

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
ALAMO CHAPTER



THE



LARIAT

Volume 30, Number 2

“Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter”

February 2010

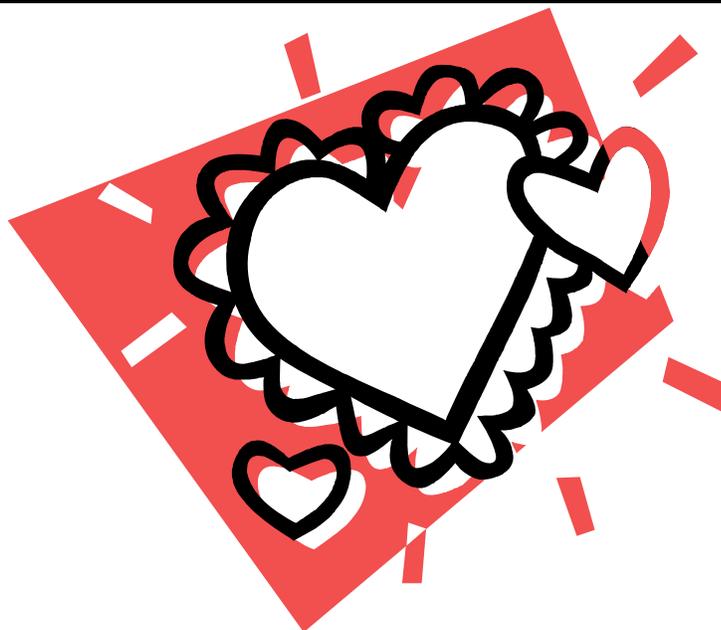


## President's Message

I do hope that each member of the chapter is enjoying the warmer weather after some really great fireplace weather over the last several weeks. Sometimes, during the summer months, I am inclined to complain about the heat factor in this area. But I think that my concern has become lessened overtime. Having lived here since 1977 I have grown quite accustomed to the nice weather we generally have year round. We'll just take the summer heat as God gives it to us and be thankful.

The chapter continues to move forward in our opinion. Do hope each of you share that thought! We thank you for your continuing membership which is CRITICAL. I know by now that many of you up for renewal have already sent in your dues. For that we are so very appreciative. We also appreciate the donations to the Outreach/Scholarship fund. I am quite proud of the initiative to expand our scholarship offerings this year. This is only because of each of you who have seen fit to contribute to the Outreach/Scholarship fund for deserving young Americans. Bottom line - it seems I say thank you a lot and it seems like it is not strong enough, but here is a strong THANK YOU!

Along those lines, one of our primary efforts in recent years is to brand our chapter more completely in our area. I am pleased to announce that, thanks to the efforts of our Executive Vice President, Jim Cunningham, and Secretary, David Patrick, we have initiated formal contact with the President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). We are exploring how we can be beneficial to each other as organizations with similar missions. The bottom line is that we all have the same interests at heart and that is to keep America strong and to take care of our men and women who have served and continue to serve (Continued on Page 13)



Take a break, have some fun, join in the camaraderie, .....smell the roses!!!!

If you haven't done so already - make your reservation for the chapter Valentines Dinner Dance today!

6pm February 12th - RAFB Parr Officers Club

### Save The Date!

Thu Mar 25  
Chapter Luncheon  
Ft Sam Golf Club

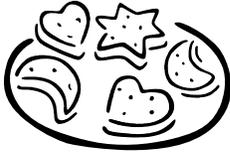
Fri Mar 26  
3rd Annual Charity  
Golf Tournament  
Ft Sam Houston

Thu April 15  
Chapter PicNic Supper

### Inside This Edition:

- Pg 2 Chapter News & Notices
- Pg 4 Health Benefits & Welfare
- Pg 5 Legislative Update
- Pg 6 Thank You!!!
- Pg 8-9 Golf Tournament
- Pg 14 Events Calendar

# Chapter News & Notices



## Cookie Angels

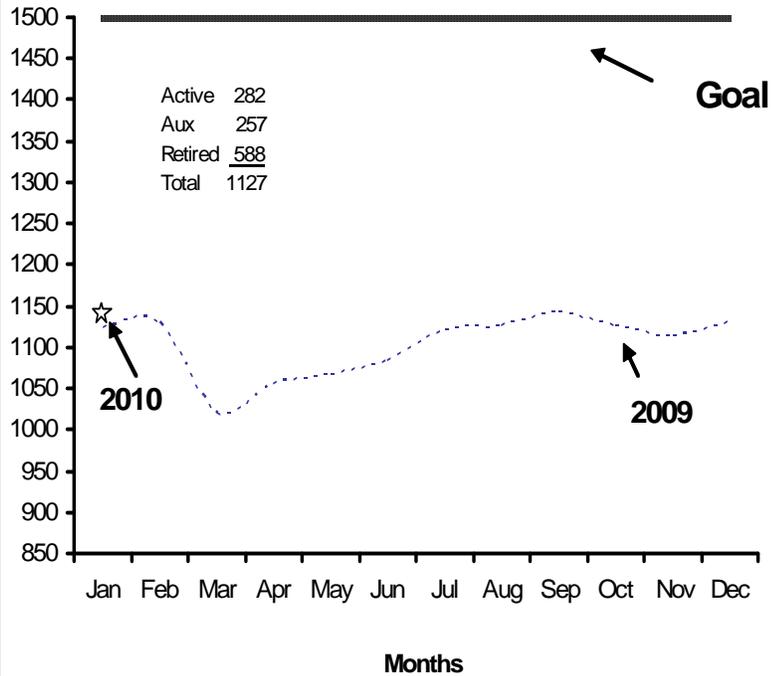
The cookies angels have been hard at work again. Many thanks to the following who either baked goodies, brought fruits or provided other much needed personal items to our wounded soldiers at Ft Sam Houston's Warrior and Family Support Center. Others took time out of their busy schedule to volunteer their time decorating and undecorating the VA Hospital Hospice Ward.

