

THE BORDER BULLETIN

El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

★★★★★ A NATIONALLY RANKED FIVE-STAR CHAPTER ★★★★★

A MOAA affiliate from January 23, 1956 - El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America - Our 55th Year

El Paso MOAA presents 1st AD Scholarship.



SY 2011-2012 Scholarship Winners

Ariel V White – El Paso

Reena M Barnett – El Paso

Crystal A Burton – El Paso

Russell K Shirley-Jones – Fort Bliss

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**OCTOBER
2011**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Things have been quite busy since my last letter to you. Our Board of Directors has recommended a slate of new officers for 2012 and you will vote on this list at the October Luncheon. We have a few vacancies, and volunteers are always welcome. We are making progress on updating our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status to better support the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities. Below are highlights of what we have accomplished and issues that are or will

become important to all of us.

MOAA Scholarship Winners: In August MOAA National identified four local winners of MOAA Scholarships. Scholarship winners for SY 2011-2012 from the El Paso area include the following:

- (1) Ariel White, \$5000 interest free loan and \$500 designated scholarship.
- (2) Crystal Burton, \$5000 American Patriot Grant.
- (3) Reena Barnett, \$5000 interest free loan and \$500 designated scholarship.
- (4) Russell K Shirley-Jones, \$5500 interest free loan

Congratulations to these student scholars. Your local MOAA Chapter wants to continue to support continuing education assistance to young students. For additional information and scholarship guidance please visit the following address: http://www.moaa.org/ug_spouseandfamily_homefront/ug_spouseandfamily_homefront_2011/ug_spouseandfamily_homefront_110810.

1st Armored Division Scholarship Official Announcement: On 10 August local MOAA Board members officially announced the El Paso MOAA Chapter 1st Armored Division Scholarship in an event as part of the official opening of the 1st Armored Division Headquarters at Ft Bliss Texas. El Paso MOAA Chapter Board members were led by TCC President Ed Stone and Mr Bill Moore as they presented a replica \$25,000 check to the 1st AD Commander, MG Dana Pittard. The scholarship will be issued in the form of \$5000 interest free loans for dependents of soldiers serving in units assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

Texas Legislative Highlights: Governor Perry signed several pieces of legislation during this past session that significantly impact Texas veterans and employees who hire military retirees.

(1) The "Comptroller Homestead Study", or Senate Bill 540, requires the Comptroller to study the fiscal impact on state and local governments that would have been created in the past 10 years if adjustments to the maximum amount of property tax exemptions to which disabled Veterans (and surviving spouses and minors) are entitled were made. Texas veterans with a disability rating of 10-90 percent are eligible for a progressive property tax exemption off the assessed value of their homes. The amount of these exemptions hasn't increased for ten years.

(2) "Veteran" Driver's License designation, or House Bill 1514, requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to include a designation of "VETERAN" on the driver's licenses issued to certain Veterans.

The bill will allow any person who served in a branch of the U.S. military as well as members of the Texas National Guard to request to have the "VETERAN" designation on their license. The Veteran must provide proof of their service and honorable discharge to obtain the designation. The legislation came in response to Veterans seeking an easier way to verify their military service to businesses, organizations and events that provide benefits and discounts to Veterans. The license designation is a convenient way to provide such proof without having to produce a copy of their form DD-214.

(3) Proposition 1 of amendments to the Texas Constitution. On November 8 voters will be asked to approve or reject 10 proposed changes

to the Texas Constitution. Proposition 1 is the constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100%, or totally disabled veteran.

National Legislative Highlights: Arguably the most significant news to accompany Congress' return is the frenzied effort to find \$1.2 Trillion in budget cuts. A "Super Committee" of six U.S. Senators and six U.S. Representatives are charged to come up with a proposal by 23 November to save \$1.2 Trillion dollars over the next ten years. If their proposal fails to pass Congressional vote, then automatic cuts will take effect with HALF the cuts coming from the Defense budget. The 2 September MOAA Legislative Update reports that "everything is on the table, including troop levels, weapons, military and federal retirement, COLAs, health care, commissaries and more." This comes on the heels of rumors that the government is considering changes to military retirement rules, possibly delaying eligibility for retiree pay until age 57, 60 or 65. You CAN make a difference. MOAA recently offered three great ways you can make a difference:

(1) Get involved. Urge your elected officials not to put readiness at risk by using the military retirement system as a piggy bank for budget cuts.

(2) Join MOAA Now...and let MOAA fight for you!

(3) Join MOAA now and encourage your fellow officers to join as well. Those not eligible for MOAA membership can join Voices for America's Troops. Together with MOAA we will strengthen our One Powerful Voice.® Stay Informed, Sign up for MOAA's weekly Legislative Update to keep current on the issues effecting your retirement. E-mail msc@moaa.org with your name, rank, address and email address to sign up.

(4) Additionally, the Texas Veteran's Commission Public Information Officer, Duncan McGhee, has provided a link for MilitaryBenefitsReport.com, <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/militarybenefitsreportcom-revolutionizes-the-way-veterans-obtain-benefits-127445663.html>, a professionally built site to assist military members in determining military benefits available to them.

Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR): On a final note, the 2 September MOAA Legislative Update highlighted an opportunity for veterans who were medically separated from military service during the period 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2009, to have their disability ratings reviewed for fairness, consistency and accuracy. Seventy-five thousand service members were medically separated during this period and only 2,700 service members have applied to have their cases reviewed. The sensing is that many who were discharged with "low-balled" disability ratings are unaware of the PDBR or simply have not applied for the review. To be eligible, a veteran must have been medically separated between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2009 with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less, and must not have been found eligible for retirement. Former reserve members with fewer than 20 years of active duty service and who meet the criteria listed above can also apply.

I want to close by encouraging local members to get involved in influencing actions identified above, and to encourage each of you to join us for the next MOAA Luncheon scheduled for 8 October at the Hilton Garden.

