



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

AUSTIN CHAPTER \* THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

June, 2010

CDR Bev Kelsey, Editor



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am honored by the trust you have placed in me for the next year. It is my intent to take the knowledge and experience that I gained as Treasurer on the Board these last five years and put it to good use in my new position as President.

First and foremost, we must address MEMBERSHIP. We must develop and implement viable and effective recruiting and retention programs to bring active duty and other young officers into our Chapter. Otherwise, we face the very real risk of our Chapter fading away like an "old Soldier." This is a task that we cannot merely relegate to one but instead, every member of our Chapter needs to be an active Recruiter and Retention Officer. Accordingly, I encourage you to present any ideas you have to our Vice President of Membership.

Additionally, in furtherance of recruiting new members, I intend to visit the offices at Camp Mabry and attend the meetings of other quasi-military organizations in our area to tell them "what AMOAA is all about." I sincerely hope that some of our members can join me during these visits.

This coming year we also have several significant administrative tasks that we must accomplish. Including, but not limited to, establishing a procedure that ensures our annual Internal Revenue Service Tax Returns are submitted timely; submitting the required paper work to the Internal Revenue Service reflecting our current name (i.e., "Austin Military Officers Association of America" not "The Austin Retired Officers Association"); and last, but not least, a complete and detailed review of all our publications, including our Preamble and By-Laws to ensure that they are in compliance with the most current "Texas Council of Chapters" and "Military Officers Association of America" publications and guidelines.

I truly have enjoyed my last five years as your AMOAA Treasurer. Whenever I needed help, the AMOAA Board and/or general membership always provided me with whatever help I needed. In other words, whatever successes I achieved, were because we all worked as a team. In my new position as President, I expect to continue to rely on our members' commitment to the Chapter and make this a very rewarding year for all.

Thank you.

--Rogelio I. Rábago

## MEET OUR SPEAKER



### **Rear Admiral Ronald J. Rábago**

*United States Coast Guard*

Assistant Commandant for  
Acquisition &  
Chief Acquisition Officer  
(CAO),  
United States Coast Guard  
Acquisition Directorate

Rear Admiral Ronald J. Rábago assumed duties as the Assistant Commandant for Acquisition and Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) on June 12, 2009, following a two-year assignment as the Coast Guard Program Executive Officer. As CAO, he directs efforts across all Coast Guard acquisition programs and related procurement management, contracting and research and development activities to execute the Service's current \$27 billion acquisition investment portfolio.

In his previous assignment as the Coast Guard's Program Executive Officer (PEO), he oversaw the execution of all Coast Guard acquisition programs and projects, including Deepwater, which provides for the sustainment, modernization, and recapitalization of surface, air, command and control, and logistics assets for the Coast Guard's multiple maritime missions.

RADM Rábago's other assignments include: Director of Personnel Management at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; Deputy Commander of the Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.; Industrial Manager and then the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Ship Yard in Baltimore, Md.; Chief of the Fifth District Law Enforcement Branch; Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) TAMPA, in Portsmouth, Va.; Executive Officer of the CGC BOUTWELL, in Alameda, Calif.; Type Desk Manager in the Vessel Repair Division of the Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic on Governors Island, N.Y.; Executive Officer of the Naval Engineering Support Unit (NESU) at Portsmouth, Va.; Port Engineer at the Ship Repair Detachment in Portsmouth, Va.; Engineer Officer on board the CGC TAMPA; and engineering and deck Marine Inspector at the Marine Safety Office Port Arthur, Texas. His first assignment was aboard the Honolulu-based CGC MELLON as a Student Engineer.

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# Chaplain's Corner

(By Chaplain Ernie Dean)

## FALSE GODS OR NEW GROWTH?

Happy are those who trust the Lord, who do not turn to idols or join those who worship false gods. You have done many things for us, O Lord our God. There is no one like you. You have made many wonderful plans for us. I could never speak of them all-their number is so great! (Psalm 40:4-5)

This 2600 year old statement is as true today as it was when first uttered! Idol worship is a human tragedy. Poverty or materialism, slavery or power, addiction or self-indulgent freedom, war or isolationism, and whatever other evil you wish to mention, has its birth in false gods.