If you have been able to help on behalf of the Alamo Chapter please call Susie at (210) 654-0351, so we may add your name to our list. Thank you.

Aina Blake  
 Mavis Cleary  
 Irene Collier  
 Jim Cunningham  
 Frank and Dolores DeVille  
 Nita Felder  
 Susan Filippini  
 John Gibbs  
 Fred Koechley  
 Harry Long  
 Ed Marvin  
 Ed & Sue McCarthy  
 Mac and Lori McDonald  
 Bo Mills  
 New Braunfels Lions Breakfast Club  
 Lolly Orłowski  
 David Patrick  
 Stephen Rohrbough  
 Jan Rund  
 Father Jim Schellenberg  
 Mike Snellgrove  
 Courtland Snyder  
 Susie Tolman  
 Ed Waggoner  
 David Walker  
 Joe Ware  
 Dot Wise  
 Tom and Evelyn Woods

## Alamo Chapter Membership

As of: January 15, 2010



## Volunteer(s) Needed

1. Volunteer needed to be back up buddy for the VP of Public Relations and Marketing.

Job description available, biggest quality is desire to meet people and get the MOAA word out

2. Need ad hoc committee to start planning the MOAA 50th Anniversary Party in 2011.

Interested members please call Cheryl Smith (210) 403-3797 or email [smithturtles@msn.com](mailto:smithturtles@msn.com)

## TAPS

We received the news that the following members have passed away. We wish to convey our sincere condolences and best wishes to their family and loved ones:

MGen John Buckner USAF (Ret)  
 12/12/2009

Col Richard Harder USA (Ret)  
 12/17/2009

LtCol Alan Soefje USAF (Ret)  
 1/9/2010

LtCol James DeVitt USA (Ret)  
 1/10/2010

## Exec VP's Corner



I have become accustomed to receiving many e-mails over the course of living from friends, concerned associates and just folks that I don't know related to things that they are concerned about. In 98% of the cases I have observed, most of these e-mails are designed to be, a) very partisan; b) quote information that is very old and no longer valid in any way; c) reworked in such a way to cause great excitement and concern, whether valid or not; d) to mislead the recipient away from sources that are both non-partisan and which provide unvarnished and real valid information.

As they are related to military or veterans issues, my bedrock source of information has been and continues to be the MOAA National website and its blog. As a MOAA member, I know that the legislative team in Washington is going to give me information about military or veterans issues in an unvarnished, factual and non-partisan manner. I know that they are going to be on point in "rallying the troops" when issues of concern come up with the Congress! I know that they have great standing with the President and the Congress and that they will be listened to and in most cases their council will be heeded. Recently, however, another of these e-mails has reared its ugly head regarding TriCare and TFL.

There has been great concern about with the health care reform bills that are presently in the Congress and whether TriCare and TFL would be affected. The short answer is that NO they will not be. The longer range answer is that forces of the economy, cost cutting moves within DoD and the Congress may generate attempts to change TriCare and TFL in the future. Further, MOAA is very cognizant of this and is watching for any such moves in that direction. The e-mail that I am going to share with you does not recognize these facts and quite frankly is rather insulting of the efforts being made by organizations such as the MOAA Legislative team. I believe, however, you should find Colonel Steve Strobridge's comment at the end of the e-mail very enlightening. I would further encourage all members to keep an eye on these issues via the MOAA website and its blog. The point being, don't believe everything you see on the internet until you have checked it out!

<http://www.moaablogs.org/battleofthebilge/>

### [TriCare For Life & Medicare](#)

Published by Matthew LoFieigo at 10:59 am under Benefits Cuts, Pay Cuts, President Obama, Social Issues

**"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat." -Sun Tzu**

### Another TFL & Medicare Email

An article that appeared on January 9th on [GOPUSA](#) has been picked up by Tea Party sites and forwarded as a viral email raises once again the issue of TFL and retiree health care. Unfortunately, the piece contains scare tactics and assumptions, and paints military organizations in a bad light. The MOAA response is listed below in full from our Director of Government Relations.

### The Email:

**Subject: TriCare For Life & Medicare**

**Military Retirees, Victims of a Congressional Shell Game**  
Military piece by Thomas D. Segel Harlingen, Texas, January 9, 2010

Military retirees are very close to losing their hard won Tricare for Life health insurance...and it is their own fault. The sad  
(Continued on Page 10)

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# Health, Benefits & Welfare

## 2010 Census to Begin

Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers. With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data..

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

Remember, no matter what they ask, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is **NOT** with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may

contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

Source: Susan Johnson BBB

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## VA to Freeze Increase in Prescription Co-payments:

Any increase in Veterans out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals will be delayed until June 30, 2010. This means the department will delay a scheduled \$1 increase – to \$9 – in the co-payments facing Veterans for each 30-day supply of medicine for the treatment of conditions not related to military service. During this period, VA will also keep \$960 as the maximum, annual out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals for non-service-related conditions. The \$960 cap will not apply to Veterans in priority groups seven and eight. The yearly maximum out-of-pocket payment was scheduled to increase to \$1,080. There are no co-payments associated with the treatment of conditions related to military service.

Source: RAO January Bulletin

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## TVC grants \$1 million for veterans' emergency financial needs

To be awarded in March of 2010, TVC Grant I funds will be used to meet emergency financial needs of veterans and their families such as mortgage and rent payments, food assistance, and utility payments.

"After the sacrifices Texas veterans and their families have made, it is critical that we help them through these tough economic times," says James Nier, TVC Executive Director. "These grant funds will provide essential services and aid to the most vulnerable veterans throughout the state." The grant funds will be awarded to

organizations with experience providing assistance to veterans statewide. In reviewing grant applications, TVC commissioners will be evaluating grant applicants' effectiveness in identifying veterans' needs and targeting resources, as well as the organizations' internal governance, leadership and administration expertise.

Source: Texas Veterans Commission.

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## Wounded Warrior Mentors Needed

San Antonio will soon be the place for a new 'chapter' of the Wounded Warrior Mentor program. The original program was established at Walter Reed. For more info go to [www.wpwoundedwarriormentorprogram.com](http://www.wpwoundedwarriormentorprogram.com).

The local chapter is looking for support staff and mentors. The support staff would include folks who are skilled and able to help in the areas of data base management, web page operations, CPA/budget, a trainer, and a skilled person who can interview perspective mentors as well as the Warriors, then help make the right match.

Mentors will be "life mentors" and assist the Warriors with dealing with the issues of life (cars, finances, education, career, etc). This is not to replace the VA, DAV, or the Services. These are folks to 'walk with' the Warriors and let them have someone to support them, ensuring they are not alone.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Boeding or Todd Platzner

Mike [michael.boeding@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.boeding@us.army.mil)

Todd Platzner [majorp81@yahoo.com](mailto:majorp81@yahoo.com)



## Legislative Update

In the January 2010 issue of the Military Officer, pp. 40-46, MOAA announced its 2010 Legislative Goals. It is strongly recommended that all who have access to this magazine read the article about these goals. A brief summary of the Goals is as follows:

1. Reverse the Medicare and TRICARE payment cuts.
2. Fully fund both people and weapons at levels required to meet mission needs.
3. Sustain military manpower increases to meet mission requirements and ease deployment rates.
4. Achieve wounded warrior and caregiver fixes.
5. Resist undue shifting of health care costs to beneficiaries.
6. Repeal SBP/DIC offset.
7. Work for full concurrent receipt of disability and retirement pay.
8. Eliminate the 2.4% military pay gap with comparable private sector pay.
9. Upgrade Guard and Reserve retirement and health care.
10. Improve spouse and family support.

The legislative news this month is not what has been accomplished, but rather the lack of accomplishment. At the time of writing this article the pending Congressional health care bills passed by the Senate and House, respectively, are still being negotiated to find a common bill that will pass both houses. MOAA has been concerned that taxes proposed in the bills will fall on TRICARE beneficiaries.

The White House and the House/Senate Joint Tax Committee have both assured MOAA that this is not the case, but as the final bill is being negotiated in secret, MOAA will not know what is actually in the bill until its text is released to the public. As the bill is to be paid for in part by significant cuts in Medicare, these will

materially impact TRICARE-for-Life beneficiaries who rely principally upon Medicare.

As explained in the legislative article last month, close to 25% of Medicare beneficiaries have been hit with extra-large Medicare Part B premium increases for 2010, but nothing has as yet been done to fix this unfair discrepancy. Congress previously voted to delay the 21% cut to the Medicare and TRICARE physician reimbursement rate for 60 days, but as of the writing of this article has failed to extend this delay past March 1, 2010.

Facts have come to light regarding the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (the "2008 NDDA") which are worth reporting to you. During Senate debate, Sen. Pryor (D-AR) expressed the intent of Congress, saying, "This addition expands the population that is eligible for the enhancement of disability severance pay to include injuries incurred during performance of duty in support of combat operations."

Veterans organizations were led to believe that the new law would cover soldiers injured in training for combat. However, Congress did not explicitly include in the bill a definition of combat-related operations, leaving it to the Pentagon to make that determination.

In March, 2008, after the Act became law, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Chu promptly issued a memo dated March, 2008, limiting the benefits to injuries actually inflicted by "armed conflict" or in a combat zone.

This memo excluded soldiers hurt while engaging in operations outside combat zones, including while conducting training exercises, jumping from helicopters in rough terrain or participating in other hazardous duties. The 2008 NDDA also made it

easier for soldiers dismissed from service because of PTSD to receive treatment and compensation. The law provided that veterans dismissed from service because of PTSD must be given a disability rating of 50%, high enough to ensure disability pay and health care for the soldiers and their families. However, Undersecretary Chu bureaucratically decreed by memo dated October 14, 2008, that the easier PTSD policy would not go into effect until the date of such memo, nine months after the 2008 NDDA became law, leaving out many soldiers dismissed with PTSD during such nine-month period.

This situation has been dealt with at some length because there are lessons for future legislation and our grassroots support.

First, there seems to be an institutional bias in the interest of economy against military personnel benefits at the DoD level; and second, because of this we must do all practical to encourage Congress to draft its military benefit statutes with specificity so as not to leave to DoD the power to interpret either the level of benefits nor the scope of those to whom the benefits are applicable.

It is a cruel hoax on those most in need of assistance for Congress to lead them to believe they are entitled to badly needed assistance, only to discover such benefits are being bureaucratically denied by DoD interpretation.

*Col David Briggs (Ret)*  
Texas Council of Chapters  
Legislative VP

# Thank You!



Grateful thanks to the following who have kindly donated to the Chapter and/or Scholarship/Outreach Fund:

WO Wilbur Amacher  
Maryada Artiglia  
LtCol John Bandy  
LTC Robert Benson  
Aina Blake  
LtCol Emil Buran  
Betty Davisson  
Col Jesse Dominguez  
Col Robert Dupras  
Genie Edgar  
BGen Charles Elia  
Juanita Felder  
Col James Hill  
Gladys Kizziar  
Col Edward Lefeber  
Maj Charles Phillips  
Col George Rawlings  
Betty Shelton-Mills  
LtCol Orange Steffey  
Col Karen Stocks  
Margot Stryker  
LTC James Thomas  
Paulette Thompson  
Maj Robert Tuckey  
LtCol David Walker  
LTC James Webb  
Col John Whiting  
LTC Glenn Wise  
Col Ralph Ziegler

# MOAA-AC 3rd Annual Golf Tournament



People the world over enjoy the game of golf. Here is an opportunity to help our Wounded Warriors and their families as they recuperate from their battle injuries.

