



MOAA REPORTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DAVE SCHAFER moaaschafer@att.net



Community Outreach Programs

I think I've written about the Chapter's community outreach programs several times over my past year in office. Over the past several years I've become an increasingly strong proponent of our efforts to help our members, our fellow veterans, and our community neighbors. I guess the more you get into helping others the more you want to give. It has made my retirement years more meaningful and, to be honest, it makes you feel good inside when you hear "Thank you", or see a smile in response to lending a helping hand. I'd like to review several of our outreach programs and ask you to consider helping with one or more of them. Please contact me if you can help in any area; I will connect you with the person running the program.

Several of our members have started the Veterans Center of North Texas, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to helping connect Veterans and their families to qualified service providers. This sounds like a simple idea and easy to implement. It's not; it's hard. The Center can help Veterans navigate through the myriad of government, private, and nonprofit organizations to get the help they need. The Center has 3 needs. 1) It is opening its doors in Plano on September 1st and needs volunteers to help veterans coming in the door. Volunteers should be able to work one 4 hour shift per week. 2) It needs financial support. The Center does not charge for its services so it must rely on donations to cover its expenses. Look for emails in the coming weeks that will describe how you can donate to the Veterans Center of North Texas during North Texas Giving Day event on Sep 17th. 3) Most important, it needs your help to get the word out to veterans about the services they offer. If you know a veteran or veteran family who needs any kind of help, refer them to me or the Center's website www.vcont.org.

Another important veteran outreach program is our Blankets for Warriors program. Several of our Auxiliary members are sewing blankets and presenting them to wounded and sick veterans at the VA Medical Facility in Dallas. Not only does this program cheer and comfort our veterans, it provides an opportunity for our Auxiliary members to connect with one another.

Editors Note: President's Article continues 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 2014.

Navy Captain Steven Cole who is a member of our chapter and who is the son of Navy Captain Ben Cole will be speaking at our October 18 picnic. Steven is just back from Afghanistan and has served as Commanding Officer for various intelligence units, as senior advisor to high level positions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and varied jobs in the corporate world.



The topic of his speech will be "Not Everything You Read is the Truth!"

More information on our upcoming program and picnic is available on page 3 and on our website.



White Rock Lake MOAA Picnic Location



Veteran Job Fairs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Westin DFW Airport Hotel
Thursday, October 27, 2015 at Hilton Downtown Fort Worth

Please see page 4 for more information.

Skyball - October 24 at Hangar 5 DFW. Sky Ball is a fund raiser that directly benefits veterans, members of our military and wounded warriors, and their families for a variety of needs.

Please see page 8 for more information.



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PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON

MEETING & PICNIC — OCTOBER 18, 2105

We are so honored to have our long awaited Dynamic guest speaker Navy Captain Steven Cole who is a member of our chapter and who is the son of Navy Captain Ben Cole. Steven is just back from Afghanistan and will be speaking at our Sunday, October 18 picnic at White Rock Lake at 2:30 PM. Directions to the picnic site will be in our next newsletter."

Captain Steven Cole has served as Commanding Officer for various intelligence units, as senior advisor to high level positions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and varied jobs in the corporate world. He was a Regional Operations & Sales Manager of Sony Corp., Sr. Vice President and Controller for the Dallas Postal Credit Union, and Rockwell International as financial director, auditor, special investigations, manager-contracts & pricing, and subcontract management.

He was subject matter expert for training and curriculum development to the Iraqi Baghdad Police Academy and the Iraqi National Investigations and Information Agency. (NIIA); He worked for AutoNation as Inventory manager/process shared service center. With the U.S. Navy' support to Operation Enduring Freedom, he served most recently as the Senior Advisor and Team Lead for the Afghan Ministry of Interior, Inspector General.

He has engaged duty as a NCIS Agent regarding U.S. Navy Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) cold case resolution, NCIS Protection/Counter Intelligence Team Leader, Counter Intelligence – North Iraq, and as an NCIS Fraud Investigator; conducting audits of financial institutions regarding identity theft and NCIS Personal Security Officer to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). Reserve duty has found this intelligence officer as Deputy Commander at Sea for the International piracy/maritime law enforcement Task Force off the Somalia coast and judicial process advisory for Rule of Law within the Afghan judicial system.

His most recent position in Afghanistan was for the U.S. Navy, Operation Enduring Freedom 2014-2015. He served as Senior Advisor and Team Lead, Afghan Ministry of Interior, Inspector General.