Look at the media-radio, television, popular magazines, movies, even local news-and one encounters mostly empty lives and interests of dubious value:

-radio-play it louder and with more hype

-television-shock with everything blowing up and everyone being threatened

-movies-the same as with television, only even more graphic in its violence

-popular magazines-extreme and suggestive apparel and appearances; be as odd as you can to stand out

-local news-find a grudge and build it up all out of proportion. When reporting on something good, be sure to add, "...but, not everyone agrees."

-advertising-find a quiet lake or a lovely creek and run vehicles back and forth to tear it up. Also, be sure to take your new vehicle to the beach and run it through the surf so the salt can work its magic.

Is this crazy? Of course! But we allow ourselves to be intimidated by all of these negatives and become worn out. We then settle for what are actually false gods, even though they may seem harmless-the gods of quiet or rest or retreat, the god of self-satisfaction that we've already "done our share," or most tragic of all, the gods of not caring or of hopelessness. Seeking these false gods allows even more negativism, more violence, more evil, to run rampant. There is no place in our scripture or our tradition that says that any one of us is ever finished with the work God calls us to do. If we do nothing, we are allowing others to continue their false ways. If you and I cannot find purpose, strength, courage (and also solace, hope and peace) in God's call to us to be good stewards of God's creation, then we are not really trying.

I believe all the goods of the world belong to God, our Creator and Sustainer. We are care-takers, stewards, not owners. But are we careful and reliable in our care-taking? Are we wise and generous in our stewardship? Are we

settling into complacency with idols? Hopefully not, for there is work to be done, much work.

Summer is at hand-always a great time to reorder ourselves. Days are longer. Many folks will wander into new areas of endeavor and entertainment. May our summer wanderings lead to refreshing new insights and personal growth. Remember, though, new insights and personal growth do not start in a spa, a beach condo, or a cruise, although these can be helpful. New life, new strength, and new hope start with God and God's call to each of us. Look to God first. Listen for God's plan for you, for God is not finished with any of us, whatever our age. God's love and faithfulness endures forever. "Happy are those who trust the Lord."

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Rear Admiral Rábago is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ocean Engineering. In 1983, he attended the University of Michigan and earned Masters of Science Degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. In 1995, he was named the Coast Guard's "Engineer of the Year" and in 1996, he attended the Naval War College, where he earned a third Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. RADM Rábago is the Coast Guard's first flag officer of Hispanic decent. Rear Admiral Rábago is a licensed Professional Engineer and has earned a DHS Program Manager Level III Certification.

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**Have You Paid Your 2010 AMOAA Dues?** Check your "DUES STATUS" next to your address on this newsletter. **If it says 2009, it's time to pay your 2010 dues.** Questions? Contact Phillip Denney at [pdenny@austin.rr.com](mailto:pdenny@austin.rr.com).

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Retirement is when your favorite piece of software is a pillow.

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## Join us at the dinner meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

Remember what it was you liked about the military? It was the people. People who think like you and have your values. Come and reacquaint yourself with them.

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## TAPS

LCOL Thomas A. Spencer, USA, Ret. 15 May 2010  
Survived by his wife, Gertrude  
AMOAA President 1987-88

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen*

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

**DINNER MEETING -- Wednesday, June 16, 2010**

**BAE Systems Dining Hall 6500 Tracor Lane (6151 on your GPS)**  
Highway 183, South of Webberville (MLK/969) Overpass, just off Ed Bluestein Blvd.

**Attire: Men: Business Casual or Uniform always appropriate**  
**Ladies: Casual Dress, Pant Suit or Uniform**  
**Charge: \$22 per person (check payable to AMOAA)**

Reservations may be made with your assigned caller or with your service representative, by calling before 2100 hours on the Sunday before the Wednesday dinner. Cancellations should also be made by that time. Individuals who do not honor reservations will be billed.

