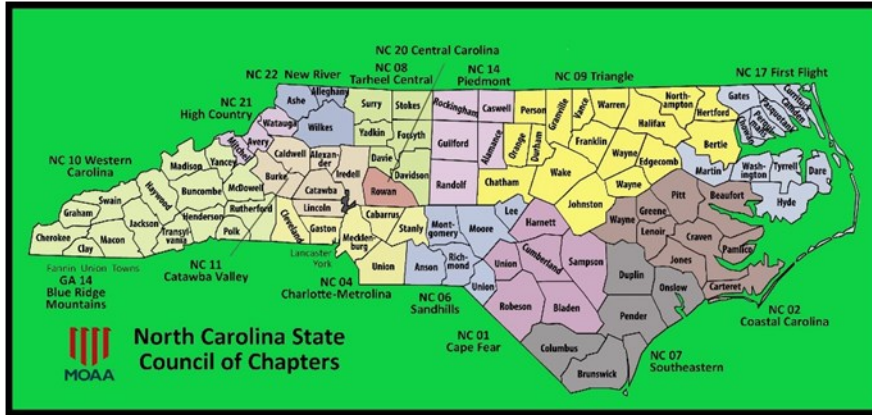


NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



NC Council of Chapters Website: www.moa-nc.org

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

Volume 2022-2023 Issue V

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)
- Surviving Spouse Liaison - Dr. Vivianne Wersel, (SSL)
- Treasurer - Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret)
- Assistant Treasurer – CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
- Secretary - Mrs. Sue Harris, (SOM)
- Council Web Manager - CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, USN (Ret)
- Personal Affairs Officer - CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)
- Health and Welfare – MAJ Leon Rooks, USAR (FMR)
- 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**

August 12th & 13th—3rd Quarterly

Raleigh, MOAA Leadership & meeting TBA location

November 4th & 5th—Annual Meeting/4th Quarterly
Hawthorne Inn, Winston Salem, NC.

We will have a guest speaker Friday and Saturday



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)

5 Star Council



The Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards have been announced. Chapters awarded 5 Stars and 4 Stars are listed on page 3.

Congratulations to all. May and June are starting to have many more events together instead of Zoom. It is nice to get together again.

June 7th is a joint meeting with High Country and New River Chapters hosting the meeting. Col Dan Merry is the guest speaker. The meeting starts at 6:30pm. If you want to attend see the flyer on page 2 and information on page 3..

- I will be attending the Catawba Valley Chapter on May 26th in Hickory. The meeting starts at 6pm. If interested , Catawba Valley contact the President LTC Clifford (Davey) Davenport, USA, (Ret)

The newsletter has information on chapter activities that they have attended or fund raisers. If you have anything you want posted in the newsletter please email me the information.

Please make a note that I am ONLY using the email address jegarbus@gmail.com. If you have a different email,



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) or Doug May (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

2021 COL. MARVIN J. HARRIS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD



North Carolina 5 star

- North Carolina Council of Chapters (print newsletter and website)
- Cape Fear Chapter (e-newsletter and website)
- Catawba Valley Chapter (print newsletter)
- Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (print newsletter and website)
- Coastal Carolina Chapter (print newsletter and website)
- High Country Chapter (print newsletter)
- Southeastern NC Chapter (print newsletter and website)
- Tarheel Central Chapter (print newsletter)
- Western North Carolina Chapter (print newsletter and website)



North Carolina 4 star

- Catawba Valley Chapter (website)
- Tarheel Central Chapter (website)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS, DEADLINES, EVENTS

COUNCIL AND CHAPTER DATES TO KNOW

- ⇒ **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 10:00 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.

