

# NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



**NC Council of Chapters Website: [www.moa-nc.org](http://www.moa-nc.org)**

**Serving Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA**

**Volume 2022-2023 Issue IV**

## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- President - CW4 Jay E Garbus, USA (Ret)
- 1st VP - CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
- 2nd VP - LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
- Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
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- Lay Chaplain – LTC Ed Grant, USA (Ret)
- Parliamentarian COL Vern Pike, USA (Ret)

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

**Quarterly meetings Hybrid/Zoom  
All dates subject to Change**

May 7<sup>th</sup>—2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Zoom

**August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly**

Raleigh, MOAA Leadership & meeting TBA location

November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>—Annual Meeting/4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly

Hawthorne Inn, Wiston Salem



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** **CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)** **5 Star Council**



I hope everyone is getting back to normal what ever you do. It is great to see all the places open and not wearing masks. We will continue to have meeting on Zoom even if we meet in person. Zoom is helping members that live far away be able to participate in the meetings. The Council will still be meeting every month on Zoom for one hour to update on Council progress.

1<sup>st</sup> CDR Kenneth Klassen updated the Chapter Officer report and the Chapter Health form. Ken is making it easier to fill out the forms. We need to recruit more members to the Chapters. Some of the Chapter's have lost members due to moving out of North Carolina.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP LCDR Mark Sandvigen has been having monthly Advocacy meeting on Zoom. This month we hit the road on what affects them. In the newsletter the issues are addressed.

Anyone who wants their business card on the newsletter please send to me.



## **High Country Chapter MOAA**

### **General Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

**Fairway Café, Boone Golf Club**

**Cash Bar at 6:00 PM with Dinner and Program starting at 6:30 PM**

**Joint Meeting with New River Chapter MOAA**

**Guest Speaker:**

**COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret.), VP of Government Relations**

**National, MOAA**

Dinner is \$36 per person. Please bring cash or a check made out to HCCMOAA to cover the cost of the meal, tax, gratuity, and bar tender fee.

#### **Menu**

Caesar Salad  
Dinner Rolls with Garlic Butter  
Chicken Parmesan over Spaghetti  
Spinach Lasagna  
Marinara on side  
Sautéed Vegetables  
Cheesecake  
Iced Tea, Soda, & Coffee

RSVP to Lance Campbell ([lcampbellcna@mac.com](mailto:lcampbellcna@mac.com)) or Doug May ([maydb1709@gmail.com](mailto:maydb1709@gmail.com)).

My Fellow Officers of the High Country,

We (your board of Directors) are planning a joint General Membership Meeting with the New River Chapter members. It is to be on 7 June. Our speaker will be COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret.), who is the Vice President of Government Relations at National MOAA. In addition we will be able to enjoy being with all of our members as well as those of the New River Chapter from West Jefferson. It will be held at the Boone Golf Course in the Fairway Cafe. The food will be catered by Casa Rustica Catering of Boone. So please save the date of 7 June and join your fellow officers in this enjoyable and meaningful gathering. I am attaching a flyer listing the particulars of the event.

Thank you,

Doug

Douglas May, Capt. USMC (Fmr.), President

High Country Chapter of MOAA



# THE MOUNTAINEER

INFORMING, INSPIRING AND ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1884

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 [www.themountaineer.com](http://www.themountaineer.com) \$1.00

## Taking action — Culp volunteers in Ukraine

Haywood County resident to share expertise in diffusing explosives

BY CAROL VIAU

The images of the war in Ukraine are horrific and the statistics are staggering. One Haywood resident is taking action, literally, by traveling first to Poland and then into Ukraine itself.

John Culp of Waynesville is on a volunteer mission on behalf of

Bomb Techs Without Borders (BTWOB), a non-profit founded "to prevent casualties caused by landmines, IEDs, and other explosive remnants of war," according to its mission statement. This not a government mission. Culp is volunteering his expertise to travel to the war zone on his own.

Culp retired from the U.S. Army as a Lt. Col. in Special Forces, with an interest and specialty in explosives, and continued working for the U.S. government as an explosives specialist.

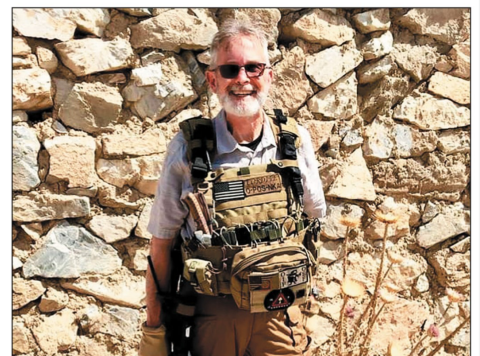
A Charlotte native, Culp attended N.C. State, where

he began in Army ROTC, later enlisting and becoming an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist, then training as a Special Forces Combat Engineer.

He was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1978

**Ukraine continues on 6A**

*Donated*  
**VOLUNTEERING EXPERTISE** — John Culp, Waynesville resident, is volunteering his expertise in explosives to travel to Ukraine to help as a trainer teaching the Ukrainians how to diffuse explosives. He is pictured in 2019 in Afghanistan, where he was a civilian contractor for the U.S. Government.