## YOUR AUSTIN MOAA CHAPTER needs you!

**Don't be selfish.** Share your organization with other eligibles. Bringing in new members is critical to keeping MOAA's One Powerful Voice® as effective as it's always been. You have an opportunity to contribute - and win! - by participating in this year's Give Me 10! membership campaign. Invite that eligible friend, neighbor or coworker to the dinner. Also, serve your chapter by filling a seat on the Board of the Austin MOAA Chapter.

**It is your responsibility to RSVP** for the Wednesday dinner-meeting, if you plan to attend. You may do so by either sending an email to your service representative or calling your service representative or caller, if you have one. Early reservations are requested to facilitate planning and meal preparation. If you have not responded by the Sunday prior to the meeting, you may receive a call. However, if you are not called and you wish to attend, please contact your service representative (listed on page 4.) If you are unable to reach your representative, one of the others will be happy to take your reservation. **Please make a reservation if you plan to attend.**

**NEED A PERMANENT NAME TAG?**  
**See Ben Meharg at the meeting,**  
**or call 280-2569 [benm@austin.rr.com](mailto:benm@austin.rr.com)**

### COMPUTERS

Don't forget to visit our great chapter website  
<http://www.main.org/moaaaustin/>  
Thanks to JR Howard, Webmaster

### ATTENTION SINGLES

Look for the sign "SINGLES" -- and sign your name if you want to sit with us... but you don't have to.  
We try to sit together at MOAA dinners.

Reminder - When you arrive for the dinner, check in with the Treasurer and your Service Rep before socializing.  
*Violators will be forced to walk the plank!*

## ORDER OF THE EVENING

### SEATING CHARTS WILL BE PLACED ON TABLES AT 1830 HOURS

**1830-1900 Hours:** - Social Period  
- Bar Open  
- Pay for Dinner

**Check in with your service representative**  
**Select seats (sign the form at the end of the table)**

**1900-1910 hours:** - Invocation  
- Pledge of Allegiance  
- National Anthem

**1910-2000: Dinner and Door Prizes**  
**2000 -- Speaker**

Liberty can no more exist without virtue and independence, than the body can live and move without a soul.

John Adams - 1775

## MENU

<i>Salad</i>	<i>Tropical Fruit Salad</i>
<i>Entrée</i>	<i>Jamaican Pork Loin w/ Pineapple Salsa</i>
<i>Starch</i>	<i>Roasted Potatoes</i>
<i>Vegetable</i>	<i>Mixed Vegetables</i>
<i>Bread</i>	<i>Dinner Roll</i>
<i>Dessert</i>	<i>Mousse Tuxedo Truffle Cake</i>

## CHAPTER OFFICERS 2009-2010

President: LtCol Rogerio Rabago, USAF 345-8193 [rogerior@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rogerior@sbcglobal.net)  
First VP (Program): Vacant  
Second VP (Membership): Col Ben Meharg, USMC 280-2569 [benm@austin.rr.com](mailto:benm@austin.rr.com)  
Third VP (Support): COL Charles D. Bush, USA 264-2618 [charles.bush1@us.army.mil](mailto:charles.bush1@us.army.mil)  
Secretary: Mrs. Patricia O. Eagan, FMS 894-4036 [eaentrpr@aol.com](mailto:eaentrpr@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Maj Phillip Denney, USA 925-2358 [pdenney@austin.rr.com](mailto:pdenney@austin.rr.com)  
USA Representative: CW4 Gerry Walters, USA 292-8824 [waltersg@msn.com](mailto:waltersg@msn.com)  
USAF Representative: Col Cecil Martin, USAF 415-9449 [cese@martinpsi.com](mailto:cese@martinpsi.com)  
USN/USMC/USCG/USPHS/USNOAA Representative: LTC Charles Gaede, USMC 282-3449  
[c.gaede@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:c.gaede@mail.utexas.edu)  
Past President: Col Wesley Lokken, USMC 288-4857 [lokken@earthlink.net](mailto:lokken@earthlink.net)