At present he works at Southern Methodist University as the SMU|Guildhall Deputy Director and adjunct Instructor regarding Advanced Interviewing Techniques, Human Behavioral Pattern Analysis, and Advanced Situational Awareness. The topic of his speech will be "Not Everything You Read is the Truth!" He will be sharing his experiences from his last tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and making a plea to MOAA to consolidate our ability to speak for the voters who care about the U.S. military personnel and their families.

This definitely is an event that you won't want to miss. Please mark your calendars to hear our very special speaker, enjoy a picnic catered by Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse and the view at White Rock Lake, one Dallas' hidden gems. There are picnic tables, but you may wish to bring your own lawn chairs. If you'd like to bring snacks or dessert please do!



Directions to Picnic Area at White Rock Lake

From **Garland Road** either southwest or northeast to Winstead Drive (next to 7-Eleven) go North. Turn right onto White Rock Road. Turn left onto W. Lawther Drive at the stop sign. W. Lawther Drive splits at Williamson Road. Follow Lawther Drive to the right and go under the railroad bridge. Turn again at first right. Look for the T.P. Hill sign on the right and turn right.

From **East Mockingbird Lane** either east or west and turn onto Williamson Road heading South. Follow Williamson Road until reaching W. Lawther Drive. Turn left onto W. Lawther Drive and go under the railroad bridge. W. Lawther Drive splits. Look for the T.P. Hill sign on the right and turn right.

The boat house will be on the right and our picnic area on the left next to the children's play area. Watch the signs for one way and drive past the boat house to the parking lot. Map via Google: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/T.P.+Hill/@32.8242579,-96.7326036,1301m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x924d6fa3948e05b3>

Please send your reservations early to ensure we can make an accurate and timely reservation count. Please get your reservations in by Wednesday October 14, before the picnic for our final count.

Mail the reservation coupon to MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251; email Dave Schafer moaschafer@att.net or reserve online at www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html. You may also call Dave at (214)577-4107.

MOAA-GDC accepts **PayPal** for paying for your luncheon at our website which allows you to pay by credit card. We would appreciate you also filling out the RSVP form and checking your type of payment at the website.



www.moaagreaterdallas.org
for a larger map and
Aerial views.

Pay Now



CAREER TRANSITION – JOB FAIRS

BY JOEL BATALSKY, MOAA-GDC CAREER TRANSITION OFFICER

These job fairs are tailored for veterans, active duty members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses. **Please pass this information on to any active or former military members, or military spouses who might be looking for a job.**

Recruit Military is sponsoring the Dallas-Fort Worth Veteran Job Fairs:

- ◆ Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Westin DFW Airport Hotel, 4545 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063 from 10 am to 2 pm. (This is a NCOA Career Expos)
- ◆ Thursday, October 27, 2015 at Hilton Downtown Fort Worth, 815 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 from 10 am to 1:30 pm. For more information and to register for this job fair go to the following website: www.hiringourheroes.org

Please visit <https://events.recruitmilitary.com> for more information.

For more information about Veterans Job Fairs, please contact LTC Joel Batalsky, USA Retired, joelbat@aol.com or 214-908-3708.

WE ARE FINALIZING CHAPTER OFFICER POSITIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

BY BILL LAVALLEE

We are finalizing the Chapter Officer positions for next year. There will be opportunities for all interested to serve! We have been emphasizing for several years that we are not just a "luncheon and good fellowship" organization, although that function remains important. Our chapter is engaged in addressing many legislative, member services, and community outreach programs. Let us know where you would like to help. Although we have strongly supported MOAA's legislative initiatives in the past, we are determined to be even more active in our Legislative efforts. The present political climate remains fraught with dangers; the danger to our active forces through sequestration and its associated cuts in force levels, hardware and bases is most important. But there are also threats to the "guaranteed" benefits to our veterans, our disabled warriors and our retirees that need to have our attention also. An active and potent Chapter can be effective to protect our active military from uninformed cost-cutting that has no cost-benefit analysis or other rational basis and also to protect pensions, health, pharmacy and COLA benefits for our retirees. Our Chapter has always been active in helping members and spouses through the maze of regulations and procedures for getting new ID cards, setting up funeral and burial arrangements and visiting our sick and ailing. We intend to continue this service. The chapter sponsors several community outreach programs to include the Veterans Center of North Texas, job fairs, Dallas Veterans Day Parade, Blankets for Warriors, and JROTC programs. Many of you have indicated on our last Chapter membership listing that you would be willing to serve in a committee or Officer position in the Chapter. We soon will be contacting those who "agreed" to serve. Contact Bill Lavallee via email at lavalleeone@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY DAVE SCHAFER