SECOND QUARTERLY TAKE AWAYS

- Chapter Report Form is on the website
- Occupational Licensing bill is on its way to the NC Senate
- Working on removing verbiage re: state national cemeteries being full before able to use trust fund for maintenance
- Proposing amendment to the bill removing state taxation to include PHS and NOAA retirees in the long session
- Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison contact information is needed by Dr. Wersel
- Chapters please send needs for prayers for members to LTC Ed Grant for inclusion in the Council newsletter
- Chapters are asked to identify where you want a satellite and report to COL Jim Brumit
- The MOAA store is open

MOAA HAS FOUR VIRTUAL CHAPTERS

They are: [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#), the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), the [Public Health Service Virtual Chapter](#), and the [Chaplains Virtual Chapter](#).

Interested in participating in one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact Capt. Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's program director for engagement, at patw@moaa.org, or Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), senior director for council and chapter affairs, at erins@moaa.org, for more information.

Join the Facebook page “ DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy “ today and get involved! For more information contact MOAA surviving spouse Edith Smith, phone (703) 569-3380 or email esmith@capitolcrusader.com

2022 U.S. ARMY RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK

Produced by Army Retirement Services, the 2022 U.S. Army Retired Soldier Handbook is available for download as a PDF document from the Army Retirement Services website at

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/2022_ArmyRetSoldierHandbk.pdf

Mental Health Awareness Month: Learn What Your Fellow Veterans Know

This Mental Health Month and throughout the year, Veterans and those who care about them are encouraged to visit MakeTheConnection.net to learn more about mental health and healing from Veterans who know because they've been there.

Veterans Eligible for Travel, Hotel Discounts

AmericanForcesTravel.com is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and supported by Priceline. Veterans can access exclusive deals on hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.

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 Havenstein, 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

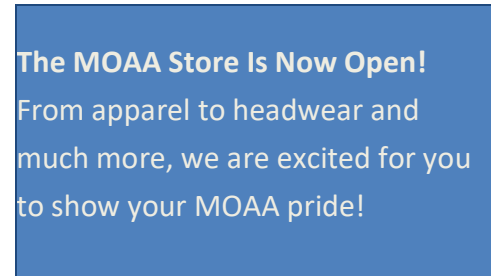
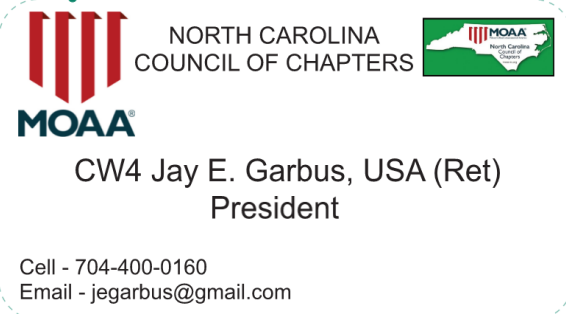
1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

Planning Committee

1. President—CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. 1st VP—CDR Ken Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. 2nd 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



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 or jegarbus@gmail.com

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.

Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Chapter Website - 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. 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.



WASHINGTON – Federal law authorizes veterans to salute the flag in the following situations:

The Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform. Alternately, military personnel and veterans not in uniform may stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the

heart. When not in uniform men should remove any nonreligious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart (Title 4 USC section 4).

During hoisting, lowering or passing of the American flag. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes. (Title 4 USC section 9).

National Anthem. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform. When the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed. (Title 36 USC section 301).

THE MISSION OF THE U.S. ARMY JUNIOR ROTC

The Mission of the US Army JROTC is “To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens” by instilling the values of citizenship, service to the nation, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. JROTC is a service to our nation in that it provides cadets the motivation and skills to improve physical fitness; think critically and creatively; communicate effectively; work as a team member; pursue meaningful careers especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and become successful citizens.

As JROTC continues to modernize and adapt to the changing needs of America’s communities and workforce, Army JROTC is developing a cyber pilot program. The Army JROTC Cyber Pilot Program is an innovative, four year, honors-level cyber program that is part of the Army’s effort to infuse critical STEM curriculum in high schools across the country. The Army JROTC Cyber Pilot Program provides students with challenging, relevant experiences and prepares them to enter the cyber workforce and pursue a four-year degree and/or enter military service.