## Appointed Board Members

Chaplain: LtCol Ernest S. Dean, USAF 477-5390 [essodean@sbcglobal.net](mailto:essodean@sbcglobal.net)  
Assistant Chaplain: COL Leon Holland, USA 335-1224 [leon.holland@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:leon.holland@alumni.utexas.net)  
Legislative Affairs Officer: LtCol Carlos W. Higgins, USAF 258-3564 [carlostm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carlostm@sbcglobal.net)  
ROTC Awards Coordinator: LtCol Brian Smallwood, USMC 215-8119 [bksmallwood@austin.rr.com](mailto:bksmallwood@austin.rr.com)  
Newsletter Editor: CDR Bev Kelsey USN 262-7100 [bkelsey@austin.rr.com](mailto:bkelsey@austin.rr.com)  
Personal Affairs Officer: COL Leon Holland, USA 335-1224 [leon.holland@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:leon.holland@alumni.utexas.net)  
Webmaster: LtCol J. R. Howard, USAF 255-2206 [jr99howard@austin.rr.com](mailto:jr99howard@austin.rr.com)

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### EVENTS

#### JUNE 2010

- 16 June** - Dinner Meeting  
1830 hours  
BAE Systems (Tracor)
- 21 June** - Board Meeting  
1330 hours  
TX Military Forces Museum  
Camp Mabry
- 25 June** - ROWC Discontinued for  
the Summer

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### Upcoming Events

#### SEPT 2010

- 15 Sep** - Dinner Meeting  
1830 hours  
BAE Systems (Tracor)
- 20 Sep** - Board Meeting  
1330 hours  
TX Military Forces Museum  
Camp Mabry
- 24 Sep** - ROWC Luncheon

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*As if life doesn't have enough heart-aches, frustrations, and despair; and then someone had to go and invent golf!*

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When they returned from their European vacation, the customs agent asked if they had anything to declare. "Yes," he replied. "Bankruptcy."

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### RETIRED OFFICERS WIVES CLUB

The regular monthly luncheon has been discontinued for the summer. It will return on the 4th Friday in September.

#### BRIDGE will continue through the summer

on the second Friday of each month at 0915 hours  
In the cafeteria in the Headquarters Building of CAMP MABRY

Contact: Jean Tallas 453-5707  
Betty Seals 453-8835

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## PERSONAL AFFAIRS CORNER

If you are a senior citizen and use Austin city utilities, please take note:

Did you know that Austin Energy provides utility bill discounts to eligible senior citizens INCLUDING anyone with a Medicare card? A press release from Austin Energy in February outlined the various categories of discounts and the eligibility for the same. Here is an excerpt:

"Customers qualify for City of Austin utility bill discounts if someone in their household receives benefits from one of the following assistance programs: certain types of state Medicaid, state-paid Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Travis County Hospital District Medical Assistance Program (MAP) or Travis County Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).

City of Austin utility bill discounts include waivers of the electric, water, and wastewater monthly customer service charges, and a 50 percent discount on the Drainage Fee. The largest discount is provided by Austin Energy through a reduced fuel charge that accounts for the majority of the \$400 discount average for participants in 2009. The Transportation User Fee is waived for any City of Austin utility account holder who does not own or drive a vehicle or who is 65 or older."

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# Happy Birthday to members with birthdays in June,

Janice Bush  
David Buttross  
Mary Conley  
William Connors  
Jim Crouch  
Jo Jo Edwards  
Clarence Guelker  
Louis Hale

Nancy Inman  
Mark James  
Jean Kennedy  
Henry Kojzarek  
Willie Kopecky  
Margaret Lund  
Gayle Madole  
Elizabeth Mayland

Richard Moline  
Bernard Pusin  
Andy Rodriguez  
Barbara Ross  
John Sanders  
Charles Seideman  
John Sisario  
Gertrud Spencer

Michelle Star  
Mary Todd  
June Trussell  
Ralph Trussell  
Catherine Wallace  
James Wilson  
Lois Young

## July,

Walter Alt  
Barb Baldwin  
Gladys Blakeslee  
Betsey Cogsburn  
Ria Corbett  
Michele D'Amura  
Karen Davis

Ann Farnie  
John Farnie  
Patty Foerster  
Lloyd Fry  
Gary Glisan  
Barbara Hampton  
Barbara Hays