Forrest E. Smith
Colonel, USA
President 2010

October Luncheon Menu

1. Beef Salpicon – Marinated Brisket in herbs, tomatoes, avocado, grilled chilies and sautéed red onions
 2. Chicken Florentine – Seared Chicken breast stuffed with ricotta cheese and topped with sautéed spinach and red onions
- Includes Caesar Salad, Iced tea, water, coffee, & Lemon Cream Cake

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

Saturday, October 8th, 2011
Hilton Garden Inn El Paso

1100 - 1130	SOCIAL HOUR
1130 - 1200	BOD REPORTS
1200 - 1215	OPENING CEREMONY
1215 - 1300	MEAL SERVICE
1300 - 1335	PROGRAM
1335 - 1355	DOOR PRIZE DRAWING
1355 - 1400	CLOSING
1400	ADJOURNMENT

Please submit your Luncheon Reservations no later than Wednesday, 5 October

Secretary: MOAA
 PO Box 6144
 El Paso, TX 79906-0144

All lunch reservations with payment to our postal mail box

\$ 20 Per Person

REMITTANCE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

Carmelita Navar Biography

"My life has evolved since I've been doing art as a professional, it is interesting how 10 years ago a stress illness had me in bed, and as a way of passing time I started painting, then I went to a curator who told me to do some work, that was at this point that I realized my life's purpose was to be an artist.

Time passed, and as I continued to mature and grow my art form, I realize that it was my art that was sustaining me because it gave me a way to express what was inside my soul. 2008 was a very challenging year, because I had "The divine housefire, and the divine cancer", both of these challenges, have brought me to a new place of understanding within myself, and the art continues to sustain and express my soul.

My Art works on an intellectual level, but more importantly it is about expressing emotion. Most of my work is about childhood memories, faith, and



Carmelita Navar
 Guest Speaker - 8 October 2011

love of life, symbols, they all represent a voice that contribute to speak what I have to say in my work" - Carmen Navar.

Artist Statement

"To create 'Beauty and Peace' in a stress-filled world by expressing through color, design and line, a language without words that engages the soul of the viewer in such a way that "IT" Invites him/her to look within and gaze at their own God given beauty."

Family GAT Streamlined, Back Online

The Global Assessment Tool (GAT) is now back online after making important changes to its website based on recommendations from its survey results. The site is now much more user friendly. A Common Access Card will no longer be needed to access the GAT, or any of the modules it offers. Family members will still need to have internet access and be enrolled with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems (DEERS) or will have to sign on through

Army Knowledge Online to gain access to the GAT. The GAT provides family members with a baseline measurement in the four dimensions of strength, to include emotional, social, spiritual and familial and also provides an opportunity to track self-development and growth in those areas over time. Family members can take the GAT, enroll in modules and retake the GAT after 90 days to see how they're progressing. The Family GAT can be found online at: <http://www.army.mil/article/63717/>



COL Lennie Enzel & COL Kenneth Johnson at the August Luncheon.



El Paso

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Property and casualty insurance products are available to military members and their former dependents who meet certain membership eligibility criteria. To find out if you are eligible, contact USAA. Underwriting restrictions apply. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association and its insurance affiliates, San Antonio, TX. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. **CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: NO PURCHASE OR AUTO INSURANCE QUOTE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE OR QUOTE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.** The USAA WinWin Sweepstakes (hereafter, "Promotion") is open to legal residents residing in the fifty (50) United States, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, or the age of majority in their state of residence, whichever is older, at the time of the Grand Prize drawing and are eligible for membership in the USAA Property and Casualty Insurance Group or spouses of individuals who are eligible for membership in the USAA Property and Casualty Insurance Group. Promotion begins 12:00:01 a.m. (midnight) Central Time ("CT") on August 22, 2011, and ends 11:59:59 p.m. CT on November 4, 2011 (the "Promotion Period"). All entries submitted before or after the Promotion Period will not be eligible. **Quick Quote through Mobile and usaa.com are not eligible methods of entry for this Promotion.** You have not yet won. (1) Grand Prize: Grand Prize Winner's choice of any 2012 Chevrolet vehicle, with an ARV not to exceed \$40,000, and \$10,000 awarded in the form of a check. Total ARV of Grand Prize not to exceed \$50,000. (1) Recipient Prize: Recipient Prize winner's choice of any 2012 Chevrolet vehicle, with an ARV not to exceed \$40,000, and \$10,000 awarded in the form of a check. Total ARV of Recipient Prize not to exceed \$50,000. (4) First Prizes: A four (4) day/three (3) night trip for winner and up to three (3) guests to Washington, D.C., from December 8, 2011– December 11, 2011, to attend The Army-Navy football game and the Grand Prize winner announcement. First Prize value not to exceed \$7,000 each. Odds of First Prize Winner winning Grand Prize are dependent on the total number of eligible entries received throughout the Promotion Period. Each entry, regardless of method of entry, will have an equal chance of winning. Odds of First Prize Winner winning the Grand Prize are 1:4. Taxes are winners' sole responsibility. Void where prohibited. You can also enter online and view Official Rules, which govern, at www.usaa.com/win. For a copy of the Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by January 16, 2012, to: USAA WinWin Sweepstakes Rules, Attn: Sponsorship Team, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78288. Sponsored by USAA, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78288. General Motors is not a sponsor or participant in this Promotion. No implied endorsement by General Motors or by the Department of Defense or any other United States government agency. © 2011 USAA. 132616-0911

2011 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

September 23, 2011	2011 Retiree Appreciation Day Reception
September 24, 2011	2011 Retiree Appreciation Day
October 8, 2011	October Member Meeting and Luncheon
October 22 -23, 2011	Amigo Airshow
October 27 -29, 2011	2011 MOAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio
October 29, 2011	October Board Meeting
December 10, 2011	December Member Meeting and Luncheon

The Border Bulletin NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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EL PASO CHAPTER AWARDS

Category 1 Outstanding Chapter (Runner-up)

CY 2000 and 2001

Five - Star Chapter CY 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009

Category 1 "Print Newsletter" WINNER in 2004; Runner-up 2008, 2009 & 2010; 2008 & 2009 Best Legislative Coverage (printed newsletter)

2006 Communications Award Category 1, "Electronic Newsletters", 2nd Runners-Up (tie)

2007 Special Communications Award

Web Site First Runner Up 2009; Winner 2010

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Soldier Family Care Clinic (SFCC) Pharmacy

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The Officer Placement Service -- tops@elpasomoaa.org

Telephone:

Secretary -- 915-757-9963 or 915-842-9650

USCIS office at ACS

The El Paso Field Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services maintains an information office at Fort Bliss Army Community Service, Bldg. 2494, Ricker Road. This office is open every Wednesday and Friday. The USCIS officer will answer questions, and provide and review application packets. To learn more, call 568-1132.

