



# The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 3, MAR 2, 2025

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This Newsletter and others may be found at our website: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/about/> under Social Media. Please sign into and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

**For the full experience go to our website and enjoy the pictures, too! Click on this link: <https://tarheelmoaa.org/about/> then click on the current edition.**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Our February meeting was one for the records. A great attendance, despite the weather. A relaxing cocktail social was followed by a tasty meal. The "My Story" by Frank Johnson and the Guest Speaker, a top Gun Pilot, capped off a wonderful, educational evening. Please join us Tuesday March 11th, you will not be disappointed. I am pleased to announce that Jackie Kohler has volunteered as the Chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison. A surviving spouse and attendee of the MOAA Surviving Spouse instruction, she is the perfect addition to the Tarheel Central Chapter team of volunteers. Stay tuned for an increased focus on legislative affairs from Barry Moore in both the Newsletter and through Constant Contact. Check out Tom Miller's list of upcoming MOAA WEBINARS and Warren Boyer's upcoming social events which highlight plenty of venues to get together with friends. Your chapter volunteers are working hard for you so take advantage of their efforts.



- Take Care and Beware, Phil Briscoe

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**Editorial Policy:** The Tarheel Central Chapter is affiliated with The North Carolina Council of Chapters <https://www.moaa-nc.org/> and with MOAA national organization - <http://www.moaa.org>. As such, The Tarheel Central Chapter is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Tarheel Central Chapter Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's guidelines. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards. The Tarheel Central Chapter (NC08) is a 501(c) 19 organization. Membership includes active, retired, veteran, and reserve officers (Warrant - Flag Officer) of the Armed Forces, NOAA, US Public Health Services, and the surviving spouses of deceased eligible officers of all 8 uniformed services. MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 Phone: (800) 234-6622. "Never stop serving!" Use the Advocacy in Action section at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>.



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## TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER:



**The Tarheel Central Chapter Challenge Coin**  
Available for purchase at the monthly dinner meeting for \$15.00. On the front the chapter name runs above the US Flag and the MOAA moto rings the bottom. The NC state symbol is representative of the state flag in color and has a single white star located in Tarheel Central Chapter catchment area – Surry; Stokes; Yadkin; Forsyth; Davie; and Davidson counties. On the Back of the coin is the official MOAA logo. Can't make the dinner meeting and wish to purchase?

Address purchase inquires to [info@tarheelmoaa.org](mailto:info@tarheelmoaa.org).

**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.

5-Star Newsletter Publisher and Editor – Greg Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) and Vina Chase; Editor may be reached at (336) 946-2446 or [gvchase@outlook.com](mailto:gvchase@outlook.com) The Newsletter is published for members and friends of The Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA.

5-Star Chapter Website & Social Media Manager - Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet); The address is: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/> Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by using the "Contact Us" link or contacting the editor. If we have your email, you will receive this newsletter 9 times per year.

## CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS

### **Elected Officers:**

- **President** - Phil Briscoe, CAPT, USN (Ret)
- **First Vice President** – Tom Miller, Capt. USAF (Vet)
- **Second Vice President**– Barry N. Moore, MAJ, USMC (Ret) (Legislative Affairs)
- **Secretary** – Mary Laverdure, Capt., USAF (Vet)
- **Treasurer** – Mike Chapman, CW4, ANG (Ret)
- **Immediate Past-President** - Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) (Nominations Committee) (Newsletter Editor)

### **Directors:**

1. Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret) (Membership Committee)
2. I.B. Southerland III, Maj USAF (Ret) (Scholarship/R-JROTC Program Committee)
3. Jason Ford, LT USN (Ret) (Programs Committee)
4. Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USNR (Vet) (Website/Social Media)
5. Mark Ferketish, Col USMC (Ret)
6. Dennis Ammons, 1Lt, USA (Vet) (Personal Affairs)

**Chapter Assistants:**

- **Chaplain** – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
- **R-JROTC Programs** – Al Chandler, LTC (Ret)
- **Public Relations** – Al Nealeans, COL USA (Ret)
- **Social Secretary** – Warren Boyer, 1 Lt, USMCR (Vet)
- **Calling Chain** – Jerry Johnson, Col, USMCR (Ret)
- **Surviving Spouse Liaison** – Jackie Kohler

**Note: Contact Info is available under the Directory Tab in the Tarheel Central Chapter Website:**

<https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/directory/>

**TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER DUES:** Dues were approved for \$45 per year. Invoices have gone out. Please call Mike Chapman on (919) 601-3800 if you have any questions.



**From Tom Miller our 1st VP: MOAA -- REAL & VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **Dare to Dream: Live the Life you Love March 4, 2025 1200 to 1300**
- **MOAA Virtual Leadership Workshop March 5, 2025 1030 to 1700**
- **Every Life Needs a Battle Plan! Preparing Yourself and Your Family for Survivorship March 12, 2025 1400 to 1500**
- **Why Veterans should consider Franchise Ownership March 26, 2025 1300 to 1500**

**All available on MOAA.org**

- MOAA National Conference 28-29 October 2025 at the Gaylord National Resort National Harbor Maryland
- 2025 MOAA Charities Golf Tournament Potomac MD, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 0730-1539
- Archive of past MOAA Webinar training, various subjects, available at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/> .
- For more info go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/moaa-events/> and register!
- NC Council of Chapters MOAA Convention at Sea cruise from Norfolk to Bermuda, Oct 12, 2025, information at <https://www.moaa-nc.org/journal/index.php?id=1723050859>



**Jason Ford, Programs Committee & Krista - NEXT CHAPTER MEETING and Scheduled speakers:**

1. MAR 11: Speaker - Beth Hinesley, RN Community Relations Coordinator, Honor Bridge For Life; Ann Zuhr will present Vietnam Veterans pins to those who served and have not received one yet.
2. APR 08: Barry Moore will speak about his involvement in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.
3. MAY 13: Wes Whitacker, ROTC and ROTC Awards, Presentation of JROTC Scholarships.
4. SEP: Possibly Erin Dearth of Letters From Home – to sing with her husband.

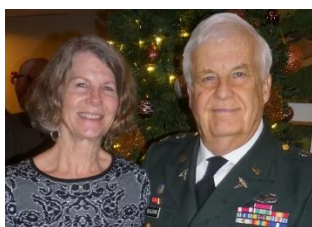
**DINNER MEETING – **Check out the NEW Meeting Times – intended to get us home early!****

- 5PM -- Cocktail/Social begins
- 6PM -- To our seats for the Pledge, etc.
- 6:15PM -- Club Staff will direct us to the Buffet Line
- About 7PM -- The after-dinner programs start
- About 8:15PM -- We adjourn

**Next Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Cocktail hour starts at 5 PM, dinner buffet starts at 6:15**, SALEM GLEN COUNTRY CLUB, 1000 GLEN DAY DR., CLEMMONS, N.C. \$25.00 a person. The dress is business casual. **See the reservation form at the end for important details!** Reservations may be made by calling Jerry Johnson at (541) 280-5950 or [gaucho.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:gaucho.johnson@gmail.com).



← Sign up to attend meetings with Jerry Johnson, aka The Roster Master, and Mike Chapman, Treasurer. Their contact info is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end. Thanks to all who donated to Marine Toys for Tots.



**Public Relations:** Al Nealeans (pictured with Karen at left) is our new and enthusiastic promoter of chapter public relations who gets the word out to the Winston Salem Journal, Clemmons Courier and WXII News. So, if you know any additional avenues for publicity, please contact him at: Alan Nealeans, 336-403-5254 or [alan.nealeans@yahoo.com](mailto:alan.nealeans@yahoo.com)



**Mary Laverdure, Secretary**

"In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws Amendments - "Each elected officer shall have a designated assistant to assure a smooth continuation of Chapter functions in the event of an unforeseen absence or resignation."

Please contact me if you are interested.

**Mark Ferketish – Board Director** Fellow TCC Members, your fellow chapter members recently participated in a very moving event which I will share it with you.

**NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY** is a program of volunteers and organizations who sponsor wreath purchases and place these wreaths annually on the graves of deceased Veterans. National Wreaths Across America Day involves over 4,900 locations across the nation, at sea, and around the globe, laying many thousands of wreaths on this single day. I invite you to save the date, Saturday, December 13, 2025, and plan to honor our deceased Veterans by joining in and laying a gravesite wreath.



As Officers of the US Military, we are charged with taking care of our troops. Through Wreaths Across America, we can honor and care for our deceased Veterans through this noteworthy action of laying a wreath. More info to follow.

Semper Fidelis, Col G. Mark Ferketish, USMCR (Ret)



**Tom Denegre – Webmaster, see our Facebook page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

**Don't Forget ... RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE!** held at all Regular Dinner Meetings where you could win 10 times what you put into the pot. Tickets are \$1 and \$5 for six. So don't forget to bring some cash to dinner.



**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS:**

Welcome two new members: Commander Richard Hopp USN (ret) and his wife Suzanne, and Colonel Carl Carlan, USA (ret). Both new members were in attendance at the February meeting and extremely impressed with the cordial welcome and sense of camaraderie they experienced.

The Membership Committee is responsible for guiding the Chapter’s membership recruitment. However, as is true with every good organization, all members need to assist by inviting qualified (military officers) acquaintances into our Chapter. Thanks to Karl Clauss and Jerre Carter for sponsoring these two new members. Each Committee member is available to assist you when you meet a prospect. The committee members are Dennis Ammons, Pam Angle, Jerry Johnson, Alan Nealeans, Hank Rudge, Mark Stanek, Laurie Wesely, George Lawson, Joe Rogers and Ted Robinson, Chair.

The March Membership Committee meeting will be held on Monday March 10th, 2025, for lunch from 12:00 – 1:30 PM at Salem Glen CC. If you would like to know more about what we do and/or would like to attend the meeting, please call Ted Robinson, (478) 719-7596 or [tedrobinson128@gmail.com](mailto:tedrobinson128@gmail.com).

**MOAA / CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM:**

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

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. To apply for Chapter and National membership, please use the Application Form titled “THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE. Why MOAA chapter membership matters.” Use the Form at the end of this newsletter. Or go to our Chapter website at: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/about/>

**SOCIAL SECRETARY: Your Social Secretary is Warren Boyer, 336 407-2374**



May 31, Wait Chapel, WFU, 7:30 pm: SOUTHERN HARMONY! THE MARTHA BASSETT SHOW.”



**SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS:** Jackie Kohler volunteered to be our Surviving Spouse Liaison again. She is fully qualified and certified by MOAA. For our Surviving Spouses here is the link to MOAA Surviving Spouse data <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>

Also the latest Surviving Spouse information: <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>

Activities include monitoring the MOAA website for surviving spouse issues, keeping the chapter members and surviving spouses informed through the newsletter and personal announcements at the dinners, keeping our surviving spouses involved and recruiting surviving spouses." Please contact Jackie at [jackie.kohler53@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.kohler53@gmail.com) or (336) 829-8011.

**TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** I.B. Southerland, Chair - The JROTC Scholarship selection process for our 2025 selectees will begin in January 2025. Please continue to accept the DAVE HARRIS CHALLENGE to donate at least \$100 to the JROTC Scholarship Fund each year. Mission: To provide scholarships to those deserving of help in pursuit of further education, preferably leading toward a military career.



**ROTC/JROTC Programs:** Al Chandler Program Coordinator: This past year Tarheel Central Chapter presented 14 MOAA JROTC medals and certificates amongst the 22 high schools in our 6-county catchment. Ten were presented at the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Joint Services Review on 22 MAY 2024. The other 4 were presented to: N. Davidson HS-USAFA; S. Stokes HS-USMC; E. Surry HS-ARMY; and Surry Central HS-USAFA. One ROTC Award was presented 25 April 2024 at the Wake Forest SROTC Awards Ceremony which includes Salem College & Winston-Salem State Univ. cadets.

The MOAA Junior ROTC (JROTC)/ROTC awards program recognizes outstanding cadets or midshipmen in their next-to-last year in the program who have demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. If you would like to assist in this excellent way to help the chapter gain exposure in the community and, at the same time, foster a positive military recognition among the youth of the community, please contact Al.

#### **TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER OUTREACH:**

**Your Board of Directors has determined the following worthy causes are deserving of our donations. As with the Scholarship Fund, donations can be sent to the Chapter Treasurer directly or included in your check for annual dues or monthly dinners. Just note on the check which cause you are supporting. We will ensure your donations get to your designated worthy cause.**

**TRIAD HONOR FLIGHT:** To celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. It cost \$600.00 per participant. **Vision:** A nation where all of America's veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve. For more information visit: <https://www.honorflight.org/>