The Alamo Chapter of MOAA has a Scholarship Program to help our members and their families gain a college education. This Fund-Raising Event addresses both of these great causes. Here's a way you can participate!



On Friday, March 26th, our Alamo Chapter is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at Ft Sam Houston's Loma Course. The net proceeds will be **evenly divided** between the Fort Sam Houston Warriors and Family Support Center, which is supported entirely by donations, and our Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

The Tournament will begin with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start; we'll use a scramble format – senior tees for player 65 and older. An awards dinner with prizes will close out the event. If you can join us, just clip out the entry form located on Page 9 of this issue

and send it together with your entry fee.

If you can't join us, please consider donating the cost of an entry fee (\$85.00) and sponsor a Warrior or family member to play FREE. All you have to do is simply send a check for \$85 made payable to MOAA-AC and write "Golf Tournament" on the memo line of your check.



Sponsors are also needed to provide additional resources so that more of the revenues (and entry fees) can go to the WFSC and Scholarship Fund. If you are able to donate goods or services or are associated with a company or firm that can, please contact Frank Rohrbough at (830) 537-5452 or Stephen Rohrbough at (210) 262-7026.

Golfers! Get a foursome together and sign up. Door prizes and an Awards Dinner are included.



*Col Frank Rohrbough (Ret)*



## Medical Minute

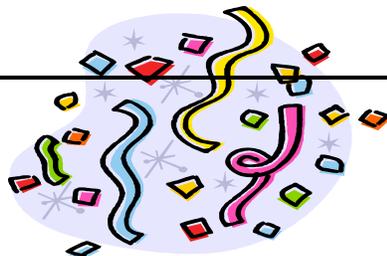
### Overcoming Insomnia

Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep? Still tired when you wake up? To help reduce insomnia, try these tips:

1. Deal with your worries. During the early evening write down your worries, and possible solutions. You don't have to solve an entire problem, but find at least one step you can take.
2. Evaluate your day: If your days are stressful and hurried, relax for two hours before bedtime. Look for new challenges.
3. Exercise: Get 20 to 30 minutes of vigorous exercise daily, preferably five to six hours before bedtime. Go for a walk.
4. Limit bedtime: Too much bedtime can cause shallow, unrestful sleep.
5. Avoid clock watching: Put your alarm where you can hear but not see it.
6. Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and nicotine: They can often keep you from falling asleep or cause you to wake up often.
7. Don't "try" to sleep: The harder you try the more awake you become. If you are still awake after 30 or 45 minutes -get up. Read a book, listen to soothing music, watch a dull television program until you become drowsy and fall asleep naturally.
8. Drink a glass of warm milk: Milk contains tryptophan which is a soporific and induces sleep. Green tea works the same for some people.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Letter

## Solitaires



February brings Presidents Day. For years we have honored Washington's Birthday on the 22nd of February. It is also the birth month of one many consider the second greatest President-- Abraham Lincoln.

So now we had two federal holidays for presidents. Much debate on the name of one holiday springs from the fact that the states can honor federal holidays as they see fit. Lincoln's birthday was originally observed only as a state holiday. Individual states do not have to observe federal holidays although most do.

In 1968 the term Presidents Day first surfaced for consideration, but Congress shot it down. Advertisers persisted for a specific term and date so on 21 February 1971; President Nixon issued a proclamation that the third Monday of February would honor ALL presidents. It was a date between 12 February -Lincoln's birthday and 22 February-Washington's birthday, and included a three day weekend. However some states still adhered to their own choice of holidays.

In 2001 Congress attempted to pass HR 420 which standardized the federal holiday. It failed to clear subcommittee and died without vote. Today most states accept the third Monday of February as Presidents Day to honor all presidents. This year it falls on 15 February.

ICE (In Case of Emergency). Did you know that your telephone can be a life saving device? Under ICE list the name and phone number of someone to call in case of emergency. Bill Stout shared this emergency idea with us. Thanks Bill.

The planning meeting of 5 January was quite successful. Members were enthusiastic in offering ideas for future programs. The following suggestions were submitted: 1) two pot luck luncheons per year, 2) a trip to Pearl Brewery followed by a river boat trip to the city, 3) a Chinese auction party, and 4) a "guess who" party--members bring an earlier picture of themselves. How many can you identify? Guest speakers, theater, and demonstrations of arts and crafts by our own talented members, feasibility and time will have to be worked out.

The next meeting will be a Sunday champagne brunch on 24 January at the Kendrick Club at Randolph AFB at 1100. The program will be a talk by Col Irene Collier on China. She has just returned from a month in China and Tibet. See you there.

Source: various newspaper articles.

*Col Irene Collier (Ret)*

— If you are a single man or lady and like to eat, chat, make new friends, experience or provide sometimes brief impromptu or scheduled interesting demonstrations, talks, or discussions, whether you are: visiting the area; active duty or retired; widowed or divorced; the SOLITAIRES is the group for you.

— This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy camaraderie with other single men and ladies whose backgrounds and experiences are or have been with the military. Call the office (210) 228-9955 for more details.

