



Central California Coast Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
COASTAL CLARION

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It is with great personal sadness that I write of the passing of Chaplain William John Houston Jr, ***“Padre Bill”***

On Monday March 11, 2019. As each of you know, Bill was a corner stone of the Central California Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. At virtually every luncheon, meeting, event or fund raiser, Bill set the social and moral air of the occasion, while always being the first to tell a relevant joke or a light-hearted story.

Bill was born September 3, 1931 in Fort Worth, Texas, and enjoyed his youth in Seattle, Washington, Aptos, California and Washington DC. He graduated, and also earned a Master's Degree in religious studies at George Washington University, and received his Doctorate in Theology from Boston University. At an early age Bill served in the Merchant Marines, served 3 years with the US Army in Counter Intelligence at the Pentagon, and in the late '60's joined the Navy as an active duty Chaplain, serving two tours in Viet Nam, first with the US Marine Corps 1st - 1st during the TET Offensive, followed by a second tour aboard a Destroyer off the coast of Viet Nam.

Following tours abroad in Sicily, Italy, Okinawa Japan, and “State Side”, he retired in Cayucos, CA, on property that had been in his family since the 1950's. For the past 30 years Bill participated in many Veterans events and organizations, including the “Blessing of the Fleet” and “Lost at Sea” annual services. In addition to his office as Chaplain of our Chapter of MOAA, he held Chapter, State and Nation offices within the Military Order of World Wars, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League's Detachment 680 and contributed greatly to the Estrella Warbirds Museum in Paso Robles, CA.

Memorial services will be held for CDR William J. Houston, USN on April 6th at 11:00 AM, at the Estrella Warbirds Museum located at 4251 Dry Creek Rd. Paso Robles, CA 93446. Finally, there will be a ***“Celebration of ‘Padre Bill’s’ Life”***, on **Friday, April 12th, at 11:30 AM** at the **Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo**, and all are welcome to participate. We miss our “Padre Bill”!

Sincerely, Capt. Dave

MOAA March 2019 Luncheon Notes

Pausabilities

At March's luncheon, we had our annual-update from ***Pausabilities*** (formerly known as "*Paws 4 A Cause*"). Pausabilities Co-Founders, Gil Igleheart and Dick Mellinger updated their program's amazing growth over the past four years and discussed the program's expansion into new prisons within California, along with their work with the Staff at Questa College in providing training for prisoners, for their eventual employment as "Service Dog" trainers following their release from prison. In the accompanying pictures (left to Right) you can see (1) Chapter Members, (2) Dick Mellinger (3) Gil Igleheart, (4) CDR David Brooks, USN (Ret) speaking on the Honor Flight Program and (5) Gil & Dick receiving their Certificate of Appreciation from MOAA for their contributions to the Veteran Community.



Forward Day by Day, Maj. James Murphy, USMC (Ret), Chapter Chaplain

John 8:31-32: Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

On the wall by my computer is a sign that says, "Speak the truth but leave immediately thereafter."

Speaking the truth surely buys Jesus serious trouble. As soon as he tells the crowds following him that the truth will make them free, they insist they don't need freeing, shouting that they are the children of Abraham and of God---and that Jesus is probably a Samaritan possessed by the demon!

It is an uncomfortable truth Jesus offers: *Everyone who commits is a slave to sin*. We don't want to admit the truth of our reality; like an addict, we claim "we can quit anytime we want." But Jesus knows the whole and entire truth, and only he can set us free from it.

Can we accept this truth---that we need freeing?

Chapter Leadership

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Military doctors in crosshairs of a budget battle.

“The U.S. military is devising major reductions in its medical corps, unnerving the system’s advocated who fear the cuts will hobble the armed forces’ ability to adequately care for health problems of military personnel at home and abroad.

The move inside the military coincides with efforts by the Trump administration to privatize care for veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs last month proposed rules that would allow veterans to use private hospitals and clinics if government primary care facilities are not nearby or if they have to wait too long for an appointment.”

Kathryn Beasley, a retired Navy captain who is director of government relations for health affairs at the Military Officers Association of America, said she was also concerned with unforeseen consequences of dramatic cuts.

“Everything’s tied together, there’s a lot of interdependencies in these things,” she said. “You pull a string on one and you might feel it in an area you don’t expect.”

Read the entire article here: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nation-world/sns-tns-be-military-doctors-20190312-story.html>

APRIL 12, 2019 LUNCHEON AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF “PADRE BILL”

Where: Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo, CA
Time: 11:30 Social 12:00 Lunch & Program

Name: _____

___# for Lunch (Chef’s Choice)___ or (Veggie Plate)_____

Please make your reservations by calling Richard Ennes (805) 227-7138. OR Ken Chapman 805-489-8214. Or make reservations via our Chapter website **www.calcoastmoaa.org**

Luncheon \$25 per person _____

AUX Member \$15 _____

ROTC Awards Fund \$ _____

Please make checks payable to “CCCC MOAA”

Business Casual or wearing your uniform is encouraged.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central California Coast Chapter
Post Office Box 5002
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-5002

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL EXCOM

Tuesday, APRIL 2nd -NOON

at the SLO Elks Club

APRIL LUNCHEON

Friday, APRIL 12th - 11:30

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA • PREAMBLE

The membership of the Central California Coast Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, in order:

- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and our Flag;
- To defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country and to oppose any influence (whatsoever) calculated to weaken the National Security;
- To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
- To cooperate fully with the various active services in the dissemination of information to the public;
- To aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn, their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner;
- To establish these, as the bylaws of the chapter.