An important outreach program is support for our Chapter members. Last month I mentioned the need for members to renew their ID cards if their current one had their social security number on it. I talked to a member earlier this week who told me of 5 members who want to renew their ID card, but can't drive to a military facility. Another member called me about needing a ride to our membership luncheon. Transportation is a big deal in the Dallas; traveling our freeways is not for the faint of heart. Let us know if you can help drive members to ID card appointments in September or October.

Our major community outreach programs support local area JROTC programs. We have our annual JROTC Scholarship donation drive in September and October. Look for information on how to donate included in your 2016 membership renewal letter. We present MOAA Leadership Medals to 51 area high schools in the spring. This year we are also helping the Dallas ISD JROTC program with their PT Challenge to be held in the spring. These events may seem to be far away but we need help now to start their planning.

V.W.I.N BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

Because I have used the information Colonel Steve dePyssler USAF has provided many times for my writing for VWIN and MOAA (Dallas), I want to thank him and wish him a belated birthday greeting. On July 21, 2015 he reached the age of 96. He still is Director of Retiree Activities and is editor of two newspapers, "The Military Officer" and "Armed Forces Retiree News." I have appealed to his expertise since the 1980s and he has always been most informative and considerate. Let's wish him many more birthdays to celebrate.

Email is sent to the membership to include, meeting information, legislative alerts, and other information related to MOAA-GDC and its members If you are not receiving these messages please email MOAAGDC@yahoo.com.

**Join Veterans' Widows/ers
International Network, Inc.**

Send \$18 to VWIN and send to
P.O. Box 441043 Aurora, CO 80044-1043

LEGISLATIVE NATIONAL SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2015 UPDATE

BY JIM BROWN

Active Duty Pay Raise Still in Limbo

Shortly before Congress left Washington, D.C. for the August recess, lawmakers passed a COLA increase for disabled veterans and military survivors, but Congress failed to pass the annual defense bill. One of the disagreements that has held up the bill is over the percentage increase for the active duty pay raise. House lawmakers authorized a full active duty pay raise of 2.3 percent as mandated by law. But Senate lawmakers want to cap the pay raise at 1.3 percent.

President Obama supports the Senate's position on the pay cap. If it goes through, this would be the third year of pay caps below private sector wage growth. It would continue the steady erosion of pay and benefits for servicemembers and their families.

MOAA's position, as stated by Director of Government Relations, Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), is that "Annually raising active duty pay at the same pace as the private sector is essential to sustain a quality force - and maintain readiness - over the long term. It makes no sense for Congress to adhere to one set of laws for our veterans, but fail to follow the same logic for active duty troops."

Ask your legislators to preserve the 2.3 percent military pay raise. Go to MOAA's web site to send a message to your senators and representative: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=63307896>

Act Now to Block Big Rx Fee Hikes

Congress is considering drastic pharmacy fee increases for servicemembers and retirees. Pharmacy fees will increase 66 to 75 percent. Please tell your elected officials to block this provision in the defense bill. Go to MOAA's web site to send a message to your senators and representative: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=67598626&PROCESS=Take+Action>

Tricare to change policy on long-term prescriptions

Starting Oct. 1, Tricare beneficiaries with long-term prescriptions for brand-name medications to treat chronic conditions must fill them by the Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy System or through a military pharmacy. "Maintenance medications" means all prescriptions for chronic health issues, from high blood pressure medicine and cholesterol-lowering drugs to painkillers, antidepressants and more.

The new rule will not apply to prescriptions for generic drugs, for drugs prescribed to treat acute illnesses and for prescriptions covered by other medical insurance, according to the interim regulation. The Defense Health Agency will maintain a list of the medications it considers maintenance drugs and will publish the list on the Tricare Pharmacy Program website and make it available through the Tricare Pharmacy Program Service Center telephone system. Under the new program, patients can fill new prescriptions for maintenance medications at a military treatment facility ("MTF") or receive a 30-day or less supply from a retail pharmacy. They will then be required to refill the prescription at the MTF or by mail. Tricare will grant case-by-case waivers for personal hardship, emergency or "other special circumstance," according to the rule. Waiver requests will have to be made through Express Scripts, Tricare's pharmacy benefits management company.

