



OFFICERS CALL

MOAA Excellent Chapter Award

2001/2004/2005/2006/2007/2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018

MOAA Newsletter Award—2001/2003/2009/2013

MOAA Recruiting Award—2001/2002



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MAY-JUN 2020

NORTH DFW MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 294685, Lewisville, TX 75029-4685



FELLOW MEMBERS,

You usually find this space filled with a meeting location, a (hopefully) interesting program, and a menu of items for your upcoming meal. And this format will return, hopefully sooner rather than later.

But for now, please enjoy some good articles from your elected officers and some great pics of the Berlin Airlift Memorial and the aircraft flying that most memorable mission.

For those who would like to see some of your old friends in this organization, Ginger will be hosting a **Virtual Social Hour** via ZOOM on June 10th in which all are invited. If you haven't ZOOM'd yet, it's not that difficult and is a good way to visit with kids, grandkids, etc. There is more information in this issue. Give it a try.

Hopefully, everyone is staying healthy. Si has mentioned that if anyone needs help of any kind, please reach out to him...we take care of our members.

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PRESIDENT
COL. Si Simonson,
USAR(RET.)



CHAPTER PRESIDENT REMARKS

Hello North DFW MOAA members and friends. I hope that you are doing as best as can be expected during the current situation. These are uncertain times with the coronavirus. Even today as I write this column, 20,000 new people in the United States are daily diagnosed with the coronavirus. So please continue to take the necessary precautions to be safe: social distancing, wearing a mask when you are outside, and washing your hands frequently.

That being said, please contact me if you need any assistance during the current situation—such as needing someone to go to the store for you, pick up medication, or conduct any other errand that you need assistance with. The best way to contact me is via email: si.simonson@verizon.net or phone: 817-683-2874. Please don't be shy to ask if you need assistance or supplies. We will get a chapter member to assist you quickly.

Because of the coronavirus, we will NOT hold our regular dinner meeting in June. Due to the social distancing guidelines for restaurants, they will only be able to seat at 25% to 50% capacity, with the occupied tables being separated by at least six feet from each other. Thus, we will be unable to hold a dinner meeting in our chosen or alternate dining venues. We are still tentatively planning to hold our next scheduled dinner meeting in September. However, we will make the decision in August, based on the coronavirus situation at that time.

As a result, we would still like to hold a virtual Chapter meeting on June 17 at 6PM using your computer, smart phone, or regular phone. It is called a ZOOM meeting, and you will be getting an invite to the ZOOM meeting from Ginger Simonson. You do not need to download any apps or software to join. Just click on the link that Ginger provides, follow the instructions that pop up to activate your camera and speaker, and you are in. In the ZOOM meeting, we will be able to see each other (if you have a webcam or phone camera). See the article by Ginger in this newsletter discussing the ZOOM meeting.

This newsletter also contains a section highlighting some of the Chapter's accomplishments over the past year. The article is based on the information we submitted this year for the MOAA Level of Excellence award. As you may be aware since 2001, our Chapter has received the 5-star Level of Excellence 15 times, and the 4-Star Level of Excellence once. Our Chapter has a current streak of winning a Level of Excellence award every year since 2004.

Finally, I close on a sad note. Two of our Chapter members passed away recently. Thomas Webb (Brigadier General, USAF, Retired) passed away on March 31. Dolores (Dolly) Land, the wife of Colonel Vince Land, passed away on April 21, 2020. See notices of both their passing on p13.

Chapter Highlights

The impacts of our small chapter are felt across the community. Our chapter maintains excellent relationships that enhance our advocacy efforts at the city, county, state, and federal levels. Here are some samples of the achievements of our chapter members.

Doug Brown serves as the Flower Mound Veteran's Liaison and has an effective and cordial working relationship with all Council Members. He is highly respected and is routinely asked for input on Veterans issues and frequently is the deciding voice on these issues. He has a leadership role in all Veterans related events, like the Veterans and Memorial Day celebrations and the Veterans Day Flag relay. The Governor of Texas awarded the National Service Make a Difference Award to Doug Brown last year.