## Ukraine

Continued from Page 1A

as a second lieutenant and served in the U.S. and overseas, the bulk of his career as a Special Forces officer.

In 1997, Culp was detailed to a U.S. government agency and participated in the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, inspecting ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

### Haywood ties

Culp's ties to Haywood County go back to childhood. His father, a Methodist minister, built a home at Lake Junaluska, where the family came every summer and frequently throughout the year.

Since the family moved their principal residence every few years, Culp considers Haywood County his home. He wound up with family land and a house on a mountain overlooking Jonathan Creek, which he and his wife, Donna, enjoyed as a vacation home until they became full-time residents in 2017.

Like Culp, his wife has long-time background in the military and federal service. She is the president of the WNC Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (WNC MOAA). He is an active member of WNC MOAA and treasurer for the local Special Forces Association Chapter, Chapter 17.

### How the travel to Ukraine came about

The Culp family watched the news reports of the dire situation of the

Ukrainian people, wondering what they could do. WNC MOAA was raising funds already to support Ukrainian refugees in Moldova with the Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF).

It happened that the Culps' church, Grace in the Mountains, conducted a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor, who became a martyr in World War II, standing up to Hitler. For his anti-Nazi resistance efforts, Bonhoeffer was executed.

"Bonhoeffer saw what was happening and had to do something," John said.

"Our church began learning about the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian martyr," said the Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, rector of Grace Church. "Few of us are ever in a position to even ponder offering the kind of sacrificial love that Bonhoeffer showed as he stood against Hitler and stood for righteousness."

Inspired by the study and seeing social media posts of Ukrainian firefighters trying to deal with unexploded ordnance, John Culp began exploring ways to use his expertise. This search led him to Bomb Techs Without Borders. He reached out to the nonprofit, explaining his military and government background.

BTWOB asked him to serve as Country Coordinator for Ukraine. There Culp will prepare the way for BTWOB actions by reaching out to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) and other Ukrainian EOD



Donated

**LONGTIME BACKGROUND IN MILITARY SERVICE** — Pictured are Donna and John Culp in 2016 at a reunion of the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Both are retired military officers.

and bomb disposal organizations and assessing the situation of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and land mines in Ukraine.

"Bomb techs bring a unique set of skills that are both an art, and a science with the ultimate goal of saving lives and reducing the threat of death and maiming that is inherent with explosives, and unexploded bombs," said Donna Culp. "Through their efforts families, homes, and communities are given a leg up toward rebuilding lives that have been disrupted because of this senseless invasion authored by Putin."

### Dangerous mission

Culp's undertaking is a dangerous mission. Every day the news shows the ravages of this war, and the destruction of parts of the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

"There is a risk to anything I do in life," he said. "I've had a good life, and the Ukrainian people deserve to have good lives."

"As for my feelings about John taking on this humanitarian effort, I can say that I'm a bit conflicted," said his wife. "On one hand, I would prefer that he stays right here. On the other hand, I know what John brings to the table in support of the big picture."

"This is clearly about right versus wrong," John Culp said. "The Ukrainian people are being pounded into submission by the Russian invasion."

"Honestly, I am scared for him and so grateful for his 'yes' to God's call," said the Rev. Schaefer. "Both the fear and gratitude drive me to deeper prayer."

### Family, church support

Donna Culp acknowledges her husband's unique ability to help in Ukraine.

"It's with a great sense of pride I support John's efforts, and the efforts of all the bomb techs who are stepping up to help the people of Ukraine reclaim their lives in spite of the efforts to tear them apart," she said.

"John's commitment to humanitarian causes, his involvement in mission work for Grace in the Mountains Episcopal Church, and his passion to help the people of Ukraine, all make him one of the most exemplary Christians I have ever known," said Rob Viau, the Culps' friend and Grace Church member. "John is in our prayers."

The prayers are evident, as Grace Church held a special "commissioning" ceremony for John Culp before his departure to Warsaw.

"We gathered around John to lay hands on him, asking the Holy Spirit to equip, strengthen and protect John as he is sent forth as a member of the Body of Christ and an instrument of God's love," the Rev. Schaefer said.



Donated

**UNIQUE ABILITY TO HELP** — In this 1991 picture, John Culp is at the Presidio of Monterey in California, where he attended Spanish language training at the Defense Language Institute, prior to a tour in Panama. Before his commissioning as an officer, he was an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist.

### Helping in many ways

Humanitarian groups are seeking financial donations to help Ukrainian refugees, both in Ukraine and those who have fled to other countries.

The Culps have chosen to donate his time, travel expenses and expertise to Bomb Techs without Borders.

"God has graced John with both the expertise and, critically, the will to offer himself for the sake of the others," said the Rev. Schaefer.

"The cold war is now 'hot,'" said John Culp. "I'm going to do my bit."

He will try to have a social media presence, posting photos and videos from inside Ukraine.