# Alamo Chapter Annual Golf Tournament

**Military Officers Association of America, Alamo Chapter 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
March 26, 2010, Ft. Sam Houston Golf Course**

*Benefiting the Warriors and Family Support Center, Fort Sam Houston and the MOAA-Alamo Chapter  
Scholarship Fund.*

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**Sponsorship packages:** (Applies to individuals as well as commercial or organizational sponsors)

- Title Sponsor: \$1,500 (sponsors twelve designated players or Warriors)
- Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000.00 (sponsors eight designated players or Warriors)
- Gold Sponsor: \$500.00 (sponsors four designated players or Warriors)
- Silver Sponsor: \$250 (sponsors two designated players or Warriors)
- Bronze Sponsor: \$125 (sponsors one designated player or Warrior)
- Hole in One Sponsor: \$300 maximum (insurance premium)
- Long Drive Sponsor, Men: \$50
- Long Drive Sponsor, Women: \$50
- Long Drive Sponsor, Senior: \$50
- Closest to the Pin Sponsor, Men: \$50
- Closest to the Pin Sponsor, Women: \$50
- Closest to the Pin Sponsor, Senior: \$50

**Sponsorship recognition:**

- Large sign at FSH golf clubhouse for Title Sponsor.
- Recognition via tee box sponsor signs.
- Recognition in every entrant's "Goodie Bag".
- Thank you ad in Fort Sam Houston News Leader.
- Recognition in the Lariat Newsletter and our Chapter website.
- Recognition at awards dinner after the tournament.

**Tournament Information:** Entry fee is \$85.00. 4 person scramble format on Loma course will start at 1 p.m. (shotgun start). Awards dinner and presentation of prizes to follow after completion of tournament (dinner is included in entry fee). Two bottles of water and "goodie bag" included in entry fee. Golf course is located outside of Fort Sam Houston so no visitor pass is required.

**Make checks payable to MOAA-AC and mail to MOAA-Alamo Chapter, P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, TX 78208  
Thanks for your generosity!**



Military Officers Association of America

# Alamo Chapter 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, March 26, 2010 \*\*\*\*\* 1:00pm Shotgun Start \*\*\*\*\* Modified Scramble Format

Fort Sam Houston Golf Club (Loma Course) \*\*\*\*\* (Entry into FSH not required)

**Benefiting the Fort Sam Houston Warrior & Family Support Center and  
MOAA Alamo Chapter Scholarship Fund (50% of net proceeds to each)**

Entry Fee \$85.00

Entry fee includes green fees, cart, bottled water and awards dinner.

Prizes for team low net score, hole-in-one, closest to the pin, longest drive.  
Plus drawings for many door prizes.

**Don't play golf?** Your donation of an entry fee allows a Warrior to play free.  
Place your name on the first line of entry form. Write "Donate to a Warrior" below your name.

Plan to play but want to also donate an entry fee for a Warrior? Add an additional entry fee in your check and write "Donate to a Warrior" under the last name in your group.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap or average score: \_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MOAA-AC.

Send entry fee and check to: MOAA-AC P.O. Box 8037 San Antonio TX 78208

*Donations are tax deductible to extent allowed by law.*

## Exec VP's Corner

(Continued from Page 3)

truth about military retirees is they usually fail to respond when their rights are violated or their futures placed in jeopardy. When viewing voting constituencies, the most dorsal and inactive people are found among the retired military members and their dependents.

Any politician engaged in the deceitful practices of Washington D. C. knows one of the easiest targets to attack is the retired military community. Politicians view this group as the least harmful of any who make up the ranks of the voting public. They place those who served in uniform at the top of their least harmful list, thus making them political targets whenever there is a search being conducted to show the public what the political elite call meaningful dollar savings.

There are some strong military retiree advocates who are speaking out on the dangerous situation facing their former comrades-in-arms. One of these is Colonel Wayne Morris, USMC (Ret), who says, "We know that nothing is safe right now when considering the ongoing efforts of the current administration especially in any and all areas aligned with health care! Military retirees will quickly become a 'soft target' for those who would take away from one group and give to another.

I personally see a marked effort on the part of the current administration to divide us on this issue – to cause those who are NOT military retirees, (even those now on active duty) to eventually play against us and the benefits we have thus far been able to retain." In support of this idea, the colonel points out there are some 'so-called' veteran support organizations already advising retirees to calm down and not worry about our health benefits.

These groups are telling the veterans that Tricare for Life benefits are safe

and that retirees have nothing to worry about. The falseness of such statements can be understood when it is realized that under current legislative plans Medicare will be cut by \$500 billion and Tricare for Life is linked solidly to Medicare.

Doing the math anyone can see that such a devastating cut in services and benefits to Medicare would mean similar cuts in Tricare for Life. Additional searching into this healthcare legislation will reveal that, as now drafted, new healthcare rules would require our advanced aged military retirees on Medicare and Tricare for Life to pay the first \$525 of medical costs for the beneficiary and identical costs for any dependent.

The retiree would then pay 50% of the next \$4,725 of medical charges up to a total of \$6,301 per year. This is the additional financial load our Congress will place on those who have already given twenty and more years of service to their country. Many of who left their blood and body parts on the fields of battle. The Washington version of the old Shell Game has already started. This is a confidence trick where three shells and a pea are used in what is claimed to be a gambling game.

Actually, as the shells are shifted from position to position, the pea is removed from the table...and the player ends up picking NOTHING. In the 2,000 plus page Obamacare health insurance bill, congressional lackeys tell us time and again that Tricare for Life is protected. But hey keep shifting those shells. The service organizations have already swallowed the snake oil and are echoing administration claims that TFL is safe. They have already bought into the Shell Game.

We also know everyone in the Democrat Congress is keeping those shells moving and not letting us see that pea. The end result will be another case of "nothing is too good for those who served in uniform"...and that is

what they will get. NOTHING!

## Response from MOAA's Legislative team

Much of the specific information in his message is patently untrue. The TFL changes he mentions are not, repeat NOT, in the current health care reform bill.