Ginger Simonson, our Legislative Liaison, routinely works with the Veterans Administration, the Texas Veterans Commission, and the Denton County Commissioners Court to raise awareness on issues related to mental health treatment for veterans and to secure legislative backing on key Veterans issues related to Veterans Treatment Courts and Veterans behavioral health issues. She works closely with other Veteran Service providers to directly support Veterans and family members with service-related issues. She facilitated the issuance of formal Proclamations related to Veteran PTSD and Suicide Awareness Month in Texas in June 2019 by the city of Lewisville, TX and the Denton County Commissioners' Court.

At the State level, our chapter is a powerful voice on the Texas Council of chapters, providing input to guide the Council's efforts in focusing on veteran-related legislation at the bi-annual state legislative sessions. Ginger provided strategy presentations at multiple Texas Council of Chapters meetings on how to prepare for the upcoming legislative session and on the issues that we would advocate for. Several of our members advocated in Austin in March 2019 and testified on a number of Veteran-related bills that were ultimately passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

Camilla Zimbal is the Commander of Women Veterans of America, the only such accredited chapter in Texas. Chris Hampton is on the Board of Directors for Heroes on the Water and the local Susan Komen affiliate. He also organizes monthly camaraderie events for local Veterans, to enhance Veterans involvement with city and county events. A former chapter member, Sharon Balsley, received the Congressional Veteran Commendation award from Congressman Burgess.



1st Vice President Programs and Support

LtCol Bob Little USAF (RET)

Berlin Airlift Veterans Memorial
Veterans Memorial Park, Wichita, Kansas
Sept. 26, 2019

Veterans of the **Berlin Airlift** (1948-49) gathered in Wichita, Kansas last September for the dedication ceremony of the Berlin Airlift Memorial. Wichita is *one of only three* Veterans Memorial Parks in the U.S. that will have a monument honoring the Berlin Airlift.

The Berlin Airlift was considered the first conflict of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Referred to as one of the greatest humanitarian efforts in modern history, the Berlin Airlift delivered food, medicine, and supplies to Berlin, Germany in 1948 and 1949 after the city was cut off by the Soviet Union in the years immediately following World War II.

Living veterans of the Airlift, along with their families and members of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association, gathered in Veterans Memorial Park for the unveiling ceremony. Dignitaries from the city and state gave prepared remarks to honor the occasion. Airlift Veteran **Col. Gail Halvorsen**, also famously known as “**The Candy Bomber**,” gave prepared remarks and later gave interviews to the local media.

The Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA) was established in 1989 to honor the memory of the veterans who participated in the airlift and to keep a historical record of the airlift for future generations. North DFW chapter member Bob Little is a life-member of BAVA by virtue of his mother, Lois Little, who was assigned to the Berlin office of General Lucius Clay during the airlift.

Veterans Memorial Park: <http://wichitaveteransmemorialpark.com/>

Berlin Airlift Veterans Assn: <http://berlinairliftveteransassociation.org/>

Bob Little
1st V-P



The Berlin Airlift ran from June 24, 1948 thru May 12, 1949. It was one of the first major international conflicts of the Cold War. The Soviets had blocked all land access to Berlin that was under US control, and this, the Berlin Airlift, was the US response to that blockade.

ABOVE: Veterans and dignitaries gather at Veterans' Memorial Park 26 Sep 2019 in Wichita, KS. to dedicate the Berlin Airlift Memorial.

Right: Col Gail Halvorsen AKA The Candy Bomber, gave prepared remarks.

BOTTOM: Veterans' Memorial Park Nameplate.

Pictures provided by Bob Little



BERLIN AIRLIFT PICTURES
БЕРЛИН ВІКТИЛ ПІКЛЮБІ?





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And
Visit our Website at:
<https://www.northdfwmoaa.com>



2nd VP—MEMBERSHIP
LT Dick Cook USN (RET)



Every year we have a lottery for members that have paid their annual dues before 1 January. The lottery winner gets a dues free year. Treasurer Dave Nelson has started a list for those that have paid for 2021. Currently seven of our members have qualified for the lottery including Dave. He noticed that outgoing Treasurer Charlie Correll won last year's lottery and is hoping that winning the dues lottery follows the Treasurer's position. All that pay early are already winners because they saved five bucks. They paid \$20 for 2021 dues by paying early. When you pay during the fiscal year you pay the full \$25!