AROUND AND ABOUT TOURS, Inc. 2011 Calendar of Tours

Sept.30 - Oct.1	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
October 13-16	Fall Festival Fly-Away Mystery Tour
October 15	High Rolls Apple Festival
November 7-11	Fall Motorcoach Mystery Tour
November 16-20	Branson - Ozark Mountain Christmas
November 18	Christmas Fair and Cloudcroft
November 21-26	New York Thanksgiving and the Hudson Valley
December 2-9	Europe's Christmas Markets – call for info
December 3	Las Cruces Christmas Bazaar
Dec.30-Jan.3	123rd Annual Tournament of Roses Parade
April 9-14	Savannah, Charleston and Jekyll Island

6716 Mesa Grande Ave., El Paso, TX 79912
(915) 833-2650
Se habla español - (575) 824-3123 - Joe



In keeping with MOAA's tradition of supporting our troops, AMAC (Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee) is launching a national project to turn our old cell phones into phone cards to help our troops call home. Cell Phones for Soldiers is a national non-profit charity that recycles old cell phones

and in return, provides our fighting forces with pre-paid phone cards to call home.

Calling home: Each old cell phone turned in translates into about 60 minutes of free talk-time for our troops and their loved ones on the home front. Since 2004, Cell Phones for Soldiers has sent over 60 million minutes of free talk time to our troops!

Click the image on our website, <http://elpasomoaa.org>, for more information.

Chaplain Corner

Peter A. Baktis

A Soldier's Prayer

The soldier stood and faced his God Which must always
come to pass...
He hoped his shoes were shining Just as brightly as his brass.
"Step forward now, you soldier, How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have
you been true?"
The soldier squared his shoulders and Said,"No, Lord, I guess
I ain't...
Because those of us who carry guns Can't always be a saint.
I've had to work most Sundays And at times my talk was
tough,
And sometimes I've been violent, Because the streets are
awfully tough.
But, I never took a penny That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime When the bills got just too
steep,

And I never passed a cry for help, Though at times I shook
with fear,
And sometimes, God forgive me, I've wept unmanly tears.
I know I don't deserve a place Among the people here...
They never wanted me around Except to calm their fears.
If you've a place for me here, Lord, It needn't be so grand,
I never expected or had too much, But if you don't, I'll
understand."
There was a silence all around the throne Where the saints
had often trod...
As the soldier waited quietly, For the judgment of his God,
"Step forward now you soldier,
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

Dedicated To All That Serve... God Bless America!

Fort Bliss Gate operating hours

Alabama Gate, WBAMC, is open Monday through Friday
from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is closed weekends and federal
holidays. IBCT North Gate is open seven days a week, 24
hours a day. Pershing Gate is open Monday through Friday
from 5 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. and is closed weekends
and federal holidays.

Excess furniture Family and MWR sells excess
tables, chairs, bed frames, sofas and more from 8 a.m.
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Input for December 2011 BULLETIN by 2 November 2011

Time to Move

Few people want to leave their homes and move to more protected environments, but as we age, our housing needs change. By Rear Adm. Joyce Johnson, D.O.

Military Families are always on the move. Later in life, the often look for stability and settle in one location for the duration. As time passes, however, mowing the grass all summer becomes less exciting, then more challenging. Going upstairs becomes noticeable exercise and, at some point, nearly impossible. Driving to the local store for groceries might no longer be safe.

Change usually occurs gradually, with good days and bad days. Many might be unaware (or embarrassed) their needs have changed. Others likely are unsure what to do. Signs of aging vary from person to person and even between spouses. For some, the primary issue is mobility. For others, it is memory and cognitive function. The key is to recognize when an older person's living situation is becoming unsafe.

The first step is to be vigilant. Children and grandchildren often are the first to notice

changes in parents and grandparents -- they might receive fewer letters (or emails), or letters might include sentences that are incomplete or incoherent; phone calls might come irregularly or at odd hours; or birthdays might go unnoticed. During visits, the usual homemade cookies might be absent or the refrigerator near-empty; the standard of housekeeping might have deteriorated; or parents might complain about getting lost when driving.

Sometimes a community service such as meals-on-wheels is all it takes for someone to stay in his or her home. Part-time or full-time assistance with meals, cleaning, and transportation is another option. A weekly or monthly medication box and help organizing daily medications can improve medication compliance and reduce medical emergencies. A daily phone call to check in also might be helpful.

Sometimes a more significant change in living is needed. Levels of care range from independent to complete care, with costs usually higher for more comprehensive care. Independent-living apartments typically

provide at least one meal, with individual cooking options for other meals. Assisted living usually provides all meals and various daily activities. Nursing homes are reserved for those who need specific care for medical problems.

It's best to transition to another living situation before a crisis arises. If you are older and your spouse's health is worsening, begin planning now. Visit local facilities, and start downsizing. If you have aging parents or grandparents, recognize other housing options might be needed at some point. Be supportive and understanding if you meet reluctance or resistance; in the end, let safety be the deciding factor. Once people have adjusted to a new environment, they often appreciate the relief from past responsibilities.

-- Rear Adm. Joyce Johnson USPHS-Ret., D.O., MA., is vice president, Health Sciences, Battelle Memorial Institute, Arlington, VA. Find more health and wellness resources at <http://www.moaa.org/wellness>.

Pentagon Channel update

Time Warner Cable has implemented broadband frequency conservation and has moved the Pentagon Channel to digital channel 15-3. Only TVs with digital channel capabilities or an analog television with a converter box can receive this new digital signal. This channel is only available to Time Warner Cable subscribers.

VA Survivor Assistance

Update 01: VA's Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) ensures families of the fallen have full access to the services and benefits to which they're entitled. It was established by Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222, in OCT 08 to serve as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the Department to survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and members of the Armed Forces. OSA also serves as a principal advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and promotes the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors. The OSA is your advocate to ensure

fairness, equity and appropriateness of all survivor benefits and to serve as the liaison for inter- and intra-agency collaboration and coordination on survivor issues. OSA is also fully committed to staying in step with the needs of survivors to ensure that OSA remains a viable advocate for the survivor community. They can be contacted at officeofSurvivors@va.gov. Their website <http://www.va.gov/survivors> includes answers to the following list of FAQ's which cover many of the needs of survivors.