*Bomb Techs Without Borders is seeking donations to help Ukrainian efforts. To donate or for information, visit [www.btwo.org](http://www.btwo.org).*



Donated

### A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

— John Culp has spent his career in service in the U.S. Army and the federal government. He reached out to BTWOB, offering his expertise in explosives for relief efforts in Ukraine. Culp is pictured at a WNC MOAA reception for a returning Blue Ridge Honor Flight of veterans in 2019.



Donated

**SUPPORTING THE 'BIG PICTURE'** — While Donna Culp is a bit conflicted about John's journey to Ukraine, she understands the importance of bomb techs helping people in war zones rebuild their lives. Donna and John are pictured in 2017 in Washington, DC.

### About the war in Ukraine

The U.N. reported that 4 million Ukrainians have fled their country, and UNICEF stated that 2 million refugee children have fled the war in Ukraine. There are more than 6 million displaced people within Ukraine, as reported by the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration.

What would you do to help? Many have donated funds to humanitarian relief organizations feeding and housing Ukrainian refugees in the western part of Ukraine, Poland and countries near the war zone.



# BOMB TECHS WITHOUT BORDERS DÉMINEURS SANS FRONTIÈRES



## Bomb Techs Without Borders

<https://www.bt wob.org/>

Learn about BTWOB and donate to help:

- ⇒ Purchase specialized equipment.
- ⇒ Provide logistics to move bomb tech equipment, and bomb techs where they are needed.
- ⇒ Defray bomb techs travel expenses to Ukraine.

Thank you in advance!

## CNN Live Interview With John Culp

Here's the link to the interview by CNN with John Culp about his work with Bomb Techs Without Borders in Ukraine. <https://f.io/DNSES1FU>



### ACTION ITEM: A CALL TO HELP UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

As we continue to witness the ongoing events taking place in Ukraine through the news, social media, and perhaps from firsthand knowledge, refugees are fleeing their homes for safety. Moldova, a small country located just south and west of Ukraine, is welcoming hundreds of thousands of them as they seek refuge during this humanitarian crisis.

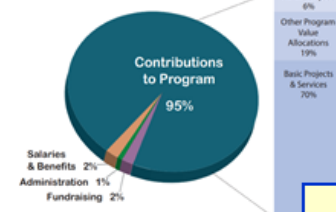
#### What can you do to help?

Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF) is an NGO founded by Western North Carolina Military Officers Association of America (WNC MOAA) member retired Navy Captain Ray West, along with fifteen other non-paid volunteer board members. MWCF is requesting financial donations to support Ukrainian refugee relief in Moldova. Until the need passes, monies will shift from normal expenditures to refugee humanitarian relief, which will reach those Ukrainians (mostly women and children) who have left their country and their homes with only what they could carry.

MWCF normally focuses on projects that include, but are not limited to building renovations of hospitals, orphanages, schools, Hospice, medical equipment, emergency surgeries, student sponsorships, aid to farmers and needy families, and educational materials for K-12 classrooms and libraries. These funds will be temporarily redirected to humanitarian relief of refugees.

2020 Income from Cash Donations/Additions and Gifts-In-Kind Totalled \$1,057,507

This is how it was spent:



Until the need passes, contributions will be directed to....

Contributions to Ukraine humanitarian refugee relief would include the purchase of:

- Folding beds, mattresses, blankets
- Raincoats, clothes, socks, soap
- Medicine, insulin, refrigerators
- Durable food, bottled water, yogurt
- Portable heaters, communication systems
- You name it!

To learn more about Moldova Children's Fund:

[moldovawcf.org](http://moldovawcf.org)    [ray.west@moldovawcf.org](mailto:ray.west@moldovawcf.org)

(828) 551-8209



"Do your little bit of good."

Desmund Tutu

MWCF is an approved IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in the state of North Carolina. Form 990 is filed annually and is available at the IRS and NCSOS as public information. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc. • P.O. Box 548 • Hendersonville, NC 28793-0548 (USA)

## Moldova World Children's Fund Updates

Read about the work being done by Moldova World Children's Fund president, Ray West.

Go to

<https://moldovawcf.org/updates/>

HELP THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN MOLDOVA

DONATE

## Special Thank You to Guidon Brewing Co.

WNC MOAA partnering with Guidon Brewing Co. of Hendersonville, NC, on April 2nd raised over \$2,200 for Moldova World Children's Fund in 3 hours.



### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

- (NC01) - Cape Fear—COL Richard A. Underwood, USA, (Ret)
- (NC02) - Coastal Carolina—CAPT Randall Ramian, USN, (Ret)
- (NC04) - Charlotte-Metrolina—LTC Joe Anderson, USA, (Ret)
- (NC06) - Sandhills—COL Walter Haverstein, USMC, (Ret)
- (NC07) - Southeastern—Col. Joseph (Joe) Irrera, USMC, (Ret)
- (NC08) - Tarheel Central—Lt. Col. Greg Chase, USAF (Ret)
- (NC09) - Triangle—COL Herb Segal, USA, (Ret)
- (NC10) - Western Carolina—Capt. Donna Culp, USAF, (FMR)
- (NC11) - Catawba Valley—LTC Clifford (Davey) Davenport, USA, (Ret)
- (NC14) - Piedmont—Maj. Aimee S. Corning, USAF, (Ret)
- (NC17) - First in Flight—LCDR Al Del Garbino, USCG, (Ret)
- (NC20) - Central Carolina—LTC Gary Applewhite, USA, (Ret)
- (NC21) - High Country—Capt. Douglas May, USMC (FMR)
- (NC22) - New River—LCDR Steve Tucker, USN, (Ret)

#### Executive Committee

1. CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
4. COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
5. Mrs. Sue Harris (SOM)— nonvoting

#### Nominating Committee

1. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
2. Chapter President - CAPT Donna Culp, USAF (FMR)
3. COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)
4. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)

#### Finance Committee

1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

#### Planning Committee

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2. 1<sup>st</sup> VP—CDR Ken Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP—LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
4. Mrs. Sue Harris (SOM)
5. CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
6. Dr. Vivianne Wersel, D. Aud. (SSL)
7. COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)
8. CAPT Donna Culp, USAF IFMR)
9. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)
10. CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, USN (Ret)
11. COL Iggi Husar, USA (Ret)

#### By-Law Committee

1. Juan Chavez, Past President, Cape Fear Chapter, Chairman
2. Walt Havenstein, President, Sandhills Chapter
3. Greg Chase, President, Tarheel Chapter
4. Al DelGarbino, President, First Flight Chapter

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The logo for the North Carolina Council of Chapters of MOAA, featuring the MOAA logo and a map of North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)  
President

Cell - 704-400-0160  
Email - jgarbus@carolina.rr.com

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From apparel to headwear and much more, we are excited for you to show your MOAA pride!



Veterans Bridge Home

704-332-8802

info@veteransbridgehome.org



NCServes in collaboration with NCCARE360

## Published by the North Carolina Council of Chapters of MOAA

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

**Publisher and Editor** – CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret) and Sue Harris (SOM)

**Editor** may be reached at (704) 400-0160

**The Newsletter** is published for members and friends of North Carolina Council of Chapters, MOAA.

**Editorial Policy:** The North Carolina Council of Chapters is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the North Carolina Council of Chapters is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the North Carolina Council of Chapters Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's.

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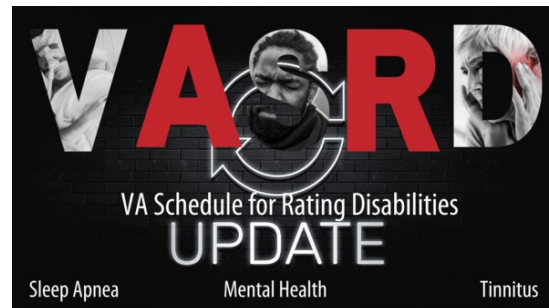
**Chapter Website** - [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org)

**MOAA "Take Action"** [http://www.moaa.org/take Action/](http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/)

A current issue of the newsletter can be found on the North Carolina Council of Chapters website, [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org). Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by contacting us using the "Contact Us" link on the website, [www.moaa-nc.org/contact.php](http://www.moaa-nc.org/contact.php).

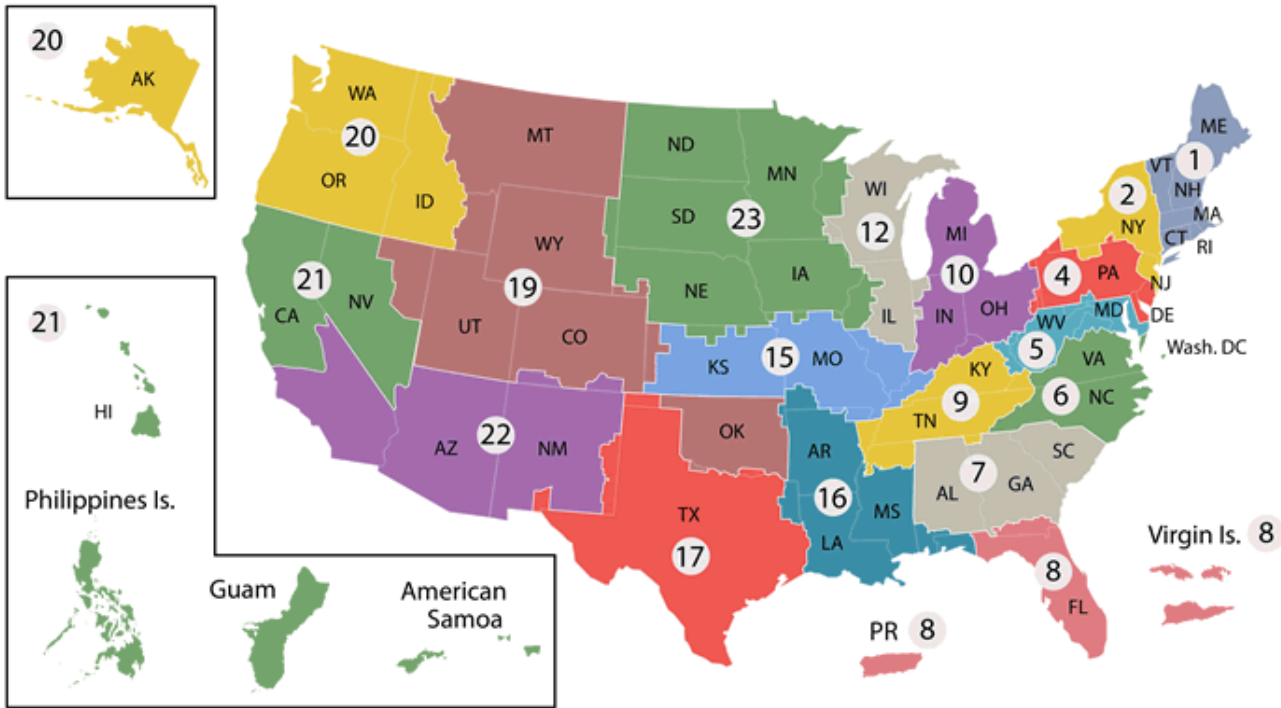


ASHEVILLE, N.C. — The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System has a special working relationship with the Cherokee Indian Hospital (CIH) to ensure Native American Veterans in the area have access to care either in the VA, on the reservation at the CIH, or at both. Tina Hendricks is a VA registered nurse on station at the CIH who assists Veterans with their care and continuity of care. According to Hendricks, Veterans can have a primary care provider at the CIH and a primary care provider in the VA — it's a special memo of understanding established between the VA and the CIH.



If a Veteran is being seen at the Cherokee Indian Hospital and needs, prefers, or requests care through the VA (such as for a specialty clinic) they're eligible to receive that care from the VA. To set it up, the ordering provider at the CIH just reaches out to the provider at the VA to coordinate the referral and care. If that Veteran doesn't have a primary care clinic in the VA system, Ms. Hendricks has a system for getting referrals for those patients. If you know a native American veteran who may benefit from a liaison, reach out to the advocates at the CIH and let's work together for the Veteran

## Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs)



**Veterans Integrated Services Network:** The U.S. is divided into 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs — regional systems of care working together to better meet local health care needs and provides greater access to care. VISN map - click on VISN number for website

VISN 1: [VA New England Healthcare System](#)

VISN 2: [New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network](#)

VISN 4: [VA Healthcare - VISN 4](#)

VISN 5: [VA Capitol Health Care Network](#)

VISN 6: [VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network](#)

VISN 7: [VA Southeast Network](#)

VISN 8: [VA Sunshine Healthcare Network](#)

VISN 9: [VA MidSouth Healthcare Network](#)

VISN 10: [VA Healthcare System](#)

VISN 12: [VA Great Lakes Health Care System](#)

VISN 15: [VA Heartland Network](#)

VISN 16: [South Central VA Health Care Network](#)

VISN 17: [VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network](#)

VISN 19: [Rocky Mountain Network](#)

VISN 20: [Northwest Network](#)

VISN 21: [Sierra Pacific Network](#)

VISN 22: [Desert Pacific Healthcare Network](#)

VISN 23: [VA Midwest Health Care Network](#)





**Agency Criteria:** All Agencies or Non-Profit organizations submitting information for an identified recipient must be considered a 501.3c or 501.c19 **Recipient Criteria: Currently Serving, Military Spouse, Military Widow or Widower, or Veteran Must have a valid driver’s license Demonstrate ability to obtain appropriate automobile insurance and future maintenance of the vehicle Have a safe driving record with no DUI convictions Demonstrated financial need. Be willing to provide proof of Income/ Employment Does not currently own a reliable, working vehicle**

**Recipient Information Form**

Please submit all 4 pages of this form and any additional information you would like to be included to: [Christine.Dickens@usaa.com](mailto:Christine.Dickens@usaa.com) and (Insert Military Affairs or Military Affinity POC)

This information requires information from the agency that supports the recipient and from the recipient. The information will be shared with the National Auto Body Council (NABC), 1-800-Charity CARS, and the repair facility managing the refurbishment of the vehicle. This is an NABC program with USAA as a partner and 1-800 Charity CARS handles all associated title work, licensing and registration for each vehicle donated.