Currently we list 89 chapter members. The chapter has exempted surviving spouses and active duty members from paying dues. We currently list nine surviving spouse members and two active duty members which means seventy-eight of us pay dues. Sixteen of the seventy-eight have yet to pay for 2020 dues. Dues are expected on or before 1 January, so I am hopeful that laggards pony up and save themselves from receiving nagging e-mails and letters. Toward the end of the year delinquent members are dropped from the chapter.

The chapter receives monthly lists of national MOAA members who have moved into our area. We send invitations to all. This month we have three new chapter members to meet and greet. With no chapter dinner meetings while we are "sheltering in place" that's not easy to do. I believe that the board is trying to put together something where all chapter members can meet online. We have had two board meetings online and it gets the job done.

Capt. Bill Wait USAF RET of Richland Hills joined with his wife Diane on March 6th. Bill started his military interests joining the Civil Air Patrol at age 14. CAP was followed by ROTC and he was commissioned with a career in Aircraft maintenance. After his assignments in Viet Nam he left the Service but stayed in aviation primarily with Bell Helicopter and finished his service in the reserves.

COL Paul Vicalvi USA RET joined with his wife Pamela March 10th. They live in Denton. Paul was an Army Chaplain with a career in the 82nd Airborne Special Ops. Welcome Paul and Pamela. I'll bet they have lots of stories to tell.

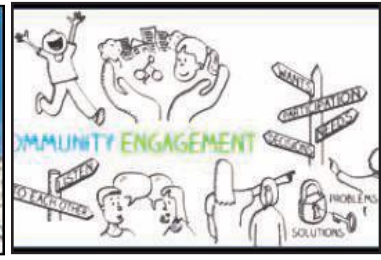
LtCol "Packman" Tom Paquin USMC RET of Keller was an FA-18 pilot with a number of interesting assignments. Tom joined the chapter April 26th. He is now president of Victory Base LLC of Keller, VicNRG, LLC, of Southlake and Managing Member of Victory Aviation of Denton.

All new members and guests are invited to a dinner meeting by Chapter President Si Simonson so that we can get to meet and greet them. The new members get to know the rest of us, and it is encouragement for them to become regulars at our meetings.

Still the best source of new chapter members comes directly from you. Your friends and associates that qualify for chapter membership make great members. Just let President Si Simonson or me know how to contact your prospects and Si will invite them to a chapter dinner in your name and let you introduce them around. Do your friends a favor and invite them to enjoy the benefits of chapter membership.



**3rd VICE PRESIDENT — LEGISLATIVE
& COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
LTC Ginger Simonson. USA (Ret)**



I attended the Texas Council of (MOAA) Chapters (TCC) on 16 May 2020. The President, Jim Cunningham advised the group that due to the economic fall-out from COVID-19, funds to new legislative initiatives are likely to be in short supply. In fact, it is likely, that many state programs across the board will be cut. So, part of our advocacy will include protecting existing benefits from potential cuts.

I was happy that the TCC accepted my recommendation to encourage the pursuit of VA funds to help pay for any new state laws needed to improve Veterans/family mental health access to culturally competent care. This is the current list of state advocacy efforts we will pursue for the upcoming Texas legislative session that officially opens in January 2021.

1. Enhancements and development of New Veterans Courts
2. Enhancement of Veterans Mental Health
3. **Mental Health Concerns**
 - a. **Access to Culturally Competent Behavioral Health Services**
 - b. **Reduce Veteran Suicides in Texas**
 - c. **Require all law enforcement officers in Texas to take TCOLE 4067, Trauma Affected Veterans Training.**
 - d. **Increase Staffing of County MVPN Chapters**
 - e. **Reduce misdiagnosis and improve recovery for Veterans with mefloquine neurotoxicity**
4. Changes to partially disabled tax exemptions
5. Continued Defense of Hazelwood
6. Greater support of Veteran Service Officers in the counties.
7. Enhancement of licensing for new veterans and spouses of active military

Speaking of the TCC, our Chapter will host the quarterly TCC meeting in October 2020. The meeting usually starts around 3 pm on Friday afternoon, with a social hour/dinner on Friday evening and usually wraps up after a morning session on Saturday. More information will be provided in the next newsletter, along with opportunities to attend the meetings and/or the dinner.



What's Up in Congress

At the TCC meeting we also discussed MOAA's national advocacy agenda and how members in individual chapters can help. These are the FY 2020 National Objectives:

1. Protection of health care benefits
2. Keeping Military pay and benefits strong
3. Support of military families
4. Concurrent receipt for all retirees
5. Support of the total force
6. Enhanced DoD/VA services.
7. Strengthen and support all uniformed services
8. Primary goal, at this time, is Evaluation of Military Health System Reform against COVID-19 Lessons Learned.

In this newsletter, I am asking that you address just one issue - Evaluation of Military Health System Reform against COVID-19 Lessons Learned. I have just sent my message to our two State Senators and to Congressman Burgess. It took me less than a minute using the prepared email on MOAA's advocacy web page. Please click the link below, input your name and address and also include our Chapter # - TX 31. Let's speak with "One Voice" on this issue!

MOAA National's Legislative Action Center

Click this Link and Make a Difference!

Write to Congress to Evaluate Military Health System Reform against COVID-19 Lessons Learned

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused extraordinary flux in the civilian health care system together with increased demands on uniformed medical providers. Act now to urge Congress to halt plans to cut uniformed medical personnel and reduce military treatment facility capacity.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?8&engagementId=507024>



Last newsletter, I encouraged everyone to stay connected with loved ones via technology. This month, with approval from the Chapter's Board, I am practicing what I preach!

On June 10 at 6 pm, join us for the first ever **virtual social hour** hosted by the North DFW Chapter of MOAA. Mark your calendars now. Doug Brown will be sending you all a ZOOM link that you can click and join. Call or email me if you have any questions or concerns (817-683-2870).

vgws56@gmail.com.



Shopping Coupons Debby Allbach



COUPON REPORT FOR MAY NEWSLETTER

Special thanks to Lenore Hollis, Janet Key and RoseMarie Vickory who have consistently gotten coupons to me during this stay at home time. I was able to mail 1 package of coupons in May thanks to their efforts. Until we meet again you will determine if the overseas coupon effort we started in January 2012 continues. Perhaps it is time to call it. This is up to you and dependent on if you are willing to mail coupons to me when we can't meet. Stay tuned ...
Debby Allbach, 1116 Carousel Drive, Bedford, TX 76021

SURVIVING SPOUSES NEWS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER

The national MOAA team wants your legislative priorities for 2021 now so they can prepare to re-engage the House and Senate after the fall elections. Some of the items discussed during the last Virtual Chapter Conference call were to address changing the before age 55 benefits stop, open enrollment for SBP for those who initially declined and /or improving the payment formula. MOAA works for the benefit of surviving spouses but can only be relevant to you if you give input.

There is no cost to joining the Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter. They meet 4 times a year via a no cost telephone conference. Anyone interested in more information about the Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter can contact...Gail Joyce, BOD, Co-Chair SSVC, virginiagailjoyce@gmail.com

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NORTH DFW MOAA
TREASURER'S REPORT
MAJ. DAVE NELSON(RET.)



Greetings once again from the finance department. As is true with most of you, the lack of activities in the chapter have made the bookkeeping quite simple for the last few months. Thank you members who have sent in your 2020 dues payments. For those of you who haven't, please consider paying your dues obligation for this year. The chapter relies on these monies for our grants and scholarships to deserving students and organizations in the local area. As the school year comes to a close, we will be considering the scholarship awards for this year. Also, if you pay \$25 for 2020, you can prepay 2021 dues for only \$20. Not only do you save the \$5 but you are entered into a drawing for free membership in 2022. Thanks for your consideration on this. The chapter currently has an operating balance of \$12846.78 and a scholarship account balance of \$4470.00 for total assets of \$17316.78. Stay safe.

Dave Nelson

davenelson@tx.rr.com

972-740-8449

Dolores "Dolly" Land passed away on April 21st. She was a very accomplished lady, a piano playing Registered Nurse who was married to Col. Vincent Land for 64 years. They travelled the world together when possible(25+ moves) courtesy of the US Army, raised a family, and helped a bunch of fellow travelers along the way.