Reps. Smith and Heck give 'depressing' outlook on military budgets

Adam Ashton, staff writer for The News Tribune, Tacoma, WA, reported recently that Congressman Adam Smith, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said that for the "foreseeable future," there would be diminished spending for the military, tight restrictions on how Congress allows the Pentagon to respond to budget cuts, and more political stalemates that could lead to government shutdowns. "It's not just that the budget is being reduced, it's that it's being reduced in an incredibly unpredictable fashion," said Smith.

Smith and Rep. Denny Heck, D-WA, spoke at a forum at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA ("JBLM") for the Association of Defense Communities, an organization that speaks up for the interests of civilian communities near military bases. JBLM has already lost 1,250 personnel and could face much deeper force reductions in coming years if Congress does not repeal sequestration. The full impact of those cuts has been delayed since they were announced in the Budget Control Act of 2011, but they're still on the table and they could lead to the Army shedding 30,000 more soldiers by 2020. Today the Army has about 490,000 active-duty soldiers. The force is expected to shrink to 450,000 by 2020 and could go as low as 420,000 if the sequestration spending caps remain in place.

Heck predicted that divisions over the \$612 billion defense budget adopted by the Republican-controlled House would trigger another government shutdown. Democrats oppose the way Republicans chose to steer extra money to the Pentagon by using a fund normally earmarked only for war-related expenses. President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the bill.

Smith said he was most concerned that Congress has blocked proposals from the military to reduce spending by trimming benefits for troops or by cutting certain weapons program. As a result, Smith said the Pentagon winds up retaining bases it doesn't need, but cutting spending on training and maintenance. He fears that dynamic leaves troops underprepared for emergencies. Smith favors launching a Base Realignment and Closure commission that would study whether to shut down certain military installations.

Commission wants easier active-to-reserve transition

Kyle Jahner, staff writer for Army Times, reported on July 20, 2015 that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) will make recommendations to the Army to improve the transition of soldiers back and forth between active duty and the Reserve and Guard. An easier transition could make reserve components more appealing to soldiers as the Army draws down its personnel. That would mean retention of key skills and experience that the military could summon if needed, and at a fraction of the price of growing new recruits.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY DOTTIE ALDER



The Haunted House

Harold Dye tells a story about a woman who inherited millions of dollars. She also had a hefty income. There was so much she could have done for colleges, hospitals, and missionaries. Instead she built a house. It is known as the haunted house. There are no ghosts there, but a story of a wasted life. All the visitors thought "what a crazy old lady".

Her grandfather had invented a famous rifle, and she was tormented by the thousands that were killed with that rifle. She went to a spiritualist medium who told her to build a house and as long as this house was being built, she would live, but the minute it was finished she would die. So for thirty six years the house grew. It grew until it covered six acres and contained 160 rooms. During all these years the sound of hammers, saws were heard.

There were 40 stairways which went up to nothing. Some went down to nowhere. Each stairway had 13 steps. There were 47 fireplaces most of them had flues that stopped at the ceiling. There are beautifully carved doors that open against blank walls. One of the rooms has 6 doors and all but one opens to a blank wall. It would take pages to describe all of the house. One day while the noise was still going on Sarah Winchester died.

In reality isn't this a story of a life without Christ? Without him there is no pattern, no hope and no victory. Jesus stands at the door of your heart. If you open that door, He will be there.

MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE BY DAVE SCHAFFER

We've had a relatively successful recruiting campaign so far this year with the addition of 34 new members. I'd like to add another 15 to 20 new members during the remainder of the year. We typically lose 25 to 30 members each year due to moves, deaths, and cancellations. Hopefully we can keep the chapter membership growing. If you know of anyone who is eligible for membership and is interested in what we are doing, please refer them to our website, www.moagreaterdallas.org, or directly to me for a membership application.