What he describes was one option in a list of options prepared by the Congressional Budget Office more than a year ago...well before the current administration took office.

That idea didn't go anywhere – as we predicted it wouldn't. It never appeared in any legislation anywhere on the Hill, and was never supported by anyone in the Administration or Congress.

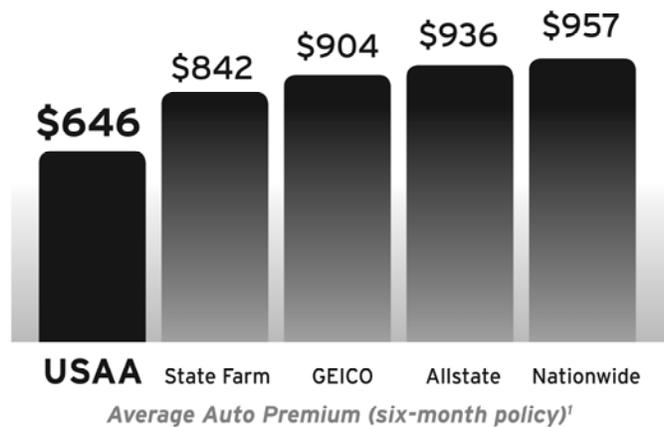
Further, we would never say there's nothing to worry about on military health care. Of course there is. The ongoing budget pressures (which will only get bigger with mounting deficits) will create tremendous pressures in 2010 and beyond to cut all kinds of federal spending. There's a lot of talk about setting up an entitlements commission to review changes needed to preserve the financial viability of Medicare and Social Security when millions of baby boomers become eligible for those programs in the coming decade.

I believe there will be such a commission, and once it starts reviewing possible Social Security and Medicare changes, it will inevitably lead to review of possible changes for military and federal retirement, military and federal health care, military and federal survivor benefits, VA benefits, etc., etc., just as we saw during the last budget/deficit crunch in the early and mid-90s. We had a huge fight to dodge most of those proposals back then, and it will be a much bigger challenge in light of the much bigger deficits we (Continued on Page 13)



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<sup>1</sup>Average auto premiums/savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 12/1/07 to 11/30/08, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Savings do not apply in MA. Use of competitors' names does not imply affiliation, endorsement or approval. <sup>2</sup>USAA's discount for safe drivers is the Premier Driver Discount and is not available in HI and MA. <sup>3</sup>To qualify for the discount, the vehicle must not be driven and must be stored in a secure location. Other restrictions apply. <sup>4</sup>A++ (Superior) from A.M. Best Co., highest of 16 possible ratings; Aaa (Exceptional) from Moody's Investors Service, highest of 21 possible ratings; AAA (Extremely Strong) from Standard & Poor's, highest of 21 possible ratings. <sup>5</sup>Check with your current carrier on any fees or penalties associated with canceling your current policy. Property and casualty insurance products are available to military members and their 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, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2009 USAA. 107889-1209

## Benefits of Membership of MOAA and the local chapter

- Our monthly newsletter, *The Lariat*, which includes a calendar of events, is sent to each member (or made available on-line), and includes both MOAA and Alamo Chapter news. Stay informed!
- Monthly luncheons, which rotate between the Randolph, Fort Sam Houston, and Lackland service clubs, feature informative speakers and are also open to guests.
- Benefit information of all kinds is provided through the Alamo Chapter. We have an experienced Vice President of Personal Affairs who can give quick answers to your and family members' questions, or who can research the more complex issues.
- The opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of meeting fellow chapter members and their guests. We also plan for various social events, open to families and guests. In addition, our chapter features a singles group called the Solitaires, some of who are surviving spouses. The Solitaires have a busy social calendar.
- Make your voice heard on proposed state and national military legislation which may affect you and your family. Both the Alamo Chapter and MOAA national welcome your views!
- Enjoy many benefits, discounts, and services, to include career planning. The Alamo Chapter also provides college scholarships to those who qualify. MOAA Travel helps you plan that great getaway, and is available for members.

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Give Me 10! Campaign Options:

1. Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve officers of all services, who are not past or present members of MOAA national are eligible for a one year **free** national and local MOAA (MOAA-AC) membership.
2. Retired Officers or Auxiliary (surviving spouses), who are not past or present members of MOAA national, can receive a 2 year membership for \$28.00 (The usual annual membership rate is \$31). You will then receive a one year local MOAA-AC membership **free**.
3. Those already members of MOAA national need to complete this application to receive a 1 year **free** local membership to MOAA-AC.

Normal Dues: MOAA national \$31 per year, MOAA local \$25.00 (Auxiliary \$15)  
 Note: Effective 1/1/2010 MOAA local is \$15 if you opt for "*The Lariat*" by email.

## Membership Application

(Annual Membership)

Are you a member of MOAA National? \_\_\_\_\_



### Military Officers Association of America Alamo Chapter

Circle Status: Commissioned & Warrant Officers of all services - Active, Reserves, Former, Retired, National Guard, NOAA, PHS, Surviving Spouse.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Print) Last First MI Spouse

Residence Address City State Zip

Rank/Grade Service Date of Birth

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Civilian/Military Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Unit \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* May we have your permission to publish this information in the Chapter Membership Directory? \_\_\_\_\_

(\*This directory and your e-mail address are exclusively for the use of the chapter and will not be sold or used for any other purpose than chapter communications and/or board approved activity.)

I would like to receive my monthly newsletter (The Lariat) by email versus having a hard copy mailed to me \_\_\_\_\_ (Only \$15 a year)

Would you be interested in being active in a chapter volunteer activity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Date

### CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to (check one)  
 Outreach Fund\* \_\_\_\_\_ As designated by the Alamo Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

\* a fund for a yearly college scholarship and other charitable programs and services.

