

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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

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

Volume 2022-2023 Issue VI

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)
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- 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

★ This newsletter Dedicated to CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret) ★



Summer is upon us so make sure you use sunscreen. The weather forecast looks good for getting outside for activities. My activities are mowing the lawn and trimming the hedges. Chapters are starting to get back to meeting in person. I have visited several. It looks like I am the only one that did not age.

We have a Leadership meeting coming up in August in Raleigh. I hope to see everyone there. The 3rd Quarterly meeting will be held the same time.

The newsletter has information on chapter activities, events and 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, please delete it from your contact information.



Michael Averill Covell passed away suddenly on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Mike was born in Los Angeles, CA on October 10, 1939 and studied engineering at Tufts University. From his commissioning in 1961, he served his country in the US Navy for 30 years rising to the rank of Captain. Among his many notable Navy achievements, Mike commanded the nuclear powered submarine USS Sand Lance (SSN-660), was Commodore of Submarine Squadron 22 in La Maddalena, Italy, and was awarded the Legion of Merit four times. Following his distinguished naval career, Mike's enjoyed a second career in the nuclear energy busi-

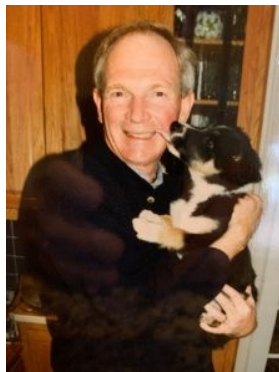
Upon "retiring" to Flat Rock, he threw himself thoroughly into serving his fellow parishioners of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church. His commitments there included eucharistic minister, senior warden, and golf cart driver. He also gave time and energy to numerous local and national causes he valued. He did this to a degree far beyond most people. It wasn't a matter of "keeping busy" for Mike. Following his service to the country, he dedicated himself to being a faithful servant of the Lord and to be helpful to all both at home and abroad. He worked tirelessly for numerous organizations including the Lions Club, NC Military Officers Association of America, the Flat Rock Playhouse, the Moldova World Children's Fund, his neighborhood association, and the Tryon Equestrian Center...just to name a few. On top of that he was always so considerate and loving with family and friends. Mike never missed sending Valentines and birthday wishes to family including his sisters-in-law. His Border Collies will miss Mike's kindness and love of nature as they remember their long walks and herding sheep. Mike even found time to become a Master Gardener in Hendersonville.

Mike and Joanie have been in love like two peas in a pod for almost 50 years. They have been blessed to travel the country and the world with family and friends across Europe, Asia, North and South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Africa.

Mike is preceded by his parents Joseph Noblett Covell and Lorraine Averill Ames of Los Angeles, CA, his brother Kenneth Covell of Colorado Springs, CO, and his son, Thomas Covell of Denver, CO.

Mike is survived by his wife of 47 years, Joan Leverton Covell of Flat Rock, NC, sister Linda Covell Golovko (Kos) of La Canada, CA, brother Lawrence Covell (Cathy) of Castle Rock, CO, daughter Sharon Lees Hayes (Bruce) of Tinton Falls, NJ, son James Wilson Lees (Allison) of Summit, NJ; son Edward Covell of Denver, CO; seven grandchildren (Katie Hayes Stengel (Matthew), Natalie Hayes, Maggie Lees, Sophie Lees, Wilson Lees, Catherine Lees and Quentin Lees); and one great grandchild (Avery Bell Stengel).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc, PO Box 548, Hendersonville, NC 29793-0548.
<http://www.moldovawcf.org>



UPCOMING PROGRAMS, DEADLINES, EVENTS

COUNCIL AND CHAPTER DATES TO KNOW

- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **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.

It's About Time!

Admiral Linda Fagan is the new Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard and the armed forces' first female service chief. "The trailblazing career of Admiral Fagan shows young people entering the services, we mean what we say: There are no doors — no doors — closed to women," President Biden told around 2,000 cheering guests at Coast Guard headquarters. Those attending included service chiefs from other military branches and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Associated Press by Will Weissert



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

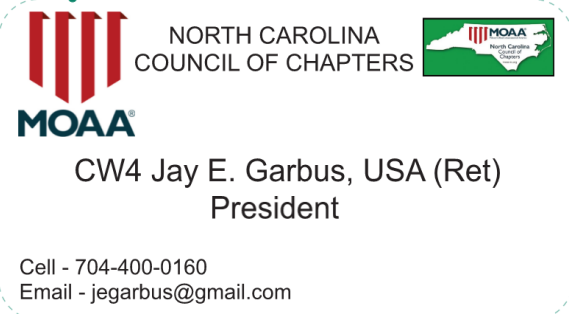
1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

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



The MOAA Store Is Now Open!
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 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.

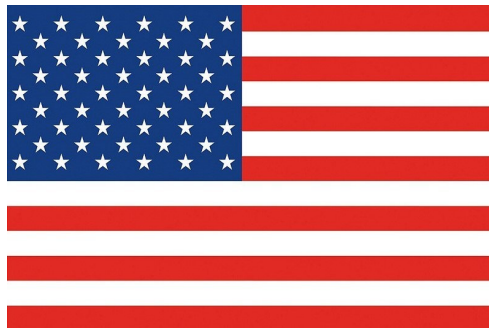
Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

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.

THE 4TH OF JULY IS COMING



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).

NCCOC Zoom Meeting
02 June 2022
Agenda - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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

ROLL CALL (if needed) Sue Harris (SOM) Quorum **Yes** 16 present (9 = quorum)

A. DATE AND LOCATION OF 2022 MEETINGS

- a. Zoom meeting, July 7th
- b. In Person 3rd Quarterly, Raleigh, August 12th - 13th & Mid-Atlantic Leadership Workshop
- c. Zoom meeting, September 15th
- d. In Person * 4th Quarterly, November 4th & 5th Hawthorne Inn, Winston-Salem

B. 1st Vice President REPORT - CDR Ken Klassen, USN, (Ret) *slides*

Thank you to chapters reporting new members (Tarheel and Central)

Be sure you are within 5% on the CM because of problems with it being exactly current

Hold events/activities during the summer for recruiting and retention

Look at the Council website including the 3 minute YouTube video of LTG Dana Atkins (under the News and Events tab). Chapters can use this video

CAPT Doug Ehrhardt added that National MOAA has Council and Chapter information but it is up to each chapter to update

Links to MOAA, legislature new, etc are on the Council website

CDR Ken Klassen asked about adding tabs for legislative, surviving spouse and membership on the website

C. 2nd Vice President REPORT - LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)

Motivate your members to call legislators about PACT vote and leave a message

We had 100% touch with our legislators

Richard Star Act still needs 5 supporters plus Senators Burr and Tillis

We had 100% support for the pay raise

Mental Health issue: major need in rural areas of NC and for tele-health services

Shout out to Tricia Vincent at Western Chapter for educating legislators who had believed that Veterans are not hireable. Request a copy of her email to use.

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 7th with COL Dan Merry, MOAA National Government Relations as speaker, with a catered dinner.

E. Council 2023 Convention/Bi-annual Meeting

Committee consisting of CW4 Jay Garbus, CDR Ken Klassen, Dr. Vivianne Wersel, and COL Vern Pike will explore ideas for a 3-4 day cruise with Jim Jackson who planned previous Convention Cruises and the Cashiers Convention

Suggestion to invite the new National MOAA President to attend

F. Open Floor

Jay reminded Chapter presidents to forward the Council newsletter to ALL members

COL Jeri Graham is getting the speaker for the August meeting

Capt Donna Culp said that her husband John is still in Ukraine, training Ukrainian Police Bomb Squad and will be there another month on his 3 Month Visa.

LCDR Steve Tucker reported that New River Chapter raised \$600 for the ?Fisher Houses at their Memorial Day Music Fest and Quilt Show.

Jay met with 2 Chapters, Catawba Valley and Western in May

COL Jeri Graham is spotlighted in the June issue of the Military Officers magazine Never Stop Serving section

COL Jim Brumit reports that there is no new information on satellites

G. Adjournment at 1040 hours

* Hybrid

MOAA GUIDANCE ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Partisan Political Activities. As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office. A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities. Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a “Vote for Biden” or “Vote for Trump” on the organization’s website, or “Support Republican Candidates” or “Vote Democratic.”