For the cyber pilot, JROTC will leverage instructors with various backgrounds and experiences, especially individuals with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, information systems, cybersecurity or other related fields. JROTC will execute the program in approximately 20 schools during the Academic Year 2022-2023. Additionally, JROTC plans to expand the cyber pilot program into more schools in the following years. These Army JROTC cyber instructors will uphold the JROTC vision of providing a quality citizenship, character, and leadership development program, while fostering partnerships with communities and educational institutions.

Army JROTC is currently seeking instructors for the cyber pilot programs. Preferred applicants will at least one of the following certifications (or obtain the certification within six months of becoming an instructor):

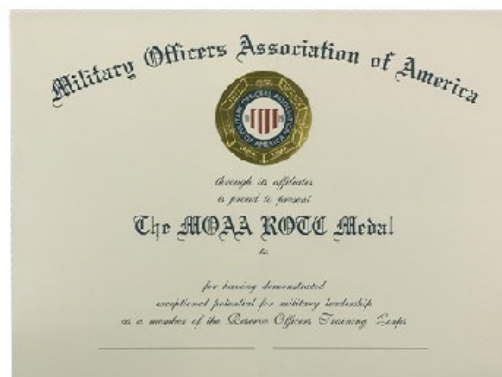
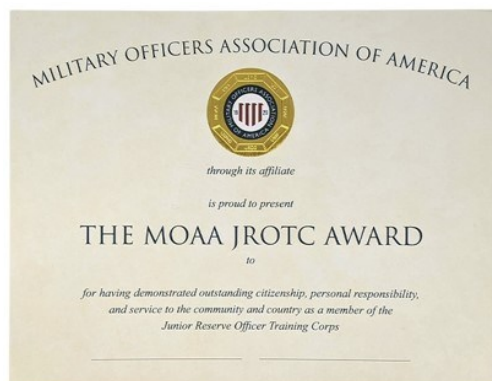
- DoD Approved 8570 Baseline Certification (Any IAT Level 1 certification or higher)
- CompTIA Linux+
- Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) or similar
- Cisco Certified Technician or similar

When you become a U.S. Army JROTC instructor, you become part of a community. You have the opportunity to motivate young people to be better students, better leaders and better citizens. As a JROTC cyber instructor, you also have the opportunity to motivate these young people to serve in critical roles for our nation.

To learn more about becoming a U.S. Army JROTC instructor, please visit us on the web at <http://www.usarmyjrotc.com/jobs>. You may view instructor vacancies, estimate your minimum instructor pay (MIP) and begin the application process. You may also call (800) 347-6641 with any questions.

The MOAA Store Is now open with apparel to headwear and much more, we are excited for you to show your MOAA pride

ROTC/JROTC Medal with Ribbon





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)

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).

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

To learn more, go to MilitaryOneSource.mil and search "Survivor Support."



Today And Tomorrow

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



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).
- 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).

- Create a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) account (<https://go.usa.gov/xAZtW>).
- Create a VA eBenefits account (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).

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.



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 financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

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.



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 and click **JOIN NOW** menu.



ZOOM SS VIRTUAL CHAPTER

Meetings

May 17 1 PM Eastern: Advocacy in Action After Action Review (Mark Belinsky)

June 21 5 PM Eastern: Social

July 19 1pm Eastern: Renee Brunelle

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

[Join us for an upcoming Event](#)

[Request Assistance](#) for yourself or a Veteran you know

[Make a Donation](#)

Meet the Surviving Spouses Virtual Board:

Michele “Micki” Costello— President

Virginia Gail Joyce—Vice President

Position open -Secretary

Pat Green— Member at Large

Barbara “Barb” Smith -Membership

Sheila Padgett –Treasure

Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel— Author/ Editor Virtual Chapter Newsletter

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:

Since 1993, surviving spouses are falling further and further behind in meeting their financial obligations from month-to-month. Many surviving spouses of WWII, Korea and Vietnam are receiving only DIC. These DIC recipients struggle monthly with their budget of \$1,357.56, juggling bills to meet the rising costs in health and dental insurance, housing, utilities, food, clothing and other living expenses. Some receive DIC and minimum Social Security benefits.

