

# MOAA REPORTER

## MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter

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### Chapter Awards Six 2021 Scholarships

The Chapter awarded \$1,000 scholarships to six JROTC cadets this year. The cadets were honored at the Chapter's first in-person luncheon since March of 2020. The food was delicious, the fellowship was great and the guest speaker, COL John Antal USA (RET), provided an inspirational presentation on leadership for the cadets. The scholarships recognize the superior academic achievements and leadership qualities of students enrolled in JROTC programs at DFW area high schools. Five of the six cadets were able to attend the luncheon and receive their certificates in person.



Cadet Kenneth Crone	R. L. Turner High School
Cadet Maryan Valles	Nimitz High School
Cadet Ysmaer Tineo	North Dallas High School
Cadet Pranav Varanasi	Plano East High School
Cadet Thelma Gurrola	Bryan Adams High School
Cadet Vanessa Brouse	Wylie High School

### Chapter Memorial Day Event – Carry the Load



The Chapter is supporting the Army Scholarship Foundation at the Carry the Load Memorial Day event at Riverchon Park in downtown Dallas. Help us help the Foundation and wave the MOAA banner on Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Army Scholarship Foundation table in the participant tents at 2 PM. This will allow about 90 minutes for us to talk to other participants and spread the word about MOAA before the opening ceremony at 3:45 PM. If we have any energy left, we can join the 2 mile walk through the streets of Dallas.

This will be a great event to promote our Chapter and support the Army Scholarship Foundation. If you are interested in participating, email Ron McLeroy at [rmcleroy@outlook.com](mailto:rmcleroy@outlook.com) or call him at 214-415-5737. Click on the following link to donate to the Army Scholarship Foundation: [Army Scholarship Carry the Load Team](#). See you there!

### Support MOAA's 2021 Advocacy in Action Initiative



The global pandemic caused many organizations, including MOAA, to adjust advocacy strategy in 2021. In MOAA's efforts to never stop serving, the organization continues to be a voice for our members and the entire uniformed service community in a virtual environment. MOAA National's Legislative team regularly meets with lawmakers and their staffs in remote settings to ensure that service members past and present, their families, caregivers, and survivors remain a priority for the 117th Congress. There are many ways we can support these efforts by advocating from our homes.

### **Find your Representative's contact information and learn about the issues**

You can find the names and contact information for your US Congressional representatives in the Chapter's 2021 Membership Directory. Look up your US Congressional District in your personal information in the directory and then find the name and contact information for your Congressional

representative in the directory's Legislative section. Contact information for Senators Cruz and Cornyn are also listed here. Next, become familiar with the issues by going to the [MOAA Advocacy in Action](#) webpage and reviewing the MOAA position papers on the following issues:

- Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform – From Agent Orange in Vietnam to burning fire pits during the Gulf War in Afghanistan and Iraq to firefighting chemical fires, service members have suffered from toxic exposure. This initiative seeks expanded health care to those who have been exposed.
- TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap – There is a glaring disparity between commercial health care plans that cover adult children to age 26 and TRICARE, which requires a separate premium for young adult coverage. This initiative seeks to ensure military kids transitioning to adulthood are afforded the same health care protections afforded to families with commercial plans.
- Military Hunger Prevention Act – This initiative asks Congress to authorize a subsistence allowance for service members whose gross household income (not including their Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH) is below 130% of the federal poverty line.

### **Contact Senators Cruz and Cornyn and your Congressional Representative**

Use all available forms of communication to express your position on these issues – call, send a letter, send an email and use social media. One of the easiest ways to engage with your lawmakers is to call their office. The 2021 Membership Directory lists the phone numbers for the local and Washington D.C. offices of each elected representative. You can also use the toll-free via MOAA's direct line to the Congressional switchboard at (866) 272-6622. Just ask the Capitol operator to connect you with your legislator's office. You likely will talk to a staff assistant or a legislative assistant about your concerns. Another way to make your voice heard is by writing a letter to your elected official. Typically, a member of Congress prefers letters on legislative issues be sent to their Washington, D.C., office. Again, addresses can be found in the Membership Directory. The MOAA [Take Action Center](#) webpage is the easiest way to send an email to your representatives. The MOAA Take Action Center provides a pre-made template to send messages on each issue. Finally, if you are into social media, this is another excellent medium in which to engage your representatives. Use any and all methods of communication to support MOAA's 2021 issues.

### **Stay Informed and Connected**

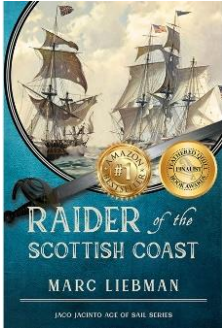
Stay up to date on legislative issues important to MOAA by regularly visiting the [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) website. Also, don't forget to subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter* to receive weekly emails to stay current on MOAA's legislative efforts.

### **COVID-19 and Storm Assistance**



The Chapter continues to work with the Veterans Center of North Texas to provide assistance to North Texas Veterans and their families impacted by the COVID pandemic and the recent winter storm. We are providing food, clothing and direct financial assistance to Veterans, Veteran families and Surviving Spouses. The impact of these two events has been unprecedented. If you know of anyone who needs help, encourage them to contact the Veterans Center at 214-600-2966 or email them at [veterans@vcont.org](mailto:veterans@vcont.org). Their services are free and all inquiries will be handled with strict confidence. One final note – if you would like to help fellow Veterans and can spare 4 hours per week please consider volunteering at the Veterans Center of North Texas. You won't get a paycheck, but the coffee is free and the rewards are immeasurable. Contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 if you are interested in volunteering.

### Next Member Luncheon – June 19<sup>th</sup>



The April scholarship luncheon went very well with participants adhering to the CDC COVID guidelines. Our next membership luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. It appears that June has become the Chapter's military history month. Last year we heard about the D-Day invasion of Normandy. This year our guest speaker, Marc Liebman, will talk about the birth of the US Continental Navy. Look for an email later this month with pricing and location information. Military history fans will not want to miss this meeting. It was great to talk to and see people in person again. I hope to see you at the June luncheon.

### Award-Wining Chapter Website



Have you been to the Chapter's website

[www.moaanorthtexas.org](http://www.moaanorthtexas.org) recently? If not, you need to go there today. It is a first class website with a lot of useful information. Do you understand the Texas legislative process? If you don't, you can view a 17 slide presentation detailing the process in the

Legislative section of the website. Need help with survivor planning or military burials? You will find the help you need on the MOAA Publications page in the Calendar & News section of the website. There is a wealth of other information on the website. It is an important resource for our members; take some time and check it out.

### Other Chapter News



A few quick notes about Chapter activities:

- The 2021 Membership Directory was mailed on April 23<sup>rd</sup>; contact Dave Schafer, 214-577-4107, if you do not receive your copy by mid-May.
- Expect a call from Chapter President Dave Schafer within the next 60 days. He will be calling all Chapter members to see how they are doing, check to see if they need any help to cope with the pandemic, ask if the Chapter is meeting their needs, and look for volunteers to take on leadership roles in 2022.
- The DFAS March 2021 Retiree Newsletter is now available online on the DFAS website. The newsletter contains articles about how to get current and past tax documents, the start of mandatory two-factor authentication for myPay, and tips to help you manage your account. Click on the following link to access the newsletter: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter>