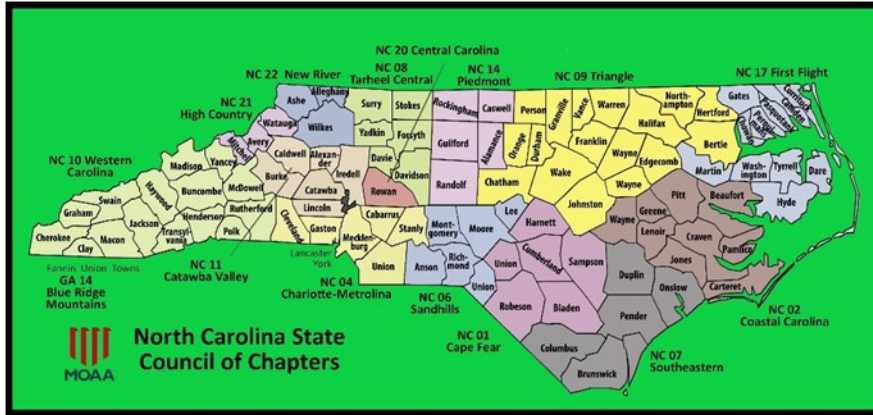


NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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 X

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)
- 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 (Ret)
- Chaplain—CAPT (Chaplain) Thomas Atkins, USN, (Ret)
- 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**

October 20th—10:00 Board Meeting on Zoom

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

This will be In Person and on Zoom.

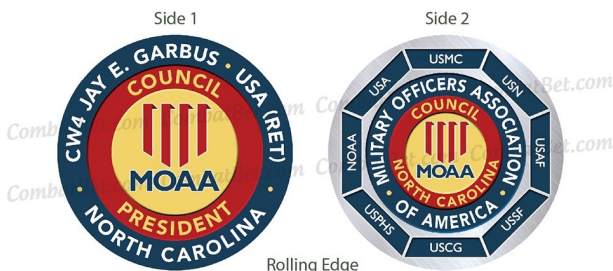
We will have a guest speaker Friday and Saturday



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



The new president of NC14 - Piedmont is LTC Lee F Richmond, USAF (Ret) who is also their Past President. Immediate Past President Maj. Aimee Corning, is still working hard doing the membership recruiting.



Rolling Edge

I now have a NCCoC President coin that will be awarded for outstanding work for the Council, Chapters or support of the military and their families.

PRESIDENT JAY E. GARBUS

PRESIDENT JAY E. GARBUS

Minutes of the 15 September 2022 NCCOC Board Meeting

The Monthly Board Meeting of the North Carolina Council of Chapters was held via Zoom. CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret) called the meeting to order at 1000 hours. Attendance was taken visually.

Quorum was present

A. Upcoming meetings

- November 4th & 5th In Person/Hybrid at the Hawthorne Inn, Winston-Salem.
- CAPT David Lee announced that the room rate of \$90 per night has not been firmed up.
- He will prepare and send out a flyer soon.
- Friday dinner was discussed, and David will check venues.

B. Membership

- CDA Ken Klassen reported that his charts are on the state website in the Backroom.
- There is a net loss of 59 members statewide, but that is partially because some chapters have cleaned their rolls.
- National MOAA does not show gains and losses immediately.
- Support for NC 14 is needed and they have a new president, LTC Lee Richmond, USAF (Ret)
- National MOAA uses the Committee Module for membership and does not recognize honorary members separately.
- Vivianne has different information on Surviving Spouses than National has.

C. Cruise

- This will be our Annual Meeting/4th Quarterly Meeting in November 2023 on the Carnival Sunshine.
- We need to promote the social aspect of this.
- Ken Klassen is the point of contact.
- Jim Jackson has brochures out for this but the key is word of mouth and our enthusiasm
- Speaker will be RMDL Ron Henderson, who will present WW II in the Pacific.
- Jay will be on the Carnival Sunshine in December and will speak to crew about meeting rooms and times.

D. Open Floor

- Discussion on cost of meals at the Hawthorne Inn and options. David Lee will look into restaurants that we can go to that will be less expensive than catering to the hotel
- LCDR Mark Sandvigen reported that there is some opposition in Congress about the Major Richard Star Act. They don't understand the benefit it would have to them.

E. Meeting adjourned at 1057.

JROTC Scholarship Fund **BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**



SPONSORED BY



All tournament proceeds go to support higher education scholarships for outstanding JROTC cadets in Charlotte-Metrolina area high schools.

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN - JOE L. ANDERSON

Friday, October 7, 2022
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation - Mint Hill, NC

7:30a - 8:45a Registration, Continental Breakfast, Driving Range Balls, Practice Putting Green
9:00a Tee Off Captain's Choice / Scramble Format & Tournament Play (until 2p)
2:00p - 3:30p Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Awards, Door Prizes & Raffle Winners

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR PRICING, SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND REGISTRATION FORM)

**PRIZES AWARDED to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams,
Closest to the Pins, Longest Drive & more!**

The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. The JROTC Scholarship Fund falls under that tax-exempt status and all donations are tax-free. Chapter Tax ID/EIN #38-3779812

JROTC Scholarship Fund Benefit Golf Tournament - Oct 7, 2022

LEVELS & REGISTRATION

PRICE INCLUDES: Green fees, Cart, 2 Beverage Tickets on Course, Raffle Ticket, Continental Breakfast, Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes & Gifts.

PARTICIPATION

Individual Golfer \$125 4 Person Team \$500

SPONSORSHIPS

HOLE/TEE SPONSORSHIP

Individual \$100 Company Signage \$250 4 Person Team + Signage \$600

PRIME COMPANY SPONSORSHIP

ALL LEVELS INCLUDE: Acknowledgement at Tournament Dinner, and company name and/or logo on printed material, and press releases. A representative of each Prime Sponsor will be invited to and be recognized at the JROTC scholarship awards dinner/ceremony in May 2023.

Signature Sponsor \$5,000

- (3) Foursomes
- Signature Sponsor Banner
- Opportunity to speak at CMC MOAA 50th Anniversary Celebration 2023
- Opportunity to speak at Awards Dinner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer
- On MOAA website for 12 months

Platinum Sponsor \$3,000

- (2) Foursomes
- Title Sponsor Banner
- Opportunity to speak at Awards Dinner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer
- On MOAA website for 12 months

Gold Sponsor \$2,000

- (2) Foursomes
- Title Sponsor Banner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer

Silver Sponsor \$1,000

- (1) Foursome
- Title Sponsor Banner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer

Registration Form - JROTC Scholarship Fund BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022

Please Check One or Several: (Mulligan packages available at Registration)

PARTICIPATION: Individual Player \$125 4 Person Team \$500

SPONSORSHIPS: Individual \$100 Company Hole/Tee \$250 4 Person Team Hole/Tee \$600
 Prime Company Sponsorship (Level _____)

Team Captain/Player 1. _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player 2. _____ Player 3. _____

Player 4. _____

Payment and Registration Due by October 1, 2022

ONLINE: Go to Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA website www.charlottemoaa.org to register and make payment
BY CHECK: Detach this form and make check payable to "MOAA Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter"
Mail to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA, ATTN: MOAA Scholarship Golf Tournament
PO Box 31394, Charlotte, NC 28231-1394

November 11-16, 2023



5 nights Aboard Carnival's "Sunshine of the Seas"
Departing from Charleston, SC
Destination- Nassau, Half Moon Cay (Little
Salvador Island), Bahamas
Open to all MOAA Members, Family and Friends

Prices:
\$1245 Interior Cabin
\$1370 Ocean View Cabin
\$1680 Balcony Cabin

Prices are per couple including all taxes, fees, port charges, gratuities and food in Main Dining Room and the Lido Deck – No Surprises! Accessible Cabins at no additional charge. Single rates, Suite rates and rates for up to 5 in a cabin available - Contact POC below. Covered secure parking available at Port \$15 per day.

As an added educational program feature, RDML Ron Henderson, USN(Ret) is scheduled to present daily lectures with graphics on the Pacific Battles during WWII. The lectures will be open to all members and guests at no additional cost.

Registration Form

Full Names (as on passports)

_____ DOB _____

_____ DOB _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Cabin Preference (circle) Interior Ocean View Balcony Other _____

Please email POC Jim Jackson: jimjackson2224@gmail.com for rates on Singles, Suites, 3-5 persons sharing a room, travel insurance or any other questions or issues. Travel insurance is highly recommended for international trips. Coverage includes cancellation for medical reasons, medical and dental issues emergencies, medical evacuation. Most U.S. issued insurance is not recognized in foreign destinations. Contact POC Jim Jackson for a quote. **To confirm your reservation please send a \$50 deposit per person and the registration form by January 13, 2023 (or ASAP FOR CHOICE CABIN LOCATION or an ACCESSIBLE CABIN) to the address below. A second deposit of \$100 per person is required by July 14, 2023. Final payment is due by August 28, 2023.**

Ken Hillman Treasurer NCCOC
4425 Arendell St. Unit 509
Morehead City, NC 28557

MAJ. RICHARD STAR LAID TO REST



Maj. Richard Star, USAR, a champion for the expansion of benefits for combat injured retirees, was laid to rest with full military honors Sept. 13 at Arlington National Cemetery.

On a beautiful breezy summer morning, family members, friends, and advocates for his cause paid their final respects to Star before his remains were inurned. Star died in 2021 after a [three-year battle with lung cancer](#) linked to exposure to burn pits during his deployments to the Middle East.

Since his cancer diagnosis in 2018 and subsequent medical retirement, Star fought valiantly for the more than 50,000 veterans that aren't eligible to collect both DoD retirement pay and VA disability benefits. Under concurrent receipt, only medically retired veterans with 20 years of service and a VA disability rating of 50% or greater receive both benefits in full. "Rich died and he would die again and again and again for this country," said college friend Sean Bourke, who was attending a movie with Star just before his cancer diagnosis. "He loved this country beyond a doubt. He's ... doing this for all the other guys so they don't have to go through what he went through."

Honor Your Military Hero (militaryonesource.com)

Survivors: Department of Defense has a new site to honor Military members who died while serving honorably on active duty since 1985. Servicemember's death could be either during war time or peacetime. If you would like an opportunity to include your military loved one in the Department of Defense Honor Your Military online legacy site, please visit this website:

<https://tribute.militaryonesource.mil/>

VA BURIALS & MEMORIALS

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. <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.

National Defense Service Medal won't be awarded after December 2022



By [Meghann Myers](#) and [Davis Winkie](#)

Following the [U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan](#) and the formal end of [combat operations in Iraq](#), the Defense Department is preparing to truly transition the military out of a wartime posture. Which is to say, the National Defense Service Medal is going back into retirement on Dec. 31.

The award — affectionately known as the “pizza stain,” which all troops serving since 9/11 have been able to pin on their uniforms after initial training — won’t be awarded for the foreseeable future.

“Termination is based on the United States no longer conducting large-scale combat operations in designated geographic locations as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred September 11, 2001,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin wrote in a memo signed Aug. 30.

Thus brings to a close the fourth conflict for which troops could earn the National Defense Service Medal. It previously was activated for five years during the first Gulf War, 13 years for Vietnam and four years for the Korean War.

The announcement comes a month after the department scaled back eligibility for the [Global War on Terrorism Service Medal](#), which will be limited to deployments to Syria going forward.

Similarly, the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal — awarded for the defeat-ISIS mission — has been restricted to Syria, its airspace and 12 nautical miles out to sea.

Troops deploying to Iraq for train-advise-assist missions will instead receive the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

It’s not that the U.S. is no longer involved in counterterrorism or any potential combat operations, according to the Pentagon, but that those operations are on such a small scale they don’t rate the medal.

Still, troops continue to deploy throughout the world, including to ostensible war zones.

What the end of National Defense Service Medal essentially means is that while troops will earn awards for deploying abroad in support of myriad missions, they won’t get a wartime award just for completing training.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) is observed in October in the United States. Started by the national Cyber Security Division within the Department of Homeland Security and the nonprofit national Cyber Security Alliance, the month raises awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.



In 2004, the Department of Homeland Security and the national Cyber Security Alliance launched the National Cyber Security Awareness Month as a broad effort to help Americans stay safe and secure online. Initial efforts included advice like keeping antivirus programs up to date. Since 2009, the month has included an overall theme, “Our Shared Responsibility” and weekly themes throughout the month were introduced in 2011.

Computer

Source: Wikipedia

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

- ⇒ **Sept. 29:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Levels of Excellence Award changes. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Oct. 6:** Monthly NCCOC Board Meeting on Zoom, 10 am.
- ⇒ **OCT: 27TH - 28TH MOAA ANNUAL Meeting Kanas City Missouri**
- ⇒ **Oct. 27:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Transition Services. Join [here](#) at the time of the meeting.
- ⇒ **Nov. 4 - 5: Annual Meeting, Hawthorne Inn, Winston Salem - Evening of Friday, November 4th**
Dr. Rob Tempel, MG USA (Ret) - Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices ECU School of Dental Medicine
Dr. Bob Manga, COL USA (Ret) - Director, ECU Community Service Learning Center - Sylva,
David McCracken, COL USA (Ret) - 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.
- ⇒ **November 11-16, 2023:** MOAA Cruise/Convention on Carnival Sunshine from Charleston

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/>

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

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—LTC Lee F Richmond, USAF (Ret)
- (NC17) - First in Flight— LCDR Al DelGarbino, 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. Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret)
6. 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

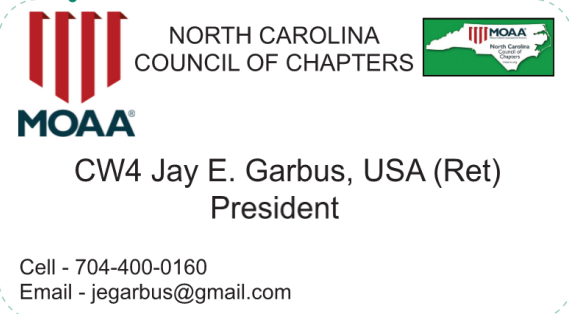
1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

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. Col Ken Hillman, USMC (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
5. Jeri Graham, Past Council and Chapter President



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



NCServes in collaboration with NCCARE360

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

Learn What Your Fellow Veterans Know

Mental Health Issues affect Veterans 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 and 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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS

[The MOAA Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), offers grants to MOAA's councils and its chapters in support of community outreach programs and services. The application period runs from Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 each year. Fill out [a grant application](#). This seems far away, but it's not too early to prepare.

Watch [a webinar on the application process](#).

Download [the grant criteria](#) (MS Word file).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPONSORSHIP

Apply for up to \$300 per chapter or \$800 per council to support community service programs and recruiting/branding events. Get details [at this link](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

North Carolina Council of Chapters
Cape Fear Chapter
Catawba Valley Chapter
Coastal Carolina Chapter
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

High Country Chapter
Southeastern North Carolina Chapter
Tarheel Chapter
Triangle Chapter
Western North Carolina Chapter



FLAG SALUTE GUIDELINES FOR VETERANS

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).



VIRGINIA COUNCIL NEWS

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Edith Smith (pictured here in blue) was instrumental in the change in State Benefits for Military Surviving Spouses. Edith Smith, MOAA Surviving Spouse Member, and a handful of military survivors advocated to the elected officials to allow for survivors of service members 100% disabled to receive exemption for property tax. A bill to provide each of 135 government localities the ability to pass an ordinance for the tax exemption by their own standards was presented. This year there will be a constitutional amendment introduced to provide an active duty/line of duty surviving spouse to provide an equal tax exemption statewide across all localities as none seem to be doing it this year.

Results of recent legislative efforts: Passed! The MOAA Council of Chapters Virginia met yesterday and adopted this as a legislative goal to obtain a Constitutional Amendment. It will need to be passed two years in a row with an election between.

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





November 15: Stephen DeMari, representative from Caption Call provides an overview of Caption Call telephone. These phones are free of charge. This session will provide an opportunity to obtain a Caption Call Phone for those who struggle understanding speech on the phone. Visit [Caption Call](#) website!

- The mobile app, Sen\$e, from the Office of Financial Readiness: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/health-wellness/recommended-wellness-apps/>

Webinar:

- Online Survivor Benefits Report webinar through Military OneSource: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/training-resources/webinars/online-survivor-benefits-report-osbr/>

Gold Star and Surviving Family Member Representatives

U.S. Army

Office: Installation Management Command G-9, Survivor Outreach Services

Phone number: 210-834-0494

Email: usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.sos-survivor-advocate@mail.mil

U.S. Marine Corps

Office: Long Term Assistance Program Office

Phone number: 866-210-3421, ext. 2

Email: Gold.Star.Advocate@usmc.mil

U.S. Navy

Office: Long Term Assistance Program Office

Phone number: 901-874-0083

Email: MILL_LTAP@navy.mil

U.S. Air Force

Office: USAF/A1SAA, Airman and Family Care Division

Phone number: 703-693-0683

Email: usaf.pentagon.af-a1.mbx.af-a1saa@mail.mil

U.S. Coast Guard

Office: Coast Guard Casualty Matters Office Phone number: 202-795-6637

If you are not satisfied with the casualty assistance provided by your service advocate, you may contact the DoD's Gold Star Advocate:

Department of Defense

Office: Casualty and Mortuary Affairs and Military Funeral Honors

Phone number: 571-372-5319

Email: osd.pentagon.rsrcgmt.list.ousd-p-r-gold-star-advocate-mbx@mail.mil



Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides guaranteed acceptance whole life coverage of up to \$40,000 to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Lesser amounts are available in increments of \$10,000. Under this plan, the elected coverage takes effect two years after enrollment as long as premiums are paid during the two-year period.

Important Dates for VALife and S-DVI

The VALife program includes key dates and features that are important to know. They include changes that impact the Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) program.

Eligibility

All Veterans age 80 and under, who have a VA disability rating of 0 to 100 percent are eligible for the VALife program and have no time limit to apply. Veterans who are 81 or older and have applied for VA Disability Compensation before age 81 but did not receive the rating for a new service-connected condition until after turning 81 are also eligible if they apply within two years of their rating.

Type of Coverage

The VALife program offers whole life guaranteed acceptance coverage. Under this type of coverage, the face amount of coverage takes effect two years after the date of enrollment as long as premiums are paid during the two-year period. This two-year waiting period replaces the need for medical underwriting. If the insured dies within this two year period, the beneficiary will receive all premiums paid plus interest.

Cost

The premium rate (the amount you will pay each month or annually for your coverage) depends on your age and the amount of coverage you elect. The premiums for VALife are fixed and based on your age when you enroll. Click here to [FIND OUT MORE ON PREMIUM COSTS](#).

How to Apply?

VALife will take effect January 1, 2023. The application will become available on our website at that time. In the meantime, you can [SIGN UP FOR FUTURE EMAIL UPDATES ABOUT VALIFE](#) to stay informed.



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.

The Major Richard Star Act has reached a milestone goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House – the threshold for it to be placed on the chamber’s consensus calendar. This significant accomplishment, along with ongoing efforts in the Senate, show clear progress in MOAA’s focused efforts and teamwork with fellow service organizations through The Military Coalition, to expand concurrent receipt to more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA benefits they receive.

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.

Col Steve Strobridge Award for Advocacy:

Council: Col Michael Kelly, USAF (Ret), Kansas State Legislative Liaison, Kansas Council of Chapters
Chapter: Dr. Ron Sarg (posthumously), formerly Legislative Chair, Dover (Del.) Chapter

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.



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/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/>