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** Mission: to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. **Goal:** through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. For more information visit: <https://winston-salem-nc.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=0&nPreviewInd=0&nRedirectInd=3>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MUD RUN: A CHARITY EVENT** hosted by Marine Corps League Percy John Fulton Detachment #1075 Winston-Salem, NC. **SUPPORTING** the following Charities: Semper Fi & America's Fund, Camp Lejeune, NC / The Fisher House at Camp Lejeune, NC / Toys for Tots / Young Marines Youth Program, NC / State Veterans Home, Salisbury, NC / Wreathes Across America, National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC / City Lights Ministry, Winston Salem, NC / Savings Grace K-9, Lexington, NC / The Hero's Center, High Point, NC / Irreverent Warriors. For more information visit: <https://usmcmudrunnc.com/event-information/general-information/>

## **CHAPTER PERSONAL AFFAIRS**



Please notify Dennis Ammons, Personal Affairs officer, if you hear that a member or spouse is having difficulties. Dennis A. Ammons, [dennis.a.ammons@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.a.ammons@gmail.com); 336 491-4123.

### **THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS LIST:**

1. **Peter Armstrong - Mother-in-law very ill**
2. **Carey Brown (John Brown) - Serious Illness**
3. **Barb Carter (Jere Carter) - Serious Illness**
4. **Kimberly Ray (Luther Ray) -Spouse Diagnosed with Cancer**
5. **Walter & Stephanie Emery (Previous Member-Vet Day Parades) – Both with serious health issues**

### **A LIVELY HAPPY BIRTHDAY APPLAUSE TO:**

Please notify Jerry Johnson, our roster manager, if you would like to be included on the Birthday List!



### **Birthdays for February:**

1. **Greg Bean** 3/05
2. **Joe Rogers** 3/07
3. **Jimmy Myers** 3/11
4. **Jeff Worth** 3/15
5. **R. C. Moore** 3/18
6. **Rob Allen** 3/26
7. **David Kerr** 3/26
8. **Jason Ford** 3/30
9. **Mary Laverdure** 3/30



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry N. Moore:** What is the VA doing related to “claims predators”? Great News, the companion bill to HB 118 – Veterans Appreciation Act was just filed in the state senate SB109. Sending it out now since that fits our top priority issue and now there is a bill in both the House and the Senate. This is the first bill I’ve seen for veteran issues on the veteran side in the senate. Has not yet been voted on or been sent for review by a committee. Disabled veteran property tax homestead exclusion.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/Senate/PDF/S109v0.pdf>

The following three bullet items, info consolidated by MOAA for the Councils and Chapters, should concern anyone who served active duty in war or deployments to crisis zones, around burn pits, or in stateside positions that put you into toxicity situations like Hazmat management, fire and rescue, refueling stations ashore or at sea, some training scenarios, or around proven environmental contamination sites. I've served in several of these situations and, no doubt, some of you Tarheel members have as well. It's important that vets and their families stay current on these concerns and the ongoing legislation.

1. Ending the Wait for Toxic Exposed Veterans (2 pages): [https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/EndingTheWait\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/EndingTheWait_FactSheet.pdf)
2. A Century of Military Toxic Exposures and Presumptive infographics (6 pages): [https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/ETW\\_infographics\\_ALL.pdf](https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/ETW_infographics_ALL.pdf)
3. Ending the Wait Full Report (52 pages): [https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/EndingTheWait\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/EndingTheWait_Full-Report.pdf)

Concerning Tricare Medical Records, the following gives step by step instructions on how to download records:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/heres-why-you-should-download-your-military-health-records-before-april-1/>

From Congress.Gov this current heads up: "Veterans Foreign Medical Coverage Equality and Modernization Act of 2025"

House of Representatives: To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care and medical services outside a State to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total, and for other purposes.

In other words: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish hospital care and medical services abroad (i.e., outside any state) to a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as permanent and total who is otherwise eligible for such care if the VA determines certain requirements are met. Specifically, the VA must furnish such care to an eligible veteran if it determines (1) the hospital care or medical services are consistent with the standard medical practice in the United States, and (2) any prescription medication furnished is approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

For any care provided abroad, the VA must ensure (1) reimbursements made to veterans and medical providers can be made by direct deposit; and (2) the VA's mobile applications provide for digital submission, real-time tracking of required forms, and the availability of specified documents associated with care or services, such as a benefits authorization letter.

### North Carolina Top Three Veteran Priorities for 2025

1. Updating Veteran Property Tax Exemptions:
2. Supporting Veteran In-State Housing/Care Programs:
  - a. Veteran State Homes Program Improvements:
  - b. WNC Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) Rebuild:
3. Occupational Certification Portability & Economic Opportunities for

| House Bill | Bill Title                                    | Link <a href="https://ncleg.gov">NCLEG.GOV</a>  |
|------------|---|---|
| 35         | Establish Military Appreciation Month         | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H35">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H35</a>   |
| 36         | Maintenance of State Veterans Cemeteries      | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H36">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H36</a>   |
| 39         | Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exclusion  | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H39">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H39</a>   |
| 69         | Veterans Educational Promise Act              | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H69">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H69</a>   |
| 91         | Define Armed Forces/Conforming Changes        | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H91">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H91</a>   |
| 94         | Dis Veteran Homestead Excl Prequalification   | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H94">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H94</a>   |
| 110        | National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program | <a href="https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H110">https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H110</a> |

Military/Veterans/Spouses (Subset of the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) Priorities): <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/about> our Liaison is Samantha Sliney, Southeast Regional Liaison, Southeast Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN). See also: <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/faq>

Fellow veteran groups priorities – sample - VFW: <https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf>

### Dear Fellow Tarheel Central Chapter Members:

I'm hearing more talk in the VA concerning long term effects from past exposure to jet fuel. The Tar Heel MOAA Chapter has several who served in an air wing or worked on the ground around jet fuel (including HASMAT,



refueling, and fire control assignments). This is the link for anyone that wants to look into it more: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CMR-VA1-00189958>

There is growing science behind information that connects work related jet fuel exposure to some diseases or illnesses. Unfortunately, there aren't that many other similar topic studies, but the following are four highlights from this one.

Some points to consider if you have encountered any of these post-military:

1. Mental health: Decreased attention, ability to process information, difficulty controlling behaviors and emotions, as well as effects on mood.
2. Nervous system: Effects on memory, hearing impairment, or with vision.
3. Respiratory system: Decreased lung function and increased lung damage leading to respiratory symptoms such as labored breathing or dyspnea, cough with phlegm, and stuffy and runny nose.
4. Some cancers that involve kidneys and/or bladder.

If you feel your health has been impacted from your military service, the VA encourages you to file a claim for disability compensation. As with all VA claims, each is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Thanks/Barry N. Moore

### **MOAA'S CORE MISSION**

On the MOAA national web site relating to advocacy letters to elected officials, look at this link as an example: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/advocacy/bill-could-block-military-medical-cuts/>

The Advocacy in Action link below (**TAKE ACTION**) will provide you Advocacy in Action Printable Letters of Support for the topics MOAA is actively supporting.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed servicemembers and their families. MOAA's constituents 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.**

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

- Ensuring pay at or above Employment Cost Index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay, and VA disability pay.
- Maintaining the hold on medical billet reductions until required reports clarify how any cuts will fully support both readiness and beneficiary access to care.
- Reversing the degradation of the pharmacy benefit, specifically ensure access and achieve limits to copay increases.
- Requiring DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for TRICARE beneficiaries experiencing access challenges within the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by DHA to address systemic access problems.

- Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families and seeking statutory or policy changes as required.
- Compelling Congress and VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of VHA workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.
- Improving congressional support for uniformed services families: enhancing programs to support spouse employment, ensuring implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and providing accessible, affordable childcare options.
- Overcoming the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.
- Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing and continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.
- Improving DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

**MOAA NEVER STOPS SERVING TO HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND HELP THEM RETIRE THE WAY THEY ENVISIONED.**

**It's easy! Go to this website and TAKE ACTION: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>**

**NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (NCCOC):** Current contact for NC state legislative affairs is **Tricia A. Vinson, LTC(R), Army**, MOAA NCCOC 3rd VP State Legislative Advocacy, [Wing23pav@gmail.com](mailto:Wing23pav@gmail.com); 757-617-3343.

**For Hurricane Helene (September 27, 2024) relief.** All information and registration portal are available at: <https://moaacharities.smapply.us> Please email [relief@moaa.org](mailto:relief@moaa.org) or call the MOAA Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 if you have any questions about the program. Also, you may contact Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Former); Immediate Past President, WNC Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Education Committee Chair, NCCOC (North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC)

252-548-2265; [cmomwow@yahoo.com](mailto:cmomwow@yahoo.com)

**THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) MISSION:**



**THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA'S (MOAA)** most extraordinary mission is to improve the lives of military, Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Retirees, Survivors, and their families, achieved through tireless advocacy efforts in our nation's capital. This is the link to the National MOAA Email Preference Center Search Page: [https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa\\_preference\\_page/EmailSearch.aspx](https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx) ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

**SET SAIL FOR PARADISE WITH MOAA: EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS ON A 6-DAY BERMUDA GETAWAY! Calling all MOAA members and loved ones!** Get ready to trade in your landlubber life for clear waters and pink sand beaches with this exclusive offer on a **6-Day Bermuda Cruise from Norfolk, departing on October 12th, 2025.**

**Here's why you won't want to miss this:**

- **Early Bird Savings:** Be among the first to snag a cabin and enjoy special group rates with Carnival Cruise Line! (MOAA membership not required for participation)
- **Sunshine State of Mind:** Set sail aboard the magnificent Carnival Sunshine, offering world-class amenities and entertainment for all ages.
- **Island Paradise Awaits:** Immerse yourself in the beauty of Bermuda with its stunning scenery, vibrant culture, and historical charm.
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**Don't miss this amazing opportunity to explore Bermuda with MOAA!**

**PS** Share this with your family and friends - they're welcome to join the fun too! (MOAA membership not required)

**What a Key DoD Report Gets Right About Pay, Benefits, and Quality of Life by Cory Titus, January 22, 2025**

Sailors assigned to USS Michael Murphy (DDG-112) reunite with family after returning to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in December. (Photo by Ensign Paula Hackbart/Navy)

Many of the recommendations found in DoD's latest look at military pay and benefits echoed MOAA's advocacy efforts to secure compensation improvements and a better overall quality of life for those who serve.

The congressionally mandated [14th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation](#) (QRMC), released last week, serves as a cornerstone of the continuing discussion on military compensation and sets the stage

for many of MOAA's legislative goals. While the report is due every four years, the marker that kicks off DoD's work is a memorandum from the president detailing specific issues to examine. Past reports have been limited in their scope; for the first time, this QRMC took a more expansive look at dual-income households and the real-world challenges facing servicemembers and their families.

**[RELATED: [MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress](#)]**

Some of the QRMC findings:

- **A Step Above:** The report found servicemembers are better compensated, on average, than their civilian peers. Given the high standards of the military and the low propensity to serve, this finding is expected; this level of compensation is necessary to recruit and retain the all-volunteer force.
- **An Unstable Setup:** Despite the high compensation level, the report raises concerns over "pay volatility." Methods used to determine housing allowances and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs, found overseas and in high-cost U.S. regions), to include frequent surveys and flawed models, lead to large increases and decreases in pay that negatively affect servicemembers and their families when their duty location changes.
- **Valuing 'Noncash Compensation':** The QRMC recognized benefits such as housing, health care, and childcare, as well as morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) programs, for the role they play in our community. Its authors found that "targeted noncash compensation may offer better returns on investment" for servicemembers and military families.

This last, important finding follows with what MOAA, and other military service organizations have been saying about these programs and their impact on quality-of-life issues. MOAA was able to testify before the House Armed Services (HASC) Quality of Life panel, which included many of [our recommendations](#) in [its report](#). Many of the report's recommendations were adopted as part of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

**QRMC Recommendations**

The panel report proved valuable for DoD, and the QRMC recommended “a periodic quality-of-life review” that could “inform the Department of trends in the quality of noncash compensation and benefits to assist in targeting investments.”

Additionally, the QRMC report called for expanding a [MOAA-backed provision](#) that would offer tax credits to small businesses for waiving retirement vesting periods for military spouse employees. Current law restricts these tax credits to businesses with less than 100 employees.

**[RELATED: [How MOAA’s Work to Boost Spouse Employment Will Take Shape in the 119th Congress](#)]**

The report also recommends a review of entitlements for deployed servicemembers – another recommendation in support of MOAA’s advocacy work. Combat-zone tax exemptions work as an additional tool to recognize the service and sacrifice of those in harm’s way, but this designation is not reviewed regularly, meaning hotspots like Africa are not given the tax exemptions while places where servicemembers no longer serve remain on the list.

The report also identified areas for improvement in housing allowance and COLA calculation. MOAA highlighted the need for these improvements to the HASC Quality of Life panel given the volatility many servicemembers and families experienced, especially during the pandemic.

The QRMC also recommended:

- Updating the regular military compensation benchmark from the 70th to the 75th percentile.
- Improving communications with servicemembers regarding their total compensation package and its comparative quality to comparable civilians.
- Improving “constructive credit” afforded to lateral entrants who join the military with already established and much-needed skill sets, such as surgeons.

The QRMC is a valuable resource for MOAA’s advocacy work and when its recommendations align with our priorities, we will work to advance them. To stay current on MOAA’s work, be sure to sign up for the Legislative Action Center and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*.

**[New Congress, New Opportunities: Sign Up for MOAA’s Legislative Action Center](#) by Brenden McMahon, January 22, 2025.** As the 119th Congress begins its work, MOAA is ready to champion critical issues for the uniformed services and veteran communities. With new legislative priorities in focus, now is the perfect time to join the effort and ensure your voice is heard.

MOAA’s Legislative Action Center makes it easy to connect with your elected officials and advocate for meaningful change. Whether you’re new to the platform or a seasoned user, registering ensures you’re prepared to support upcoming campaigns. [Visit the center today to create or update your account.](#)

**[RELATED: [Latest Advocacy News From MOAA](#)]**

At MOAA, people are our cornerstone. Our priorities for the 119th Congress reflect our commitment to protecting compensation and benefits, ensuring access to top-tier DoD and VA health care, and addressing the unique challenges faced by military families and veterans. These efforts underscore MOAA’s unwavering dedication to those who serve and have served. You can review those priorities [at this link](#).

In the coming weeks, MOAA will roll out new campaigns via the Legislative Action Center, allowing you to contact your legislators with just a few clicks. Stay tuned for updates at MOAA.org and in *The MOAA Newsletter* to learn how you can take action.

Once you’ve logged into the center, you can stay logged in by enabling cookies on your browser; this allows the site to remember your login details and provides streamlined access to MOAA campaigns. Avoid clearing cookies, as doing so will

require you to log in again the next time you visit the site. Following these steps ensures you're always ready to take action quickly and efficiently when MOAA campaigns launch.

[VIDEO: [MOAA's Advocacy Update Series](#)]

We deeply appreciate your commitment to MOAA's mission. Your advocacy plays a crucial role in advancing the priorities that matter most to the military and veteran communities. Together, we can make a lasting difference for those who serve and have served.

### When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform.

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**CURRENT VA INFO:** <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/healthcare-and-benefits/understanding-your-va-benefits-june-2024/>

See the NC Division of Veterans Affairs newsletter at: <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/> and the North Carolina Council of Chapters Newsletter at: <https://www.moaa-nc.org/>

**Families Go to:** <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html>

**Need assistance with VA benefits?** The Winston-Salem VA Regional Office is here to help. Visitors to the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/>) can now park for free in the Third and Main Street Public Parking Facility. Just take your parking ticket to the VBA public contact office upon check-in and ask for parking validation. For those who are unable to travel to Winston-Salem, you can make a virtual appointment with us here: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/> You can also find an accredited representative in your area by visiting <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/> Accredited representatives include accredited attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). They work on behalf of Veterans and service members—as well as their dependents and survivors. VSOs work for you, and their services are free. Be sure to check VA's website before choosing a representative. The representative you choose should be accredited through VA to ensure your claim is managed professionally and fairly. Visit <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/protecting-veterans-from-fraud/> to learn more about protecting yourself from benefits fraud.

**Retiree Assistance Office (RAO)** bulletins are located at: <http://www.nhc-ul.org/rao.html> and <http://veteraninformationlinksasa.com/emos-rao.html> FOR ALL VETERANS - RETIREE ASSISTANCE OFFICE publications; VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR ALL VETERANS; Provided by: Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret) Editor/Publisher of the RAO Bulletin; All words and phrases in the color as the link below will open another page when "clicked on."

<http://thearmysecurityagency.com/index.html> Welcome to My VA Benefits / Veteran Information Links and ASA - Army Security Agency. We provide the best veteran information portal for VA benefits. Visit us for all your VA needs! Site updated on January 15, 2021.

**Find your nearest VA regional office** <https://www.benefits.va.gov/ROWINSTONSALEM/directions.asp>

**VA pension benefits:** You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA pension benefits.

**Get help filing your claim** <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/>

**Veterans Crisis line:** 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 - US Department of Veterans Affairs: Women Veterans Call Center – 855 829-6636. Link to Urgent Care organizations approved by the VA <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/> If you are under the VA healthcare system for a service connected health condition and have had to or might need to use a Non-VA hospital emergency department and/or emergency transportation for a medical emergency related to your service-connected health condition, you or a family member must report this to the VA within 72 hours. Call: 704 638-9000 ext. 12022. Year 'Round Veteran Discounts: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

#### **MILITARY RELATED CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Casualty Assistance** - Call toll free 877-353-6807. Overseas callers should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy.

**Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** Telephone Center- Call DEERS at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays.

**Defense Finance and Accounting Service** - The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080, or through AskDFAS online. Visit the retired military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matters such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more.

**Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program** - The program provides long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of care you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (activities of daily living) by yourself because of chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. For assistance, call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-582-3337) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit <https://www.ltcfeds.com/>.

**Identification Cards** - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or visit the site locator or find at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator>

**Legal Offices** - Assists members with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answers certain legal questions. Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.

**Medicare** - 800-633-4227 or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

**Social Security Office** - Call toll free 800-772-1213; commercial 410-965- 8019; or write to Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries, Windsor Park Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Visit the website for more information.

**TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy Program** (Express Scripts, Inc.) - In United States, call toll free 800-282-2881; or overseas, call 866-275-4732. Visit <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml> for more information.

**Veterans Affairs** - For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-6947; special issues such as Gulf War/radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/). Local Events You Might be Interested In:

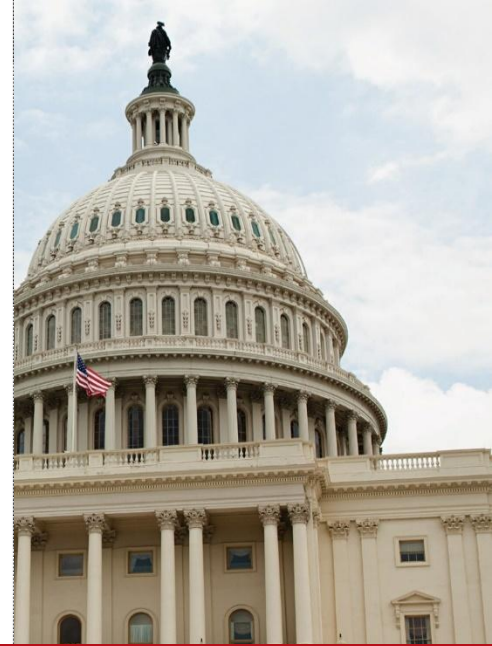
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# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



## Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc.



### MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Active  Retired  Former  Reserve  National Guard  Surviving Spouse  
Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Land \_\_\_\_\_  
(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) \_\_\_\_\_

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Visit [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.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 MOAA Membership: [tcr@privateclubassociates.com](mailto:tcr@privateclubassociates.com). Mail your check (\$45.00 annual chapter dues) payable to TCC MOAA to: Treasurer, 3160 Presley Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27107-4532
- For more information, please go to the Chapter website: [www.tarheelmoaa.org](http://www.tarheelmoaa.org)

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. M1900DMCHP

Our Chapter is open to all active, reserve, retired, veteran and former (Warrant - Flag) officers of the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA and US Public Health Service, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

#### Affiliations:

North Carolina of Chapters  
<https://www.moaa-nc.org>  
MOAA, Inc  
<http://www.moaa.org>  
(independent, non-profit, politically nonpartisan)

**Dinner Meetings** are held the second Tuesday of each month (Sept – May) at Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Dr, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Social Hour begins at 5:00 PM; Dinner at 6:00 PM; and the Program at 7:00 PM.

Dinner Cost: \$25/person  
Dress is Business Casual.  
Chapter Dues: \$45/year.



Tarheel Central Chapter

DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Tuesday, March 11, 2025

**Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>; Salem Glen needs the reservation guarantee by Friday morning so the correct amount of food can be ordered for delivery in time for the meeting on the following Tuesday.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (DD/MMM – Member ONLY) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Names: \_\_\_\_\_

At \$25 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Add Scholarship/Worthy Cause Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Call Reservations into:**

Jerry Johnson, COL, USMC (Ret)

Call: (541)280-5950

Text or Email: [gaucho.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:gaucho.johnson@gmail.com)

**Send Checks to Treasurer:**

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