacy portion is the most expensive, raising its requirements to 4 yrs active duty would be reasonable. It would CUT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE VETERANS BY 40%. Six years is far too drastic; it would lose 70% of eligible veterans. The Hobby Report from Rice University shows that the numbers of eligible vets will be decreasing. Therefore, costs of the Legacy program will decrease.
- Restricting the legacy part to an undergraduate degree is reasonable.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY OCTOBER 2016 - CONTINUED

- The state should take a much greater responsibility in reimbursing the colleges. In the first place, ensuring that the Hazelwood veterans and family can pursue college degrees is a perfect contribution to 60x30TX plan, which is the state's higher education strategic plan for the next 15 years. For this plan, Texas has spent \$3.3 billion over 15 yrs in grants for low income students. Consider including Hazelwood recipients in the 60X30TX plan. They are contributing to the overall goal of the 60x30TX strategy. Secondly the Governor proposed \$532 million reimbursement for Hazelwood during the 2015 Legislature. If the legislature can find billions for tax cuts, certainly they can find \$300m to keep the Hazelwood program sustainable.
- We need to grandfather those veterans currently eligible. We must not pull the rug out from under them.
- Current residency requirements are legal and not a problem.
- A system to take the load off certain colleges and spread the load of Hazelwood students is reasonable and should be investigated.

Recommendation: That the Governor and Legislature enact this as a workable solution to keep Texas' pledge to its veterans for their arduous service and to keep the Hazelwood Act benefits sustainable for the future.

Conclusion: This proposal – a compromise solution – answers the principal charges this joint committee was tasked to consider. It addresses legacy tuition exemption provisions, eligibility requirements, and changes for the program to remain solvent. I've discussed the enormous financial impact on legacy students and covered the disastrous impact on legacy students due to the increasing high cost of college education. Remember, it is a compromise solution that addresses the concerns of the 3 major stakeholders – higher education, veterans, and the state legislature.

HOUSE PASSES VA APPEALS MODERNIZATION

This spring, the VA Secretary told Congress the backlog of initial disability claims had been reduced significantly, but there was an enormous and growing backlog of appeals. Senate Veteran Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) demanded VA come up with a solution so he could introduce legislation by Memorial Day.

In March, the VA convened a working group of veteran service organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholder groups, including MOAA, to develop a new proposed procedure. The resulting plan would create three "lanes" for appeal after an initial ratings decision. A veteran could choose to:

- Submit his or her own additional information to have the VA reconsider the claim (termed by VA as a "supplemental claim");
- Request a review of the claim by a more senior VA rater using the same evidence the initial decision was made on, with an option for an informal hearing; or
- Submit the appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, without the extra interim steps required now. One other important change is the VA's current "duty to assist" the veteran in developing the claim would end after the initial VA decision.

On 14 Sept., HR 5620 passed the house by a 310 - 116 vote. The final bill also included whistleblower protections, authority to share veterans' medical information with community care providers to facilitate treatment, and honoring certain members of the reserve component as veterans.

While the bill isn't perfect (MOAA has some qualms about eliminating the VA's duty to assist the veteran in developing an appeal), it's the only bill with a chance to make real progress in easing the current ridiculous situation where an appeal takes years.

MOAA is hopeful the Senate also will approve the bill so vets can get timely appeals decisions.

Stop Defense Bill Personnel/Compensation Cuts

Military people have a lot to lose as House and Senate negotiators meet to resolve big differences in their respective defense bill drafts. What's at stake:

- Dramatic retiree health care fee increases
- Huge erosions to housing allowances
- Another pay raise cutback
- More cuts to force levels

Please send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.



<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=73090626>

OFFICERS SLATE BY BILL LAVALLEE

The MOAA Greater Dallas Chapter fiscal year is from 1 October to 30 September. In accordance with our bylaws a slate of new officers must be approved by the Executive Committee at its September meeting and presented to the members at the general membership meeting in October. The Presiding Officer will take additional nominations from the members present at the October meeting. After closing the nominations, the Presiding Officer will call for a vote of the members present and announce the results of the election. The newly elected officers will then be installed at the October meeting and assume the duties of their position. The slate of 2017 elected officers approved by the Executive Committee are:

President — Steven Cole
President Elect----Bill Dwigins
V.P./Committee Chair, Programs — Bev Thompson
V.P. /Committee Chair Legislative — James Brown
V.P. Committee Chair Personal Affairs — Ben Cole
V.P. Committee Chair Membership — Jim Bass
Treasurer — Dave Schafer
Secretary — Chuck Kelley
Past President — Bill Lavallee

I encourage all members to attend the general membership meeting 25 October to meet the new officer team.