Ann Jacobs  
Kathy King  
Anne Linville  
Henry Lipsie  
Jan Maresca  
Kenneth McDonald  
Brenda Meharg

John Parrish  
Marshall Smith  
Anne Steinocher  
Joseph Studak  
Daniel Villarreal

## And August!

Helene Alt  
Ronald Bilski  
Sandy Bilski  
Glenda Brown  
Lakki Brown  
Thomas Broyles  
Michael Chesney  
Carmen Chesney  
Dale Christians  
George Chronis  
Raymond Crowley

Louise Crowley  
Jean Cullen  
Shirley Dean  
Ruth Frederick  
William Gregory  
Lois Hellenga  
Henry Henley  
Marie Hester  
Lois Howard  
David Kapland  
Deanne Knox

Nancy Kulczyk  
Lisa Little  
Wesley Lokken  
Virginia Martin  
Andrew McVeigh  
Priscilla Nicholson  
Thomas O'Meara  
Gilberto Rodriguez  
June Runkle  
Lu Russell  
Noel Sandlin

Walta Siebert  
Dorian Sisario  
Harold Susskind  
Dawn Thompson  
Tommie Thompson  
William Throop  
Calvin Turner  
A.D. Woods, Jr.

**If your birthday information is missing or incorrect, contact 2nd Vice President Ben Meharg at 633-7127 [benm@austin.rr.com](mailto:benm@austin.rr.com). Your info will be updated.**

**Personal Affairs Corner** - continued from page 4

Eligible customers qualify for the following fee waiver and discounts:

- A \$6.00/month waiver of the customer electric service charge
- A \$6.25/month waiver of the customer water service charge
- An \$8.00/month waiver of the customer waste water service charge
- Enrollment into the E01A Wind Energy Green Choice Rate
- A 50% reduction on your residential City of Austin Drainage fee to \$3.58 a month
- A Transportation Fee waiver if you are over 65. [You must call the city for this waiver]

You can download the Customer Assistance Program Application for Utility Bill Discounts at:  
<http://www.austinenergy.com/Customer%20Care/Billing/Payment%20Assistance/feeWaiverForm2007.pdf>  
A few copies of this form will also be available at the June Dinner Meeting.

### ***Celebrate Independence Day!***

#### **H-E-B Austin Symphony July 4th Concert & Fireworks**

Auditorium Shores at The Long Center, 8:30pm, Fireworks, 9:30pm. Free.

#### **65th Annual Wimberley VFW Rodeo & PBR Bull Riding**

Veterans Park, Wimberley, Texas  
Sponsored by VFW Post 6441, Wimberley.  
Gates open 5:30 pm. Rodeo begins 8 pm. Fireworks.

### ***We're 234 years old!***

#### **Aqua Boom Celebration, Kingsland**

Kingsland Chamber Grounds; Highway 1431  
Music, Competitions, Craft Fair, Wild West Show, Fireworks.

#### **Johnson City 4th of July Spange-Dangle Parade**

Blanco County Fairgrounds, 6:00pm.

#### **Kerrville 4th of July Celebration on the River**

Louise Hays Park, 1:00pm to 9:45pm. Free.  
Food, vendors, live music, fireworks.

### DUES FORM

Please complete the form, **cut out** and mail with your check payable to: **AMOOA** mail to **Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 1071, Austin, Texas 78767-1071.**

Dues for 1 Jan to 31 Dec \_\_\_\_\_ Officer: \$17.00    Widow/Widower of Officer: \$12:00

New Member       Current/Returning Member      **Please clearly print your information**

The following information has changed or needs to be added to the database:

Address     Home Phone     Cell Phone     Email Address     National Number     Birthdays

Name, Rank, Service\* \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

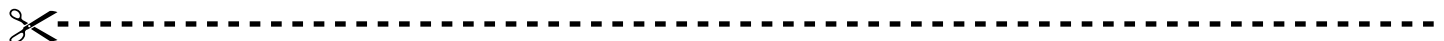
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

National Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdays (M/D) Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required



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