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a “facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

Consequences for Violations. The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

Personal Opinions. As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA’s affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

Continued on next page

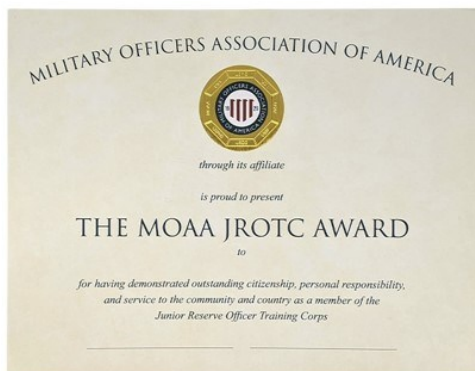
Leadership Responsibilities. Those in leadership positions have a special responsibility to separate their personal political opinions from statements that are or can be attributed to MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is improper for a chapter leader to use the chapter’s newsletter to advance the leader’s personal political beliefs. This goes beyond statements expressly advocating for a specific candidate or party by name. Statements that incorporate campaign messaging, campaign slogans, and political positions identified with a particular candidate or party are also prohibited. No MOAA leader is authorized to use MOAA’s or an affiliate’s resources to communicate their personal political beliefs. This is an outright violation of the leader’s fiduciary duty to the organization and a serious leadership and ethical failure.

Divisive Social Issues. We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today’s leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself. MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them. Officers today have grown up in a military culture that is very different than the past. Many are accepting of attitudes and views that were not mainstream when many of us were in uniform. If MOAA is going to connect with the newest generation of uniformed officers, it needs to be clear that those with strong views on racial and social justice imperatives are just as welcome as those who adhere to more traditional expressions of patriotism and officership.

Rev. 8-13-2020

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



Col. Jeri Graham, USA (Ret), left, and fellow MOAA members Lt. Gen. Gwendolyn M. Bingham, USA (Ret), center, and Lt. Col. Carol A. Barkalow, USA (Ret), right, were inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Col. Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)

Army Nurse Honored for Her Service



Member served as chief nurse at Walter Reed.

Though Col. Jeri Graham, USA (Ret), was 35 years old when she joined the Army, she said her path to military service perhaps began when she was born. Her father served in the Army in World War II. He was injured and received a Purple Heart.

“I always knew he was saved by the Army medics and doctors,” said Graham. “So somewhere, it was in my heart that I had some payback because had he not been saved, I would not have been born.”

Graham went on to serve 24 years in the Army Nurse Corps, and they were filled with accomplishments and honors.

Most recently, she was among 13 women servicemembers — including two fellow MOAA members — inducted into the Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame during a ceremony March 22 at Fort Belvoir, Va. Women who have served in the

Army or the armed forces and contributed extraordinary service are eligible for induction into the hall of fame, which was created in 2009.

Graham, a MOAA board member, was board certified as a nurse-midwife and had a variety of civilian clinical and academic experiences before she was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps in 1978.

Her first assignment was at Fort Campbell, Ky., as chief of nurse midwifery. While in that role, she decided she needed to find a way to better relate to the young soldiers she was helping to prepare to become fathers.

“I needed to change my understanding that these young soldiers who during the day are trained to be soldiers could just flip their hats around and be loving fathers,” she said. “I thought it might be good to wrap my arms around being in the Army.”

Graham decided to attend Air Assault School, and she became the first female Army nurse to graduate from it.

“It was a tough course, but I was determined to graduate,” she said. “I ended up being one

of only a few who could deliver a baby in a tree,” she joked.

Getting her wings, Graham said, “worked like a charm” for dealing with soon-to-be fathers at Fort Campbell.

“It made such a difference to be able to understand their lives and be empathetic to what they do and how to transfer that to supporting their spouses,” she said.

During her career as an Army nurse, Graham earned the Air Assault Badge and the Expert Field Medical Badge and had assignments in Germany, at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Colorado, as chief nurse at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and as hospital commander at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

While serving at Walter Reed, Graham was diagnosed with cancer, but she never stopped working. She learned from that experience the value of humor in therapy.

“It’s what got us, every one of us, through,” she said.

NEVER STOP SERVING.
Your monthly roundup of MOAA news.

INAUGURAL NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY HALL OF FIRSTS INDUCTION CEREMONY

June 4, 2022

By Sue Harris

Eight outstanding Veterans with North Carolina ties (either born here or have lived here more than five years) were the first inductees into the Military Hall of Firsts in the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. The stage was set, the speakers seated, the band was ready and the honorees or a family member were seated when emcee Bill Young (CBS17 news anchor) opened the ceremony. Museum Director Ken Howard welcomed all, Governor Roy Cooper joined by video, then Secretary D. Reid Wilson (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) and Lt Gen Walter Gaskin (Department of Military and Veterans Affairs) gave remarks. Rear Admiral Laura M. Dickey (US Coast Guard) was the excellent Keynote Speaker.



Each inductee (or a family member) was presented a medal and certificate as their military highlights were shown on the screen and read aloud. Five were honored posthumously. Three Veterans who received the honor in person were CAPT Bennis Blue (Ret) of Harnett County, the first female officer in the 82nd Airborne Division; Gen. Norman Gaddis (Ret) US Air Force pilot; and CAPT Theodore “Ted” Triebel (Ret) Naval Academy graduate and former NROTC Commanding Officer at Duke University and University of North Carolina.