1. How do I apply for benefits?
2. Is there someone that can help me file my claim?
3. How do I check the status of my claim?
4. How do I know if I am eligible for a benefit?
5. What is the difference between DIC and SBP?
6. What is the SBP / DIC offset?
7. What is the difference between DIC and Death Pension?
8. Is DIC taxable income?
9. What is CHAMPVA?

10. As a surviving spouse, am I eligible for VA medical care?

11. How do I update my contact information?

12. What education benefits are available and what is the Sgt. Fry Scholarship?

13. How can I access information about VA Education Benefits for myself or for my children?

14. What are VGLI/SGLI and how do I file a claim?

15. I am a widow/er; if I remarry, do I lose my benefits? If I later get divorced or my new husband dies, do I get my VA benefits back?

16. How do I get a copy of my loved one's DD-214 or DD-1300?

17. Who is eligible for Veteran Center grief counseling, and how can I locate a center?

18. Am I eligible for a VA Home Loan as a widow?

19. My question is not covered above, is there another source of information I can check?

[Source: <http://www.va.gov/survivors> Aug 2011++]

elpasomoaa.org

Membership Meeting & Luncheon
Hilton Garden Inn El Paso
111 West University Avenue, El Paso, TX 79902

Date: Saturday, 8 October 2011

Time: 1100 to 1400

Luncheon Speaker: Carmelita Navar
"The Healing Power of Art"



Menu - Choice of one

1. Beef Salpicon – Marinated Brisket in herbs, tomatoes, avocado
grilled chilies and sautéed red onions
2. Chicken Florentine – Seared Chicken breast stuffed with ricotta cheese and topped with sautéed spinach and red onions

Includes Caesar Salad, Iced tea, water, coffee, & Lemon Cream Cake

Dress: Casual

Lunch Secretary: secretary@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

Mail To: El Paso Chapter MOAA, Attn.: Secretary, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Please fill in this acceptance slip and return to the Secretary by Wednesday, 5 October 2011 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the lunch. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Thursday, October 6, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 8 October 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the seating plan

I will / will not attend the lunch and there will be _____ attendees in my party.

My check for \$ _____ (\$20.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests:

Item1__

Item2__

Item1__

Item2__

Item1__

Item2__

Item1__

Item2__

Our Weekend With Celebrities

By Colonel (R) Robert W. Pitt, USAF

...continued from
August's Newsletter

Our young airman, who had recently become a father, was also anxious to get home to his wife and child. Our fourth member, the public relations director, chimed in with something to the effect that this had been a hell of a tough day. Julie, the young driver and I nodded in concurrence when she added that we had better proceed to the bar and have some drinks. The young airman's chin dropped to the floor. "Okay," I said, "but we'll have just one." I drove across the parking lot to the motel nightclub and parked directly in front of the door believing that we'd be inside only a few minutes. Upon entering the club – the young airman and I were wearing our Class-A uniforms – the manager greeted us warmly. I told him that we'd like to go to the bar since we were there for only one round. He very politely asked if we would do him a favor.

"Of course," I replied. "Would you please sit with GORDON MCCRAE?" he requested.

"We would be delighted to sit with Gordon McCrae," I happily answered.

The manager introduced us to Gordon and asked if it would be all right for us to sit with him. Gordon quickly answered affirmatively and enthusiastically welcomed us to his table. Gordon was still as handsome as he was 30 years earlier when he began his reign as the good-looking, young singing star of Hollywood's biggest musical comedies. He had, however, put on quite a bit of weight since those days. I think Gordon was happy to have us sit with him because he would serve as a relief from the young blonde he had next to him at the table.

As I sat down, I mentioned to him that we hadn't been together for nearly 30 years. Gordon looked at me in puzzlement.

"Gordon," I asked, "do you remember back in 1950 when you made *The West Point Story* and you had a big parade down State Street in Chicago with a company of cadets from a local military academy with uniforms like West Point uniforms?" He nodded affirmatively. "Well, I was one of those cadets," I proudly exclaimed. "And do you remember the radio interview (I still know some of you remember radio) you gave inside the lobby of the Oriental Theatre with four cadets behind you?" Gordon again nodded yes. "Well, I was one of those cadets," I even more proudly exclaimed.

"Gordon," I continued, "I've seen all your movies: *The Desert Song* with Katharine Grayson; *The West Point Story*, with James Cagney, Virginia Mayo and Doris Day; *On*

Moonlight Bay and *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, with Doris Day; *Oklahoma* and *Carousel* with Shirley Jones. But my favorite, by far, is *Carousel*."

"Mine, too," Gordon wistfully agreed.

Gordon seemed most interested in my nostalgic trip down memory lane. His young female companion, on the other hand, was quite annoyed. She kept tugging on his arm to regain his attention, but, alas, Gordon had traveled too far down the road of his glorious past to be recaptured by her charms. About this time, the manager came to the table and asked if I had parked my car in front of the door. I told him that I had and he asked if I would move it as it was blocking traffic. I assured the manager that we would be leaving in a minute and the car would be gone. I then turned back to Gordon and told him that the few minutes with him had been a great honor and pleasure. Gordon politely echoed a similar sentiment. As I was leaving, I turned to Gordon and said, "Gordon, you know we should do this more often. Once every 30 years just won't hack it!" Gordon once again looked at me in puzzlement, but I truly believe he enjoyed our few minutes together. Sadly, Gordon died a few years after our night in San Antonio. Our *Wide World of Sports* program was a huge success. Howard Cosell did his usual superb job of announcing, Don King did a great job of shaking hands and patting backs and Joe Louis served as an inspiration to all in attendance.

Another high spot of the show was Don King's ring girls – not girls in the ring – but girls serving drinks to the host of big shots in the first few rows. A few days earlier, I introduced my wife, Julie, and an attractive blonde neighbor, Jane Swope, to Mr. King and he asked them to serve as his ring girls. Naturally, Julie and Jane were happy to oblige. Jane was the wife of Dickie Swope who had been a talented captain in my flight at Holloman Air Force Base back in 1969 and 1970. We were flying F-4D aircraft in those days. Jane was a young girl of about 20 years of age at Holloman. She was the daughter of an Air Force lieutenant colonel and her younger brother played little league baseball with my youngest son, Michael. Dick and Jane were married while we were at Holloman and settled down in La Luz, New Mexico, outside of Alamogordo.