Please welcome the following new members for September:

MAJ Harold Cornish, USAR (ACT) Desoto

COL Gerald and Mrs. Ginger Gafford, USA (ACT) Dallas

LTC Leonard and Mrs. Seley Fuller, USA (RET) of Corsicana

Maj Gen Mike Skinner, USAF (RET) of Irving

MAJ Karl and Mrs. Linda Stumpff, USA (RET) of Midlothian

COL Rodney and Mrs. Elizabeth Symons, USA (RET) Irving

CW4 Manford and Mrs. Beverly Vaughan, USAR (RET) Kemp

Col Walter and Mrs. Tina Weiss, USAF (RET) Dallas

Lt Col Lawrence and Mrs. Katherine White, USAF (RET)
Edgewood

LTC Scott and Mrs. Pam Worlton, USA (RET) Bonney Lake
WA

Also, please note the following correction to my welcome notice for August new members:

LT Lairy and Mrs. Josefa Johnson, USN (RET) of Richardson.

LEGISLATIVE ARTICLE (CONTINUED) BY JIM BROWN

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro, invited to speak before the commission, called sequestration the biggest threat to national security in his lifetime and said "anytime you bump into a congressman on the hill that's voted to keep the sequester, choke him to within an inch of his life," drawing laughs.

Punaro, the chair of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, stressed that the reserve component is a cost-efficient way to have a strong military. He also cited the Abram's Doctrine — if the military goes to war, Guard and reserves should go with it — in arguing that the reserve component should be a ready and able part of the nation's fighting force. And while criticizing Congress, he also said the Pentagon needed to change as well and made a number of recommendations for integration of reserve force components into the active services.

Combat veterans denied health care

More than 35,000 combat veterans are being denied access to their healthcare by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with many waiting for years, because of a glitch in the agency's computer system. The findings are based on internal documents obtained by the Huffington Post that show how the former troops—almost all of whom served in Iraq and Afghanistan—were mistakenly placed in a "pending" list for failing to provide certain financial information, even though combat troops are not required to do so.

The revelation comes just months after a separate series of leaked VA documents showed how more than 238,000 veterans have died over the years while waiting for their healthcare applications with the agency to be approved. About 16,000 of the 35,000 combat vets currently in limbo have been waiting for more than five years to receive healthcare from the VA, the Huffington Post reported.



2015 Meetings



October 18 PICNIC

December TBD

**Reservation for the Sunday, October 18, 2015 PICNIC
White Rock Lake at T.P. Hill #23 Picnic Area (See Page 2 for Directions)**

2:30 PM to 5 PM

_____ Person's at \$17.00 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? _____
Give a ride? _____

If yes, your ZIP code _____
If yes, your ZIP code _____

CHAPTER OFFICERS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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See the website www.moagreaterdallas.org/officers.html for the complete listing of committee chairs and external organization representatives.

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SKY BALL

What is Sky Ball? Skyball is a big Gala charity event hosted by Airpower Foundation and American Airlines and will honor those who served in Vietnam, and also the Air Force. Medal of Honor recipients will be honored. The event is October 24 at Hangar 5 DFW. Sky Ball is a fund raiser that directly benefits veterans, members of our military and wounded warriors, and their families for a variety of needs. SkyBall proceeds help to fund:

- ◆ Heroes on the Water - helping heroes through friendship and fishing
- ◆ Freedom Flight: Taking heroes of the Greatest Generation, WWII Veterans to visit their memorial in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Wounded Warriors - Weekend in Las Vegas
- ◆ Snowball Express - helping children of our fallen military men and women to heal and make new memories
- ◆ Gary Sinese Foundation - building homes for our nation's most severely wounded warriors.



As well as many other programs and causes in direct support of military families.

Gary Sinese and his Lt. Dan Band will be performing that evening, and also Terri Fader. Gary Sinese got the idea to help our military after playing the part of Lt. Dan in the movie "Forrest Gump". He has taken over for Bob Hope by entertaining troops all over the world. In fact he will be receiving the Bob Hope award at this event.

For more information please google www.skyballinfo.com or to volunteer for the Friday night event www.skyballvolunteer.com



Voices of Aging Lecture and Book Signing

Thursday, September 17
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Join us for a poignant lecture and book signing with native Texan and acclaimed writer, Missy Buchanan. Buchanan is a nationally recognized older adult advocate and bestselling author. At this event, she will delve into her newest book, *Voices of Aging*, which features the inner voices of adult children alongside their aging parents.



CONSERVATORY
AT PLANO

By Discovery Senior Living

972.618.6963

www.ConservatorySeniorLiving.com

6401 Ohio Drive, Plano, TX 75024

Call 972-618-6963 by September 15 to RSVP



Prices, plans, programs and specifications are subject to change without notice.
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