We attended to share the occasion with General Norman Gaddis, a former member and officer of Durham-Orange Chapter and current National MOAA member. He was in very good spirits and seemed to be enjoying the attention he received as the only 98 year old Veteran there! Both he and CAPT Triebel had been POWs in Viet Nam, Gaddis for nearly six years.

Following the Ceremony, the Service Songs were played and all in attendance were welcomed to stand when their service song was played. It was very moving to see so many stand and some sang softly as they stood at attention. We went to the third floor of the museum where the ribbon cutting was conducted for the new “Answering the Call” military wing. Then we toured the exhibit. Include it when you are in Raleigh.



FIRST FLIGHT MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

The Elizabeth City Satellite group made all the JROTC awards this year. A special thanks to LCDR Megan Peters for providing the guidance and to all the Coast Guard Officers that made the presentations to the high school cadets.



Pictured are LTjg Brandon Horacek, Cadet, Alexis McCoy, MCPO Dupree, USCG (ret) during the Camden High School ceremony 13 May, 2022.

Once again thanks to our satellite group for all their hard work.

UNCC AFROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY - 15 May

The Charlotte Metrolina Chapter provided Gold Bars and Individual Certificates to 18 AFROTC graduates of UNC-C on 15 May 2022. The event was unique because there were 17 new USAF and one USSF 2nd Lts awarded a commission. 2nd Lt Alyssa Alameda, USSF, is pictured below being administered the Oath of Office by Maj Dustin Puett, Operations Officer, AFROTC Det 592. Lt Alameda will be assigned to Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA. Also pictured below is the entire graduating class of newly-minted 2nd Lts.

Col (Ret) Chuck Martin and LTC Ed Grant, both Chapter Board members attended MOAA membership applications were also provided!





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



- 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.



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).



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.



Surviving Spouse Corner: 4 Resources for Older Adults

These sometimes-overlooked tools and resources can provide needed support and expertise.

By [Renee Brunelle](#), MHS, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

The community of military spouses, encompassing all past and present, is a resilient group of individuals. The ability to change plans in a moment's notice is a skill acquired over years of experience. The other amazing characteristic of military spouses is that we support each other and share tools, benefits, and resources no matter how long we have known each other.

Here are four such items to consider:

[VA Aid and Attendance](#): Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. Financial and physical considerations need to be investigated. Local veteran services organizations are a great place to get neutral information and support.

Geriatric Care Managers: Hiring these professionals can be an unmatched option of support for seniors who do not have family members close. They are social workers for hire that can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney: Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that "what you don't know will hurt you." A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise. Learn more through the [National Elder Law Foundation](#).

Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES): This designation for Realtors means they have done advanced education for working with homebuyers over age 50. Often, they have a network of additional businesses and services that will assist in making the real estate transaction as smooth as possible. Learn more through the [SRES Council](#). 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

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.



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/rsi

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/>

Congratulations North Carolina

2022 Community Outreach Grant Recipients

The MOAA Foundation has selected 30 MOAA chapters to receive funds from its Community Outreach Grant Program.

The MOAA Foundation is awarding \$86,058 in grants to 30 MOAA affiliates through its Community Outreach Grant program.

This is the foundation's sixth grant cycle. To date, it has awarded nearly 150 grants totaling more than \$450,000.

This year's grant recipients are

- New River (N.C.) Chapter
- Southeastern NC Chapter

To be eligible to receive a grant, MOAA councils or chapters must meet basic administration requirements and be actively involved in the delivery of community services supporting currently serving, veterans, and their families in one of 10 areas of critical family need: housing, food assistance, employment, health (including behavioral health), family support, community reintegration, financial assistance, legal assistance, transportation, and emergency relief efforts.

To make a donation and to learn more about the program and The MOAA Foundation, visit www.moaa.org/foundation.



Friday, October 7, 2022

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



THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM FOR MOAA AND

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____
(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? Yes No Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you. **BASIC**

And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. **Visit moaa.org/join to learn more.**

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

- **Fill in this form** on your computer, save it, and email it to _____ [add chapter email address/contact information] _____ as an attachment. Do not include credit card information. We will contact you to finalize payment if required; or
- **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to _____ [add chapter payment info] _____; or
- Go to _____ [insert chapter webpage]

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.

Chapter membership and dues information:
