

MOAA REPORTER

MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter

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General Membership Meeting 6 June 2020

D-DAY June 6, 1945



We won't let the Coronavirus prevent us from remembering the brave men who stormed the beaches in Normandy to start the Allied invasion of Western Europe. Join us via phone or computer on Saturday June 6, 2020 to hear **COL JP Hogan** USA (Retired), a leading expert on the Allied invasion on D-Day and how it led to Victory in Europe on 8 May 1945 (VE Day). COL Hogan is active in AUSA having served as President of the AUSA 4th Region and Board member of the local Audie Murphy Chapter. COL Hogan has

helped developed the innovative "Passing The Torch" Leadership program for University ROTC cadets and has taken many of them on trips to Normandy, France to see firsthand the challenges of the Allied forces on that memorable day.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis we will not be meeting face-to-face. Instead, we will meet via a Zoom video conference call. Instructions for joining the meeting will be sent via separate email. Contact Dave Schafer, 214-577-4107, if you have any questions.

Veterans Center of North Texas



The Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) is open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although their office is closed to walk-in appointments, they are taking applications for help via phone and email. VCONT is ready to help qualified Veterans find financial assistance for rent, utilities, transportation and emergency shelter. They can also provide emergency food and clothing, and help Veterans who have lost their jobs during the pandemic find new employment. If you know of a Veteran family in crisis, have them contact VCONT immediately. VCONT is open from 9AM to 4:30PM weekdays. They can

be reached by phone at 214-600-2966 or email at veterans@vcont.org. For more information on how they can help, visit the VCONT website www.vcont.org.

MOAA Foundation Grants



The MOAA Foundation has awarded two \$5,000 grants to the Chapter. The Community Outreach Grant provides \$5,000 for the Chapter to use to assist Veterans and their families for the following needs: Housing, Food Assistance, Employment, Health (including Behavioral Health), Family Support, Community Reintegration, Financial Assistance, Legal Assistance, and Transportation. The COVID-19 Grant provides \$5,000 for the Chapter to use to assist Veterans and their families in the following areas: PPE supplies, Health and safety supplies, including cleaning products, Housing expenses

and repairs (including utilities, internet access, rent, etc.), Emergency, short-term financial support, Transportation assistance, Food and clothing services, and Resources or school supplies for military children. If you know of a military family in need of help, contact Chuck Kelley at 202-210-8336 or Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107.



2020 Virtual Storming the Hill Campaign

In a recent commentary at *The Hill*, Rear Adm. Tom Jurkowsky, USN (Ret) said that “Congress needs to examine any proposed cuts to military medicine very closely before it approves authorizations or appropriations.” He said that plans to cut 18,000 billets from the military medical rolls, alongside a restructuring of military care could harm 200,000 beneficiaries. This year’s Virtual Storming the Hill campaign focuses on this topic: Asking MOAA members and others to send a message to their lawmakers and stop these planned changes. Adm. Jurkowsky’s piece points out several reasons for re-evaluating the plans, such as the need to:

- Maintain medical surge capacity, allowing DoD to support domestic needs while maintaining readiness for combat-related duties.
- Continue medical innovation, from lifesaving battlefield techniques to increased capability in combating potential bioterror threats.
- Provide the medical benefit earned by millions of retirees in the form of high-quality care without access issues.

To read the full commentary on the MOAA National website, click [here](#). You can also learn more about changes to military medicine, including a list of 48 military treatment facilities (MTFs) that will close or shrink under existing reform plans on the MOAA National website by clicking [here](#).

Take action now – Visit the MOAA National Take Action website to write your Congressional representatives: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>. Not getting the MOAA Newsletter? Go to [The MOAA Newsletter](#) web page and click on [Update your email preferences](#) link to sign up to receive the newsletter.

MOAA Remembers Two National Heroes



MOAA lost two Life Members in May – Congressman Sam Johnson and Lt Col James Megellas, USA (Retired). Congressman Johnson, who served in the Air Force for 29 years and Congress for 28 years, died at the age of 89. He retired from the Air Force in 1979 at the rank of Colonel, served in the Texas House of

Representatives from 1985 to 1991, and represented the Texas 3rd District in the US House of Representatives from 1991 to 2019. He was as a combat pilot during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and a survivor of seven years at the infamous Hanoi Hilton. James “Maggie” Megellas, a World War II Army officer who became a legend after he single-handedly wiped out a German tank with grenades during the Battle of the Bulge, died last month at the age of 103. He is known as the most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts; and was recommended for the Medal of Honor in 1945. Visit our website, www.moaaorthtexas.org, to read more about these two national heroes.

Have Some Free Time on Your Hands?

The Chapter is looking for volunteers to work with the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs on projects that are important to both MOAA and the Chapter. We have volunteer opportunities ranging from one-time events such as legislative visits to recurring support for committee activities. You can choose to support legislative, membership, JROTC, membership, personal affairs, or community outreach activities. If you would like to help, contact Dave Schafer or at moaaschafer@att.net.