When Julie and I arrived at Randolph Air Force Base in 1976 and bought a house in San Antonio, we soon discovered that Dick and Jane lived across the street from us. Dick was now a Major and worked at the Air Force

Military Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base. Dick went on to rise to the rank of lieutenant general and served as Inspector General of the U.S. Air Force.

Anyway, Don King took a liking to Julie and Jane and they performed well as his ring girls. Well, the show was over and most of the celebrities and others involved had departed. However, Don King and his group remained for another day or two. During the few days he was with us, Mr. King had run up a bill of a thousand dollars or so which he now owed to the Air Force. I was responsible for collecting the money. I had called him a couple of times to arrange a time and place to collect the debt. However, Mr. King kept putting me off. I was beginning to be somewhat concerned.

Then, finally, Mr. King told me over the phone that he was departing the following day and invited me to have breakfast with him at his motel at which time we could settle the bill. I naturally accepted the invitation with a slight feeling of relief. Mr. King then enthusiastically asked me to be sure to bring Julie and Jane along to the breakfast. I answered that I would.

The next morning, Julie, Jane and I arrived at the motel restaurant and went inside. Mr. King was waiting for us. He had reserved an extra large booth for the occasion. Mr. King personally seated all those attending making sure that Jane was seated next to him. Besides Mr. King, Julie, Jane and myself, the group included Mr. King's public relations director and his financial director.

Well, we had a very nice breakfast and extremely pleasant conversation. However, nothing was mentioned about paying the bill owed to the Air Force. Realizing that we were nearing the end of the meal, I uncomfortably asked Mr. King if he would mind settling the bill owed to the Air Force. He failed to respond and went off on a different topic of conversation. Finally, after I had asked a couple of times to no avail, my friend Jane interjected, "Oh, Don, we're having so much fun. I hate to talk about money."

Mr. King responded immediately and ordered his financial director, "Give him a check! Give him a check!"

And so, with the able assistance of my good friend, Jane Swope, I collected the balance owed to the U.S. Air Force. Julie, Jane and I exchanged cordial farewells with Don King and his entourage as we departed the restaurant – check in hand.

Julie and I had a terrific weekend – and one we shall never forget – Our Weekend With Celebrities.

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August Lunch



eon



GI Bill briefings The Education Center, Bldg. 405, Thunder Horse Road, East Fort Bliss, is now offering two GI Bill briefings daily on a walk-in basis to servicemembers at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. This briefing is mandatory for all separating Soldiers. Soldiers will not be admitted into the briefing after the start time. If a servicemember prefers their GI Bill briefing on an individual basis, make an appointment with the Education Center's front desk. To learn more, call Alma Herrera at 568-5635.

Spanish classes Enrollment is now open for conversational Spanish classes offered through the Relocation Assistance Program at Army Community Service. There are two sections available for this beginner-level course. Spanish A meets from 9 to 11 a.m. each Monday and Wednesday from Sept. 12 through Dec. 14. Spanish B meets from 9 to 11 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday from Sept. 13 through Dec. 14. Both classes are held at the Family Resilience Center, Bldg. 250 on Club Road on main post. Conversational Spanish classes are free for authorized ACS users age 13 and older. Child care vouchers are provided for children registered with Child, Youth and School Services. Child care reservations must be made in advance. Register online at www.blissmwr.com/relocation/relo_class.aspx, or call 568-1132 ext. 5 to learn more.

Fort Bliss ASIST classes Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is a two-day interactive workshop that provides an opportunity to explore your experiences with and attitudes about suicide. In this training you will learn how to understand the needs of a person at risk of suicide, learn suicide first aid, recognize the warning signs of suicide and learn what community resources are available. Upcoming classes are scheduled for Oct. 18 and 19 and Nov. 15 and 16. ASIST tune-up is a 3.5-hour refresher course for those people that have taken the ASIST training. This training is intended to allow the participants to reconfirm their ability to be a ready, willing and able caregiver. Upcoming classes are scheduled for Oct. 6 and Nov. 8. All classes take place at the Family Resilience Center, Bldg. 250 on Club Road on main post. Register for classes online at www.blissmwr.com/asist. To learn more, call 569-5500 or email carolyn.d.carothers.ctr@mail.mil.

Fraud alert The name of Pioneer Services, the military banking division of MidCountry Bank, is being used by telephone scammers to gather personal information. The company asks consumers who receive these call to not share any personal information with the caller. Instead they should gather as much information as possible – phone number, time of call and more – and then immediately call their state's attorney general's fraud hotline to report the incident or visit the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/phonefraud/report.shtml.

Military software donation

eKnowledge is donating \$200 SAT and ACT PowerPrep Programs to military families. The donation eliminates 100 percent of the \$200 retail price for the standard program. There is a \$17.55 fee per standard program for materials, processing and customer service. eKnowledge does not profit from this donation program. To learn more, call 256-4076 or visit www.eknowledge.com/FBM.

Education opportunities The National Association for Uniformed Services, a national military advocacy organization, announces that a new online higher education partnership between NAUS and Excelsior College, a nonprofit, accredited distance education college in Albany, N.Y., provides NAUS members with access to reduced tuition and fees for associate and bachelor's degree programs. In addition, the education agreement benefits extend to NAUS members' spouses who wish to begin or complete their college education. To learn more, visit www.NAUS.org.

Military Retiree Pay Dates to Change

Week of September 05, 2011
Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) changes its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3, 2011 will be issued on Sept. 30, 2011 and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments. Customers should speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service or their state tax authority to determine if their tax withholding will satisfy federal and state income taxes when they file returns next year. For more details, see the Military Advantage blog.
<http://www.military.com/military-report/military-retiree-pay-dates-to-change>

VMIS training Do you want to volunteer, but you are not sure where to start? Are you already a volunteer, but you are not sure how to track your volunteer hours? The Fort Bliss Army Volunteer Corps office now offers Volunteer Management Information System training online. You will learn how to track your volunteer hours, how to search for new volunteer opportunities and how to navigate the VMIS system. After completing the VMIS quiz and a 80 percent or better score, you will receive a certificate of completion for this course. The VMIS training can be found under the "Professional Development" tab on the Fort Bliss Army Volunteer Corps website at www.blissmwr.com/volunteer.