Send applications to:

MOAA-AC, P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, Tx 78208-0037

For questions please call (210) 228-9955 or e-mail: moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net

Also visit our chapter's website at www.alamomoaa.org

**Please feel free to copy and provide this form  
to prospective members.**

12-15-09

**President's Message**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

our great country. So I thank Brad Freeman as President of the AUSA for his good spirit for meeting with us and discussing ways that are mutually beneficial to further both the mission and the vision of both organizations.

Speaking of Jim Cunningham, I would be greatly remiss if I didn't personally reach out and say, Jim, you have done a wonderful job as the Texas Council of Chapter's President over the last two years. Your efforts have certainly been instrumental in taking the Texas Council to a higher level. You have done a remarkable job as President of the Council and my thanks also for serving as a very chapter mission focused Executive Vice President. So I ask each member as the opportunity presents itself to shake Jim's hand and express your congratulatory thanks and also thank Cheryl for being by his side and putting up with the many hours he has spent away from home and many expenses that he personally incurred. Thanks, Jim.

While in the mood of saying thank you for a job well done I would personally like to thank Josh and Diana Welch for stepping up and doing a wonderful job Emceeding the Valentines Day Dance on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately for me, but probably fortunate for the people who attend, I am not able to be at the function because of

other business requirements namely the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter meeting of the Texas Council of Chapters in Tyler, Texas. So Josh and Diana in the spirit of volunteerism stepped up – thanks so much for your great leadership and your friendship. And thanks to Irene Collier and Susie Tolman who are the real “doers” for our program efforts.

I would also like to thank our Board for their continuing service to the chapter. They are great Americans and have served in various aspects of leadership in the MOAA organization. We value their counsel and their guidance with respect and appreciation. Thank you, Board for your continuing service.

This will be my last year as President of your organization. I am reaching out to all to consider your interest in serving in Chapter leadership. A nominating committee will be formed this summer to come up with a slate of candidates to have as officers of the chapter in the year 2011 going forward. Of course, it is a bittersweet decision for me as I certainly do enjoy the position that you have honored me to serve. However, personally it is my belief that one can serve too long which can be a detriment to an organization. I just want to stay faithful to that belief. Also, there are other great leaders in the chapter that would do a great job! God bless you and God bless America.

*StCol Ed Marvin (Ret)*

**Exec VP's Corner**

*(Continued from Page 10)*

face now.

But there's a vast difference between being (a) alert to potential coming threats and (b) claiming that those threats are embodied in current legislation – which they're not. There are some smoke and mirrors issues in the current legislation – as there is in almost any big bill Congress passes, and there are some things to keep an eye on in the future (such as assumptions that Medicare and its providers will achieve some pretty optimistic “efficiency” goals in the coming years). But most of the changes to Medicare in the current health reform legislation are actually relatively modest and pretty doable ones. The real problem is that those savings will be used to fund health care for the current uninsured rather than to build the Medicare bank to meet the coming expenses of the baby boomers. So when the boomer tide hits, Congress will have to come up with far more significant cuts or tax increases to meet that need, because the relatively easier savings options will have been used up.

So there's a reason to be worried, but it's difficult to put much stock in most opinions being passed around the internet about the health care bills, because most start from a highly partisan standpoint, and many just pass on pieces of misinformation that have long since been proven untrue – as in this case.

Unfortunately, once such things get out on the internet, they acquire a life of their own, and well-intentioned people pass them on and help perpetuate the misinformation.

**Steve Strobidge**

Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Director, Government Relations

*Maj Jim Cunningham (Ret)*

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Call 210-221-3355 for class information or to volunteer.

# Chapter Events Calendar

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Volunteer Hours Due*
- 1 Deadline for Communications Award MOAA National*
- 2 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club**
- 4 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office*
- 9 Health Care Advisory Council Meeting 11:30am Sam Houston Club*
- 12 Valentine's Day Dinner Dance RAFB Parr Officers Club**
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday - Fly the Flag!**
- 12-13 Texas Council of Chapters Meeting Tyler**
- 15 Lariat Article Deadline*
- 15 President's Day**
- 17 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am*
- 23 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)*
- 28 Solitaire's Brunch 11 am Kendrick Club Randolph AFB**

Note: Events **bolded** are for the **general membership** and *italicized* are for *staff*, though members are always welcome. Please call the office for details (210) 228-9955

## APRIL

- 1 Volunteer Hours Due*
- 1 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office*
- 4 Easter Sunday - Fly the Flag!**
- 6 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club**
- 8 Board Meeting 10:00am MOAA-AC Office*
- 15 Chapter Fiesta Picnic Eberle Park 5:30pm**
- 15 Lariat Article deadline*
- 21 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am*
- 25 Solitaire's Brunch 11am Kendrick Club Randolph AFB**
- 27 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)*

## MARCH

- 1 Volunteer Hours Due*
- 2 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club**
- 4 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office*
- 17 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am*
- 25 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club**
- 26 Third Annual MOAA-AC Golf Tournament 1pm Ft Sam Loma Course**
- 28 Solitaire's Brunch 11 am Kendrick Club Randolph AFB**
- 30 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)*