A lovingly done video of Dolly's life can be viewed at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vPoHdiTwdE>

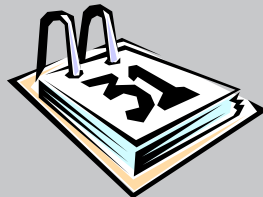
RIP Dolly Land

Thomas R. Webb passed away on March 31st this year at his home here in Flower Mound. Tom was an accomplished high school athlete and a long-time golfer. He graduated Oklahoma University and eventually found his way to Air Force flight school, graduating from Perrin AFB flying F86's. He retired from the AF in 1991, and from American Airlines in 1995. He was married to Jo Ann Webb for 58 years, and helped her raise a large family. He was involved in civic life in Flower Mound, and even served as mayor in the 1970's.

RIP Thomas Webb

Mark Your Calendar NOW For Future North DFW MOA Meetings

June 10,2020
Virtual Social
Via Zoom
@1800



September 9, 2020
Dinner Meeting
TBD

November 11, 2020
Dinner Meeting
TBD

December 9, 2020
Dinner Meeting
TBD

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Andrew Tristram, Mgr.

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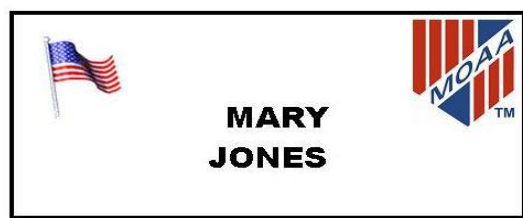
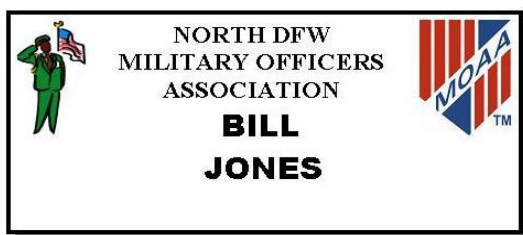
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And

Visit our Website at:
<https://www.northdfwmoaa.com>

NOTICE

PERMANENT NAME BADGES ARE AVAILABLE



MEMBER

FIRST NAME _____
NAME _____

VERSION (CIRCLE ONE)

ATTACHMENT (CIRCLE ONE)

MEMBER

CLUTCH (\$10)

SPOUSE/GUEST

LAST

SPOUSE/GUEST

PIN (\$10)

MAGNETIC (\$13)

FIRST NAME _____

LAST



North DFW Military Officers Association
Elected Officers and
Committee/Project Leaders



Elected Officers

PRESIDENT — COL Si Simonson USAR (Ret), 817-683-2874 si.simonson@verizon.net

1st VICE PRESIDENT — PROGRAMS & SUPPORT

LtCol Bob Little USAFR (Ret), 972-355-8355 heedlock@gmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT — MEMBERSHIP LT Dick Cook USN (Ret), 817-430-1427 dickcook@tx.rr.com

3rd VICE PRESIDENT — LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES LTC Ginger Simonson. USA (Ret), 817-683-2870, vgws56@gmail.com

SECRETARY — LTC Doug Allbach, USA (Ret), 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER — MAJ Dave Nelson, USAF(Ret), 972-740-8449, davenelson@tx.rr.com

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Community Activities:

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP

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SHOPPING COUPONS OVERSEAS — Debby Allbach, 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

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North DFW Military Officers Association
 P. O. Box 294685, Lewisville, Texas 75029-4685
encorrell@verizon.net



2020 Membership Application/Renewal

Invoice Date: 01/01/2020

Bill To:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ PHONE _____

Email: _____

Description	Amount
2020 North DFW MOAA Chapter Membership Dues North DFW MOAA Chapter membership dues are separate from and in addition to your National MOAA Dues. Amount due after 01/01/2020: \$25.00	
Voluntary Scholarship Contribution Contributions go toward our annual scholarships awarded each September. Contributions to the scholarship fund are tax deductible. Please make a copy of this invoice and retain it as proof of payment for your taxes.	
Total Amount Enclosed:	Check #

Make Checks payable to: North DFW MOAA

Payment Due by 01/01/2020

"An Association of Military Officers(& their surviving spouses) of the Seven Uniformed Services of the United States "
 Affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 370,000 Members — "One Powerful Voice"
 MOAA is an information services association and advocate for active and retired families .