Online ID appointments

The installation Military Personnel Division will conduct a test on the feasibility of an online appointment system for ID card and DEERS/RAPIDS services. Appointments for ID card and other DEERS/RAPIDS services can be scheduled at <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil>. To learn more, call 568-2000 or 568-6619.

DoD Benefit Cuts Update 09:

Military retirement is on the table in the coming months and years as Congress attempts to rein in our national debt. But that's only the start of what could be at risk. There are many things going on simultaneously which could cause adverse impact on the military community. Here is a timeline of expected events for the rest of this year.

- September-October: DoD will need to decide on specific initiatives to trim its budget by \$350 billion over the next ten years. The \$350 billion cut was adopted as part of the recent debt ceiling compromise. Possible initiatives include force reductions, pay raise caps, TRICARE and retirement changes, and more.

- October 1: That's the first day of the new fiscal year. If Congress hasn't passed all of the various federal departments' appropriations bills by that date (which almost certainly won't happen), Congress will have to pass what's called a "continuing resolution" to avoid a government shutdown. We've seen this scenario before. The last several times it's happened, there's been a big fight over whether to use the risk of a shutdown to impose even bigger spending cuts than already have been approved.

- November 23: This deadline for the so-called "Super Committee" – a bipartisan group of 12 legislators from the House and Senate – to put forward a proposal to further reduce the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. This requirement also was part of the recent deficit-reduction legislation. Why November 23? Because that will leave Congress only one month to approve whatever plan the 12 legislators propose.

- December 23: The deadline for Congress to review and vote on any proposal agreed to by the "Super Committee." Congress must conduct an up-or-down vote on the proposal, with no amendments considered. If the committee can't agree on a proposal, or if Congress rejects the proposal without approving some

alternative to achieve equal savings, an automatic enforcement mechanism (sequestration) will cut \$1.2 trillion from the budget over the next 10 years.

- January 1: In the event of sequestration, the cuts will be effective on the first of the year. The \$1.2 trillion in automatic, across-the-board cuts will be divided evenly between defense and non-defense accounts. Under sequestration, certain programs will be exempt from cuts, including federal civilian and military retirement, Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries. But cutting an additional \$600 billion from defense spending would require massive cuts to almost all other programs, likely including health care, commissaries, weapons systems, troop levels, and more.

Tough times are ahead and we'll all members of the military community to help remind Congress that programs like military retirement and military health care are unique benefits designed to offset the challenges and sacrifice inherent in a military career. If you haven't already done, so send your legislators your feelings on the subject. One way is to use a MOAA-suggested message urging your legislators to protect military people programs that are essential to sustaining a high-quality career force. At <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=51851501> is a preformatted editable message that you can use. All that is required is to complete the sender information and click the send tab. [

COLA 2012 Update 05:

With deficit reduction negotiations running into the federal debt limit deadline, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) cuts remain on a short list of dwindling options for Congressional leaders and the White House. A recent editorial appearing in The Washington Post called the proposed switch to the more slowly-growing "chained" consumer price index (CPI) "a relatively easy way to save about \$300 billion over the next decade..." saying that the change "... has been

endorsed by groups across the ideological spectrum." Senior and veteran groups are fighting any cut to the growth of COLAs because the boost is growing too slowly already. A recent study by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) found that seniors have lost almost one-third of their buying power since 2000. While the COLA increased Social Security benefits about 31 percent, typical senior expenses have jumped 73 percent.

Living costs for seniors 65 and older are rising faster than younger households because seniors use more medical care and health care costs are growing faster than prices for most other goods and services. According to a fact sheet released by the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI), households headed by seniors 65 or older spend two to three times as much of their budgets on medical care as younger households do and disabled individuals spend even more. NASI also says that healthcare costs have grown faster than prices for other goods; and services for more than three decades. Monthly premiums for Medicare Part B have grown "fifteen-fold" since 1976 — from \$7.20 to \$115.40 in 2011. What you can do: Members of Congress are more likely to re-think voting for legislation when they see a large number of seniors adamantly opposed to cutting COLAs. Write to or call your Member of Congress and ask what plans he or she supports to maintain COLA adjustments in their present form. The more input they get from their senior and veteran constituents the less likely they are to support the proposed changes. For quick Congressional email or telephone contact data refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/contactingcongress.html>. [Source: TSCL Social Security and Medicare Advisor, Vol. 16, No. 6 16 Aug 2011 ++]



El Paso



THE 1ST ARMORED DIVISION EL PASO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP

The "The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2" was established on 7 February 2011. The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2 Scholarship is a part of "the MOAA Scholarship Fund; and thus, it is a nonprofit, charitable organization, incorporated in Virginia and declared tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its tax identification number is 54-1659039." Please draw your check payable to "MOAA Scholarship Fund," and mark the memo line with "1st Armored Division/TX05 - 501(c)(3)." Mail your contribution to: MOAA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 320910, Alexandria, VA 22320-4910

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Members and friends of the El Paso Chapter, MOAA are encouraged to donate to this worthy cause for eligible children of soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

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Personal Affairs

Jose Luis Hernandez
 Personal Affairs Chairman



Hi, I'm Steve Strobbridge from MOAA's Government Relations Department.

This week we've seen media reports. There have been all kinds of rumors flying about a new DoD report -- proposal to radically change the military retirement system. We've been getting enough questions from our members that we felt like we needed to do this report to get out some information about what's on the table and how it might affect military people.

First thing to realize is there is more than one proposal out there. The one in the news this week would basically scrap the current retirement system; convert the military completely to a civilian-style 401(k) plan.

You wouldn't get any immediate retired pay unless you're 100 percent disabled. The vast majority of people wouldn't draw any money out of their 401(k) plan until age 60 or 65. DoD would have some kind of matching authority that might depend on whether you're on a hardship tour, whether you're in a combat assignment, those kinds of things.

Now it's very difficult to talk about what that means for today's people or future people compared to the current system. We don't know what the stock market is going to do over the next 20 to 30 years. We don't know how many people are going to be in combat assignments, those kinds of things. So it's very tough.

The one thing we do know is, with no immediate retired pay for people who serve 20 or 30 years, this would only cost DoD less than half of what the current system costs. So you know it's not a great deal for career service people.