**DATE SUBMITTED** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED BY** \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP TO [RECIPIENT](#)** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY/NONPROFIT** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE: Work Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell us why the RECIPIENT would benefit from receiving this vehicle gift. Explain any challenges or issues RECIPIENT currently experience because of not having reliable transportation. Please provide as much information as RECIPIENT is comfortable sharing. Use additional page if necessary.**



## Benefits to Support Survivors

- **DEATH GRATUITY** - A one-time, nontaxable payment to help surviving family members deal with the financial hardships that accompany the loss of a service member.
- **SSSB** - Social Security Survivor Benefits are monthly benefits paid to eligible family members of a deceased service member who has worked and paid Social Security taxes.
- **SSIA** - Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance is a benefit for surviving spouses who receive a Survivor Benefit Plan annuity that is offset by a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payment from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **SGLI** - Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is life insurance coverage for a service member.
- **TSGLI** - Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection is financial assistance for service members who incur physical losses due to traumatic injuries.
- **FSGLI** - Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is life insurance coverage for a service member's spouse and dependent children.
- **DIC** - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monthly payment to survivors provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **SBP** - The Survivor Benefit Program is a taxable annuity for survivors paid through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.
- **TRICARE** - The uniformed services' health care program.
- **DEA** - Dependents Educational Assistance is an educational benefit provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This milestone guide outlines the change in benefits survivors can expect and what decisions a survivor may need to make.

## Primary and Secondary Next of Kin (Includes Spouses)

### Within 14 Days

- Meet your casualty assistance officer.
  - > Verify family information.
  - > Choose whether to authorize the disclosure of information to other government organizations for benefits and support.
- Review the will and any estate planning documents.
- Plan a funeral if you're the person authorized to direct disposition.
- Track and submit reimbursement claims for the funeral and related travel.
- Obtain a new dependent ID card (if applicable). ([www.dmdc.osd.mil/self\\_service](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service))

### Within First Year

- Update vehicle title and registration.
- Settle bank accounts, loans and credit cards.
- Connect with your service's long-term care management program.
- Request a copy of appropriate investigative reports.
- Inventory personal effects and submit claims for missing or damaged items if you're a person entitled to receive effects.
- Receive free financial counseling and online will preparation from FinancialPoint Plus if you are an SGLI recipient ([www.financialpointplus.com](http://www.financialpointplus.com)).

## Spouses

### Within First Year

- Update your status in the DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System) registry.
- Apply for Veterans Affairs DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation), SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan), and Social Security (if applicable).
- Review initial Survivor Benefits Report with casualty assistance officer.

## For additional resources, visit:

- Long-term care at <https://go.usa.gov/xAZtY>
- Days Ahead Binder at <https://go.usa.gov/xAZt2>
- Survivors Guide to Benefits at <https://go.usa.gov/xAZtT>



Call or chat anytime, from anywhere in the world to learn more and connect to support. We're here for you 24/7.

800-342-9647 | [MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://MilitaryOneSource.mil)

To learn more, go to [MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://MilitaryOneSource.mil) and search "Survivor Support."



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# Today And Tomorrow

Department of Defense milestone guide for survivors of service members who died in an active-duty status



- Create a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) account (<https://go.usa.gov/xAZtW>).
- Create a VA eBenefits account ([www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/apply](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/apply)).
- Access your Interactive Online Survivor Benefits Report (<https://go.usa.gov/xAZtK>).
- Access free financial counseling from Military OneSource.
- File income taxes with free software and support from MilTax ([www.militaryonesource.mil/miltax](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/miltax)).

### One Year

- HEART (Heroes Earning Assistance and Relief Tax) Act eligibility for applicable survivors expires.
- "Final Move" deadline for survivors in government housing.

### Three Years

- "Final Move" deadline for survivors not in government housing. You may request an extension.
- "Qualifying widow/widower" federal income tax status expires.
- TRICARE Prime and active-duty dental plan expire. You're automatically enrolled in TRICARE Select for retirees. You may choose to enroll in TRICARE Prime for retirees and TRICARE Dental Program Survivor Benefit Plan.

### 20 Years

- Spouse Dependents' Educational Assistance eligibility ends.

### Age 55

- Remarriage restrictions on SBP payments lifted.
- Remarriage restrictions on DIC payments lifted.

### Age 57

- Remarriage restrictions on Social Security survivor benefits lifted.
- Reduced-rate Social Security retirement benefits available.

## Children

### Within First Year

- Obtain ID card (any age).
- Eligible for 40 hours of respite care at military Child Development Center.

### Age 16

- Social Security survivor benefits for child(ren)'s parental or nonparental caregiver ends.



### Age 21

- TRICARE and TRICARE Dental Program Survivor Benefit eligibility ends. Full-time college students remain eligible through age 23, if they meet certain conditions. They may also qualify to buy TRICARE Young Adult (age 21-26). (<https://www.tricare.mil/TYA>)

### Age 23

- TRICARE and TRICARE Dental Program Survivor Benefit Plan eligibility ends for students; TRICARE Young Adult can be purchased.

### Age 26

- DEA eligibility ends.

### Age 33

- Fry Scholarship eligibility ends if eligibility began before Jan 1, 2013. Time limit lifted if eligibility began after that date.

## Financial Beneficiary

### Within First Year

- Free financial counseling and online will preparation are available from Financial Point Plus for SGLI recipients ([www.financialpointplus.com](http://www.financialpointplus.com)).
- If applicable: Nonparent guardian of Surviving child(ren) should establish legal guardianship.

### One Year

- HEART (Heroes Earning Assistance and Relief Tax) Act eligibility expires (applicable to SGLI and Death Gratuity recipients).