MEMBERSHIP BY JIM BASS

Jimbass9661@tx.rr.com

The 2017 membership renewal and scholarship campaign is underway. Please watch your mailbox for your renewal notice. We will soon be offering members an option to renew their membership online.

Please remember that vitality of our chapter is dependent on a strong membership. Please renew promptly and if at all possible, please consider and tax deductible donation to the Great Dallas Chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund. You can make a donation to the scholarship fund anytime via PayPal on the home page of our website.

A warm welcome to our new members:

CDR Joseph Way, USN RET of Arlington
CAPT Keith Lepak, USAF FORMER of Irving
MAJ Patrick and Mrs. Yunyong McClain, USMC RET of Cedar Hill
LTC King and Mrs. Georgeann Moss II, USAR RET of Sunnyvale
LTC Michael and Mrs. Marquita Sozio, USAR RET of Dallas
CW4 James and Mrs. Vicki Bennett, USA RET of Corsicana
COL James and Mrs. Ann Boelens, USA RET of Rockwall
LTC Curt and Mrs. Doreen Craig, USAR ACTIVE of Coppell
COL Dennis and Mrs. Joan Fontana, USA RET of Addison
Maj Charles and Mrs. Mary Lee, USA RET of Carrollton
CWO4 Victor Popplewell, USCG RET of Sherman
Mrs. Merita Thompson, Auxiliary of Forney
Maj Arthur and Mrs. Deloris Walker, USAF (RET) of Rowlett
MAJ William and Mrs. Patricia Frobe, USA ACT of Plano



LUNCHEON MEETING — OCTOBER 25, 2016



Reservation for the October 25, 2016 Tuesday Luncheon Meeting

The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, Texas 75225 Phone: (214) 373-0756

Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon

_____ Person's at \$25.00 each Check enclosed \$ _____
payable to "MOAA - Greater Dallas Chapter"

Mail Reservation to: Dave Schafer

MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251

 (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

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PRESIDENT—ELECT CAPT Steven Cole, USN

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

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

VICE PRESIDENT—PROGRAMS Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary

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Scholarship Committee: CH COL Lyle Metzler, USA (Ret)

Personal Affairs Committee: CAPT Ben Cole USNR, (Ret)

JROTC Liaison: CDR Dan Murphy, USN (Ret)

Career Transition: LTC Joel Batala, USA (Ret)

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Beverly Thompson, Auxiliary

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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

MOAA Virtual Career Fair

Highlighting Healthcare Industry Opportunities

Date: Nov 09, 2016 to Nov 09, 2016

Time: 11:00 AM—3 PM CT

Open to all transitioning servicemembers, veterans, and spouses!

Looking to connect with employers that aren't in your location? Are you willing to relocate to another area for the best fit job? Do you want to meet employers, but have limited time? MOAA has found that Virtual Career Fairs are very effective in connecting talented military and veterans with great companies who value your skills. And, because of the ease of connecting and low cost (time and money), virtual career fairs are proving effective and on the rise. To increase your chances of connecting with a great company take these important steps:

- Be sure to upload a photo, current resume and your LinkedIn URL
- Research the companies prior and identify “best fit companies” you'd like to work for
- Keep conversations flowing with short text chats to “create the connection”
- Follow-up with companies of greatest interest

MOAA's free Virtual Career Fair is specifically tailored for military personnel seeking positions within the healthcare industry, but also is open to all job-seeking military, veterans, and spouses. Space in these virtual events is limited so register today. - See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/virtualcareerfair/?list=4294971766&cat=4295120577#sthash.eU769pFi.dpuf>

See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/virtualcareerfair/?list=4294971766&cat=4295120577>

For more information, please contact Joel Bataly at 214-908-3708

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

17 September and 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.