Now there's another plan out there

Military Retirement in Question!!

that was proposed by another panel a little more than a year ago called the Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation that we think might actually get a little bit more traction that's not quite draconian as this plan, but we think it's still bad enough in its own right.

We do have some more details on that so we can provide a chart. So let's take a look at what this proposal would do.

This chart (see page 21) shows the current system for an E-7 with 20 years of service. Today he gets about \$24,000 in retired pay, and that's adjusted by inflation each year. For this chart we've estimated an adjustment of about 3 percent a year. That's what is shown in red.

What is shown in blue shows the proposed plan, which assumes that this person would be eligible for full retired pay until age 57, and would penalize them 5 percent a year for every year they leave before that.

That person is leaving at age 40, that's what the chart assumes, which is 17 years before age 57, that means their retired pay would be reduced 85 percent. And that's not a typo. They would get \$3,600 a year in retired pay immediately.

At age 60, they would start being able to draw out of their 401(k)-style plan that would have contributed to that under this plan the government would have contributed. The problem is there are no guaranteed contributions. We don't what it would be.

We've put a notional amount of around \$12,000 a year in there just to show the kind of bump that that person would get at age 60 when they can first draw that out.

Under this proposal the individuals would be envisioned to be eligible for some modest retention bonuses at 12 years of service and at 18 years of service, and then there would be a retirement bonus of about one month of basic pay for every year of service they had. At 20 years that would be 20

months of basic pay.

That's taxable. Those bonuses are supposed to substitute for everything. That's the difference between the red and blue lines. In essence, this individual would lose about \$1.6 million over their lifetime. A big, big deal.

Now this is a great deal if you're a general or a flag officer, somebody who is allowed to stay in service until age 57. It also envisions that it would vest retired pay for people who leave before 20. So it's a good deal for people who leave.

Guess who is paying the bill for that? It's the people -- the rest of the career force who take it in the shorts. MOAA thinks that's a huge problem. We don't believe that's the right thing to do. It's not the way to treat people who bear the brunt of all current and future wars.

Now what about the current force? Would they be protected from this kind of thing? Most of the people who are advocating this also would propose grandfathering the current force and applying this only to future entrants.

Some have proposed other things. One option would say we're going to convert the current force on day one, you will have earned everything you have -- the retired pay you've earned to date, but from today forward, all you get is what is deposited in this savings plan.

There was another proposal that would have grandfathered only people with 15 years of service. All of this is still up in the air despite all of the good intentions that are being stated.

Now let's assume the current force is grandfathered, it only applies to new entrants. We've been there before. Back in 1986, Congress actually passed a plan that reduced 20-year retirement value much less severely than this.

At the time, Secretary Weinberger warned Congress that's going to hurt retention and readiness. Twelve years later when the Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed that's what was happening, Congress had to repeal it.

So we've been down this road
 cont'd on page 19



El Paso

Attention!!

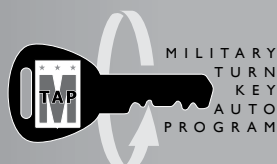
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Membership

MOAA Educational Fund

The MOAA Educational Foundation was incorporated under the Virginia Non-Stock Corporation Act on December 18, 2003. It is a private, tax exempt foundation established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The MOAA Educational Foundation (MEF) was established for charitable and educational purposes to benefit active-duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired, and former members of the Uniformed Services of the United States, and their family members and surviving spouses, by encouraging their financial literacy, by providing information and assistance regarding employment transition' and by providing information and financial-planning assistance to them in connection with military-and service-related benefits to which they may be or become entitled.

Funds raised by MEF are used to support three on-going programs with a proven track record of success in supporting the military community.

- The MEF provides administrative and staff support to the MOAA Scholarship Fund, an IRC 501(c)(3) organization that provides scholarships and interest free educational loans to the children of military families. By providing administrative and staff support to the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the MOAA Educational Foundation ensures that 100% of all money donated to the MOAA Scholarship Fund goes directly to scholarship recipients without being diverted to administrative and other support costs.
- Funds raised by MEF are used to provide education for military personnel and their families on personal financial management through a series of briefings

and classroom sessions at military installations.

- The MEF supports MOAA's placement program for transitioning military personnel to assist them in finding meaningful post-service employment.

The MOAA Educational Foundation is a subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America and its Board of Directors consists of officers drawn from members of the MOAA Board.

While established in 2003, the Foundation has only recently refined its mission and identified specific functions that can contribute to easing the burdens of military service on active-duty personnel and their families. Through its support of MOAA's educational and career transition activities, the Foundation makes available without charge a number of publications and reference books to assist military families with financial management and estate planning issues.

How is this different from the MOAA Scholarship Fund? The MOAA Scholarship Fund is a Section 501(c)(3) public charity established for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the children of military personnel seeking higher education. The MOAA Educational Foundation provides support to the Scholarship Fund and also supports programs to educate the military community regarding financial matters and career transition.

For more information or to donate to the MOAA Educational Fund, contact Captain John Plehal USN (Ret) at 800-234-6622, ext 530 or johnp@moaa.org.

cont'd from page 17

before. It's proven that it's non-starter. And this would be even worse.

It's interesting that back then in the '80s then-Secretary Weinberger was talking about the adverse effects on retention. You're not hearing about that today. You're only hearing about how much money that we need to save, and this is just one more budget savings drill.

Well, let me tell you, this is not just a savings drill, this is a huge amount of money being taken out of the pockets of the people who sacrifice the most for their country. This is a huge risk to future retention and readiness. We should have learned that lesson. We shouldn't have to learn it again.

Now if you believe, like MOAA believes, this is a bad idea, what can you do to help? Well, there are three things.

Number one, you can email your legislators right now. You

can see the URL there. All you've got to do is go to that URL, plug in your zip code, and you can send a MOAA-suggested message to your legislators.

Number two, sign up for MOAA's weekly legislative update and all you've got to do is email our Member Service Center, and they will hook you up with that. We can't alert you when you need to write to your legislators, we can't alert you when there is a problem that needs your action if we can't reach you.

Finally, if you're an officer, we need you to join MOAA. Everybody else, we need you to join Voices for America's Troops, which is MOAA's subsidiary.

MOAA intends to be the most effective dog in this fight. And it is a hugely important fight for military people and for America. We're going to have to be the biggest dog we can be to be effective. And we can't be that without your membership.



Legislative

Edwin (Ed) S. Stone, III
Legislative Chairman



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On-going 2011 Legislative Activity Report

Active Duty, newly retired, and those of us that have been around for a good deal of time, we all have a stake in MOAA's legislative efforts. Turbulent times, legislatively.

But first, every voter must go to the to the Texas polls on November 8 to pass the amendment to the Texas State Constitution to permit 100% property tax exemption for the surviving spouses of 100% Disabled Veterans...the one item you will absolutely want to vote "Yes" will be listed on the ballot as "Proposition 1" with language that reads: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran." The passing of this amendment will permit the enabling language to be effective January 1, 2012, with surviving spouses of 100% or totally disabled veterans meeting the criteria to be exempt from the specified property taxes. Like most legislation, it may not be one size fits all and may require further attention in future Texas Legislative Sessions to perfect the enabling language. Passing "Proposition 1" gets us in the tent and sets up for honing law until everyone is sheltered.

Again, get out the vote for the constitutional amendment in November to permit a surviving spouse to benefit from an extension of the 100% Disabled Veteran's Property Exemption to them. Vote "Yes" on Proposition 1...it is "the foot in the door" on this issue.

On the national front there are so many cross currents in the Senate and House, it is difficult to keep up with all of the legislative assaults being conducted on current military personnel benefits...one had better pay attention and consider each attempt to diminish hard won privileges threatening. Having an association like MOAA working for you all the time while you are elsewhere and otherwise occupied is a must...membership is a necessity for officers...enlisted, if your officers are members, they are working for you...if officers are protected then so are enlisted because the Association works for everyone.

Here are some examples of looming national legislative threats to all uniformed services personnel:

- What about the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee wanting to eliminate Commissaries to shift the funds to take care veterans that drank contaminated water at Camp Lejeune before 1988? MOAA supports taking care of the Camp Lejeune veterans without cutting out the

Commissaries. Here's how your answer if you agree:
<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=51001611>

- Reduce military retirements by \$100,000 over the life time of an E-7 or an O-5 by double that amount from introducing a "Chained CPI" to replace current Cost of Living Adjustments? Check this site: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=51440506>

- Prevent 2012 Medicare and Tricare cuts of 28%:
<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=35633526>

- Serious consideration is being given at all levels to cutting military retirements...one proposal being floated is delaying full payment until one reaches 60 years of age:
<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=50832716>

Where does one find up to date information on these issues with proposed answers and a system to let your elected representatives know where you stand? "Anyone" can use the MOAA system. Try:

- MOAA's Weekly Legislative Updates if you do not subscribe to them being sent to you automatically: http://www.moaa.org/action/lac_issues/lac_issues_update/default.htm

- Legislative Alerts for suggested messages to send addressing current issues: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>

- A grouping of issues across the military spectrum, active, guard, reserve, retired, spouses: http://www.moaa.org/action/lac_issues/lac_issues_major/default.htm

Membership is a must in the Military Officers Association of America's national organization...check www.elpasomoaa.org or write publications@elpasomoaa.org with membership questions.

How about State issues? Join the El Paso Chapter to remain current on the Texas Biennial Legislative action. Same site and email address for chapter membership.

We are in extraordinary times. Become and stay engaged and don't get legislatively blind-sided with regards to military personnel issues! MOAA is furnishing leadership and you can help in the heavy lifting by participating. The only way to maintain is to hang together!

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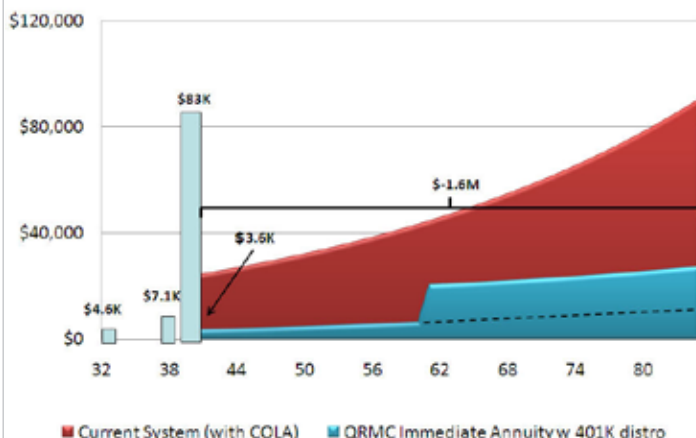
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as noted on page 17

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Contact the El Paso MOAA Membership Director (membership@elpasomoaa.org) for additional information.

Renewals

LTC Lucille McCabe	LTC Benjamin Frias
CW4 George Patt	CW4 Robert Versaw
Mrs Lois Lewis	Mrs Betty Manross
LTC John Ozaki	

❧ TAPS ❧

LTC (R) Eugene (Gene) T. Hynes, 91, passed away on August 18, 2011. He had an impressive Army career, enlisting in the Army at the age of eighteen and working his way to First Sergeant by age twenty one. After completing OCS, he served on General George Patton's staff during WWII. He served on General Westmoreland's staff during Vietnam and ran a covert CIA operation in Laos prior to Vietnam.

Gene was a true officer and a gentleman. He was a devote Catholic and a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus. Gene was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Hynes, and his son, John Hynes. He is survived by his son, Eugene Jr. and his wife Mary Ann, son Denis and Susan, and daughter, Connie Hynes. Gene has five grandchildren, John Hynes Jr. and his wife Jeanette, Sara Robins and her husband Dave, Amber Carrillo and her husband David, Steve Canas and Christopher Hynes. He has seven great grandchildren, Maya and Grant Robins, Nolan and Connor Hynes, Shanay Dean, and Andre and Angel Carrillo. Gene is loved by his family and friends and will be dearly missed.

The Hynes Family received family and friends on Sunday, August 21, 2011 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Funeraria Del Angel Martin East Funeral Home with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm. Funeral Mass was held on Monday, August 22, 2011 at 1:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with interment immediately following at Fort Bliss National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

COL (R) John F Hanson, 96, died on 8 May 2011. A WWII veteran, he is survived by his wife. Marilyn. No other information is available at this time.

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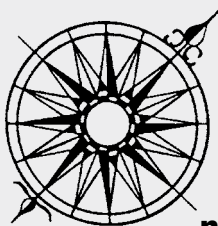
Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

El Paso Chapter, MOAA

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