### **WHY JOIN MOAA**

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

Website [MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#)

**JOIN US** - Join a North Carolina Chapter our website [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org) and click **JOIN NOW** menu.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS, DEADLINES, EVENTS COUNCIL AND CHAPTER DATES TO KNOW**

- ⇒ **April 28:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Improving Chapter Health. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **May 26:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Media Exposure/October *Military Officer Issue*. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **June 30:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Recruiting. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **July 28:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Event Planning. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **June 7th—Joint Meeting High Country and New River Chapter . Speaker will be COL Dan Merry, USAF (Ret.) Vice President of Government Relations at National MOAA (see flyer page 2**
- ⇒ **Aug. 12-13: Mid-Atlantic Leadership Training Workshop (Raleigh, N.C.) and 3rd quarter Council meeting**
- ⇒ **Aug. 25:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Community Outreach, Emergency Relief Fund. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Sept. 29:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Branding. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Oct. 27:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Transition Services. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Nov. 4th - 5th; Annual meeting Hawthorne Inn, Winston Salem - Evening of Friday, November 4th**  
Dr. (MG, USA Ret) Rob Tempel, Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices ECU School of Dental Medicine,  
Dr. (COL, USA Ret) Bob Manga – Director, ECU Community Service Learning Center – Sylva,  
COL USA (Ret) David McCracken – Veteran Smiles Foundation.  
**Saturday, November 5th 10:00m hrs:** Emmett Casciato - President and Curator Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas - Brevard, NC <https://theveteransmuseum.org/contact/>
- ⇒ **Nov. 17:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Retention. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Nov. 18-19:** Texas Leadership Training Workshop (location TBD)
- ⇒ **Dec. 29:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: End of Year Review/Discussion. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.



## TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

### Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

### Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap

MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021, H.R. 475 in the House, and S. 1972 in the Senate. These bipartisan and bicameral pieces of legislation would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

### Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act

Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome

## COUNCIL AND CHAPTER AWARDS

**MOAA Levels of Excellence Award** - Each year, councils and chapters may request to be recognized for one of two [Levels of Excellence awards](#). Councils and chapters that want to be considered for a Levels of Excellence Award need to submit a nomination by May 1.

A standard set of rating criteria will be used to evaluate all councils and chapters that submit a package. Last year, 162 councils and chapters earned 5-star awards. Your council or chapter could be among the winners recognized at a dinner in Kansas City later this year.

**Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards** - MOAA's annual contest identifying those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members.

**Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award** - This annual award recognizes an affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter and national MOAA in support of national and/or state legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families.

**2021 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award** - Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts.

**MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program** - MOAA has PDF fillable certificates for ROTC and JROTC available for leaders to add their chapter name and the name of the award recipient.

- [ROTC fillable PDF certificate](#)
- [JROTC fillable PDF certificate](#)

Medals and certificates can be purchased at the [MOAA Store](#). Note for high schools and universities requesting that someone from MOAA make a presentation: If there is a local MOAA chapter in your area, you may want to consider contacting them. Many of our 400-plus MOAA affiliates are still supporting ROTC/JROTC programs in their area. These programs are entirely voluntary; no MOAA chapter is under any obligation to present a certificate to ROTC and JROTC units. You can use [the Chapter Locator](#) to find your closest available chapter.



## ADVOCACY NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



### MOAA – 2022 Advocacy in Action – Major ASKS

MOAA is conducting our annual spring campaign throughout the month of April. Some of our 350,000 members from across the country will soon be reaching out to your legislators to schedule in-person or virtual meetings to discuss this year's campaign topics.

Even if you are not participating in this year's advocacy campaign, we need your help reaching out to your elected officials to let them know about the event, what topics we are advocating for, and what their offices should expect in the coming weeks. MOAA's three advocacy topics this year are:

- **The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344)** would provide concurrent receipt of retired pay and disability pay for combat-injured veterans. This bill already has 205 co-sponsors in the House – adding 54 since January – and 56 in the Senate. If you already have co-sponsored, I want to thank you and ensure support through floor votes and potential amendments to the FY 2023 NDAA.
- **The Stop Copay Overpay Act (H.R. 4824)** would overturn the doubling of TRICARE copays for mental health care for uniformed services families and retirees. By co-sponsoring this legislation, you can help remove the costly barrier to mental health care.
- **Ensuring a 4.6% military pay raise** as a minimum across all ranks would keep faith with members of all eight uniformed services, maintaining the link to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) established by statute. Keeping this full raise intact in the NDAA remains one of MOAA's constant priorities.

We are pleased that a major issue of TOXIC EXPOSURE has been receiving excellent support.. The topics above need extra support. Certainly, there are additional legislative concerns but in this annual big campaign, we usually focus on 3 main topics.