Congress must take action to rectify this inequity by increasing the current amount of DIC to a level comparable to other federal employees. Surviving spouses from WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam are now in their 60’s through 90’s. These surviving spouses are in dire need for an increase in DIC. MOAA supports S. 976 and similar legislation in the House to increase DIC from 43 percent (\$1,357.56) to 55 percent to align with other federal benefits. the downsizing process.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

VETERANS’ BENEFITS

VA Changes Hours before Biden’s address, [the VA announced](#) plans to add nine new cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected ailments](#):

- ◇ Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
 - ◇ Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
 - ◇ Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
 - ◇ Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
 - ◇ Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
 - ◇ Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
 - ◇ Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
 - ◇ Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. If you reside overseas and the toll free number is not available, call your Retirement Services Officer listed on page 15 for assistance. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name • Disability Rating • Copy of death certificate • Social security number and/or service number • Circumstances surrounding the death • Retirement date • Date and place of birth • Next of Kin (NOK) information • Retired rank

COVID-19 BURIAL BENEFIT

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>. This is a very important benefit for anyone who has lost someone due to COVID. Please help get the word out about this.



Choose VA

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - VETERANS' BENEFITS

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- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES:

THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS): Find your nearest SOS coordinator at <https://dcs9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos-find.html> Use the dropdown lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/region. If a coordinator is not listed, please call 855-707-2769 for survivor assistance.

TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE: Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080, or use the form at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryId=18004>

VA: 1-800-827-1000 <http://www.va.gov>

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov>

Update ID cards: 1-800-538-9552; www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs1

VA BURIALS & MEMORIALS PAGE: VA burial benefits can help service members, military retirees, veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service, whether in a local cemetery or in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. The VA Burial and Memorial Products Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides clear and concise information on VA burial benefits for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors; read the guide at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials-guide.pdf> Go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/#get> to find out how to apply for burial benefits and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS: The National Defense Act of 2000 ([Public Law 106-65](#)) authorizes Military Funeral Honors to Active Duty Soldiers, Retirees and Veterans. Under the law, at a family's request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include the presence of a military funeral honors detail that will oversee folding and presenting the U.S. flag and playing "Taps". **Your funeral director is responsible for making the necessary arrangements.** Go to https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/183/~/how-do-i-arrange-for-military-funeral-honors%3F for details. A complete list of resources for funeral directors and planners is at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/funeral-directory-and-planner-resources/>



Friday, October 7, 2022

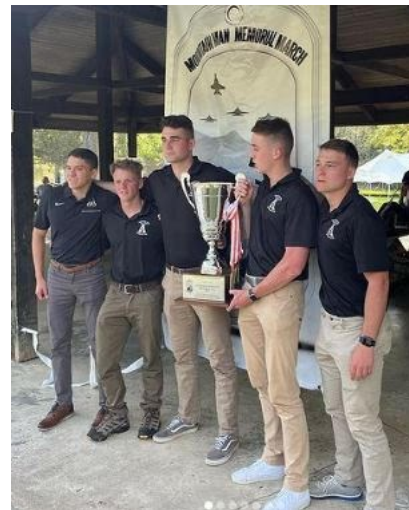
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation - Mint Hill, NC
SAVE THE DATE



Officers of the High Country,

Thanks for your support! The \$1000 you donated allowed us to logistically support our competitors in the 15th Annual Mountain Memorial March. We had 7 teams and 42 competitors in all. We took 1st and 2nd in the Full Marathon with gear event and 2nd both the individual and team Half Marathon with gear.

The article with pictures embedded: <https://rotc.appstate.edu/news/over-mountain-victory>



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