### Ongoing:

Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior & Family Support Center

## MAY

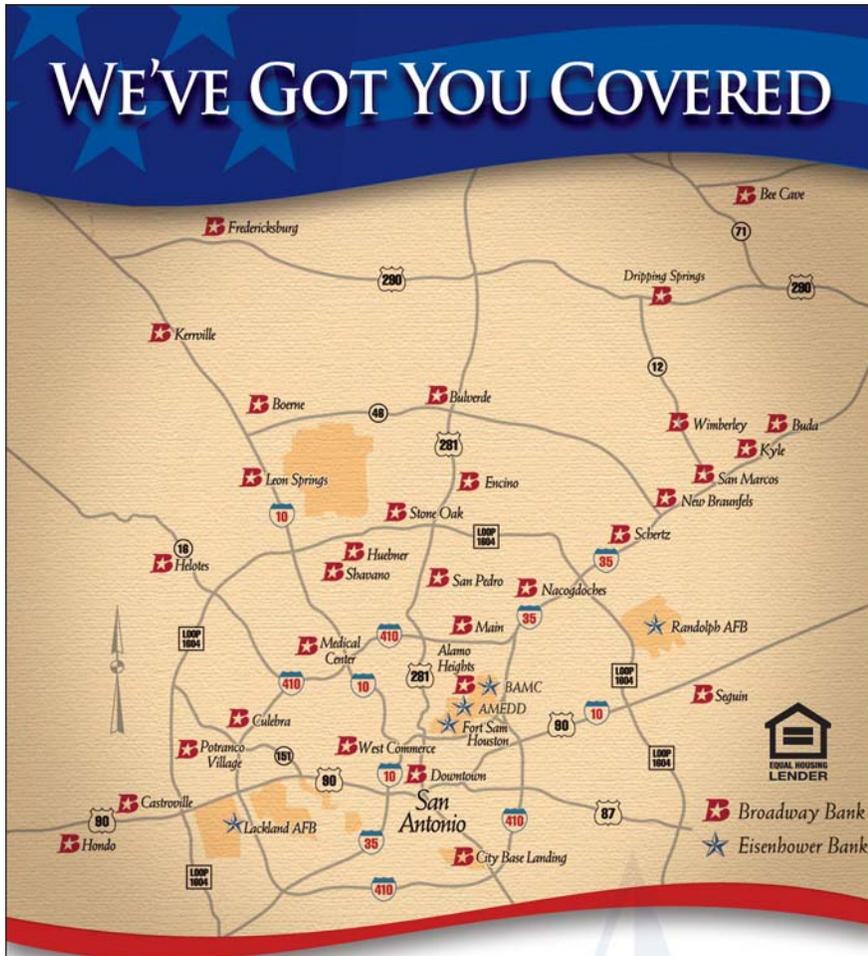
- 1 Volunteer Hours Due*
- 4 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club**
- 6 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office*
- 8 Victory Day in Europe**
- 9 Mother's Day - Fly the Flag!**
- 11 Health Care Advisory Council Meeting 11:30am Sam Houston Club*
- 15 Lariat Article Deadline*
- 15 Armed Forces Day – Fly the Flag!**
- 19 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am*
- 20 Chapter Luncheon Gateway Club**
- 23 Solitaire's Brunch 11am Randolph AFB**
- 25 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)*
- 31 Memorial Day - Fly the Flag!**
- 31 Ft Sam Houston Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony**

## Receiving The Lariat Online?

If you would prefer to read your Lariat on-line rather than receive a printed copy, send us an email with the subject line as OLLO and we'll gladly remove you from the printed version mailing list.

We will notify you by email when the new issue is available for viewing.

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### Alamo Chapter

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**VP PROGRAMS** (Open)

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**DEPUTY PA** LtCol Craig Erickson

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**VP PUBLIC RELATIONS** LtCol Cheryl Smith

**VP LOGISTICS** LtCol Fred Koehley

**LEGAL COUNSEL** (Open)

**SOLITAIRES** Mavis Cleary

**CONSULTANT** Maj Len Mull

**EDITOR** Col Kerry Green

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** (Open)

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#### Statement of Publication

The Lariat is the newsletter of the Military Officers Association of America—Alamo Chapter. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

MOAA-AC is a non-profit organization within the state of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National.

Advertising contained in the newsletter is not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. 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.

MOAA-AC P.O. Box 8037 San Antonio, TX 78208  
(210) 228-9955 moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net



# THE LARIAT

2007 National Award Winning Newsletter

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ALAMO CHAPTER

### MISSION STATEMENT

TO BE A MAJOR SOURCE OF INFORMATION,  
SUPPORT AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT FOR THE  
MEMBERSHIP;  
TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE  
COMMON GOOD OF OUR MILITARY COMMUNITY;  
AND TO BE A POWERFUL VOICE SUPPORTING  
MOAA AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL  
LEVELS.

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Phone: 210-228-9955

WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.ALAMOMOAA.ORG](http://WWW.ALAMOMOAA.ORG)

**Postmaster — please deliver by February 1st  
Time Sensitive Material**



**Friday February 12th, 2010**

## Valentine Dinner Dance

**Randolph AFB Parr Officers Club**

**Social Hour begins 6pm - Dinner served approx 7pm  
Dancing to the Wilburn Brothers**

### Menu (Indicate Choice)

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| A) Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin                  | B) Chicken Supreme |
| Fresh Garden Green Salad & House dressing      |                    |
| Roasted Potatoes & Chef's Choice of Vegetables |                    |
| Rolls with butter                              |                    |
| Dessert from Chef's Selection                  |                    |
| Coffee & Tea Service and Pay as You Go bar     |                    |
| Cost per person \$25                           |                    |

**Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Paid reservations needed by noon Tuesday, February 9th  
Non member Officers guests are welcome**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send reservation slip & check made payable to  
MOAA-AC at P.O. Box 8037, San Antonio, TX 78208  
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.**



### Directions to Randolph AFB Parr Officers Club

Enter RAFB at Main gate, Pat Booker Road @ FM 78.

Stay on this road (Harmon Drive) in right lane.  
Enter traffic circle staying in outer lane. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit (right side of the Taj Mahal).

Continue following that street with no turn offs until reaching the Officers Club sign on the left (across from 19<sup>th</sup> Air Force Bldg).

Turn left at the Officers Club sign, and continue through the residential area to the Club, bearing to the right to the parking around the Club.