Surviving Spouse Corner: Reflections of a Surviving Spouse Liaison  
By: Barbara Smith, April 4, 2022

Serving for the past six years as my chapter's surviving spouse liaison has been a learning experience. When I first started in the role, I discovered there wasn't any information or description for this undertaking. The chapter had over 60 surviving spouses (then called auxiliary members), but we didn't have a separate list of them. That became my first job. I wrote a letter introducing myself and letting them know I was available for any assistance they might need. I also shared what I hoped to accomplish in the coming year (which at that time wasn't much).

In 2016, I was honored to receive national MOAA's Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. At the ceremony, I met the most fascinating group of ladies, the [Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee \(now Council\)](#). One of the members, Pat Farnsworth, became my mentor. She has always been available to me and has given me the confidence I needed to do this job.

Over the years, I have tried to include surviving spouses in the chapter's monthly meetings. Every May, we have a surviving spouse/spouse appreciation luncheon at our regular chapter meeting with a program designed for them. I didn't feel that was enough, so now we have a quarterly luncheon for surviving spouses/spouses with emphasis on issues and problems that are of interest to them.

At the end of the year, I send out a letter sharing what we have accomplished concerning surviving spouse issues and share what MOAA has on their legislative agenda for us. I try to attend all funerals to let spouses know I'm here for them.

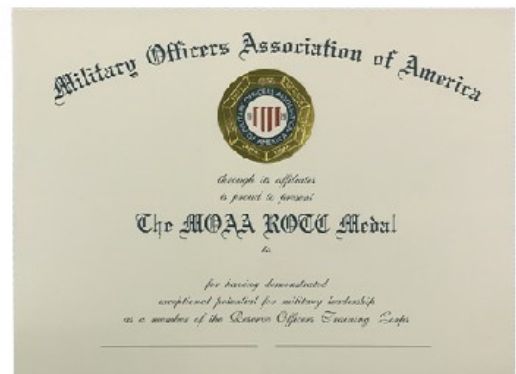
Four years after being appointed to this position, I was elected to the chapter board. This allows me to vote, which I believe is a very important step forward.

I was honored in 2018 to become a member of national MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. This has been an incredible experience. I have learned so much, which I have shared with my local chapter. I have also joined the [MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), which is open to all surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons.

It has been my privilege to fill this position. I have met some inspiring women, shared some wonderful stories, and made memories and some dear friends.

I am beginning my seventh and final year as surviving spouse liaison. It is my hope that someone will step forward and bring a new look and fresh ideas to our chapter.

The MOAA Store Is Now Open From apparel to headwear and much more, we are excited for you to show your MOAA pride!



## NCCOC Zoom Meeting

08 April 2022

CALL TO ORDER - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)

ROLL CALL (if needed) Sue Harris (SOM) Quorum **Yes** 20 present (15 = quorum)

### A. DATE AND LOCATION OF 2022 MEETINGS

- a. Zoom 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly, May 7<sup>th</sup>
- b. Zoom meeting, June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- c. Zoom meeting, July 7<sup>th</sup>
- d. In Person 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly, Raleigh, August 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> & Mid-Atlantic Leadership Workshop
- e. Zoom meeting, September 15<sup>th</sup>
- f. In Person \* 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly, November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Hawthorne Inn, Winston-Salem

### B. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President REPORT - CDR Ken Klassen, USN, (Ret) *slides*

difficult to get exact numbers of membership but reports show TRENDS in 2021 we lost 78 members from the 1<sup>st</sup> semester to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester only FIVE Chapters have updated the Chapter Officer Report - please update so we are current on membership numbers Jim Brumit stated that satellite Meet & Greets are postponed until fall because of Covid Donna Culp stressed that satellite members ARE members of MOAA and we need to continue to educate people Ken stated 3 recommendations for increasing membership- 1. Use the NRT 2. Use the Common Join Form where a new Chapter member can just check a box on the CJF (on the NCCOC website) and indicate they want to join at the basic level for no charge. 3. Send periodic emails to chapter members who are not National MOAA members

### C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President REPORT - LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret) *slides*

Advocacy in Action (AiA) access Take Action Center key is RESEARCH the legislators' websites to see if they supported veterans in the past get an appointment to meet with legislators develop a communication plan based on research file report with MOAA send thank you to legislator AiA North Carolina strategy

- National cemeteries are maintained by the state
- work to remove "until full" verbiage within 8 months
- Priority is to expedite Military and Spouse Licensure
- Coordinate efforts with NC Veterans Council and work with NCCOC legislative committee to get materials.
- Vivianne Wersel added that the property tax discount needs to be increased

D. Past President CAPT Doug Ehrhardt - Joint Meeting - LCDR Steve Tucker announced that High Country Chapter and New River Chapter will hold a Joint Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> with COL Dan Merritt, MOAA National Government Relations as speaker, with a catered dinner.

E. Past President COL Jim Brumit - Satellite formations are making progress

### F. Open Floor

- The MOAA Store is reopened and ROTC and JROTC medals and certificates can be ordered
- National MOAA is handling everything for the August meeting in Raleigh
- Florida property tax is veteran friendly and might be of help for Vivianne's efforts
- LOE entries are due May 1<sup>st</sup>

### G. Adjournment

\* Hybrid