



The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 4, APR 2, 2025

Published by The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc., since 1977, chartered May 9, 1978, and serving Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties.

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 – Phil Briscoe: It was my privilege to have 4 new members introduce themselves at the



March Dinner Meeting: Carl Carlan, USA; Tom Gatewood, USA; Richard Hobbs, USN; and Michael Julian, USA. Make sure you get around to meet them at the April Dinner Meeting. Our after-dinner program started with a Vietnam Era Recognition Ceremony. Nine of our members were called forward to receive their recognition pin and certificate for active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. My thanks goes out to Ann Zuhr, a member of the Colonel Joseph Winston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, for coordinating and presiding over the ceremony. This was followed by our after-dinner speaker Beth Hinesley, community Relations Coordinator with Honor Bridge. Honor Bridge's purpose is to recover donated organs, eyes, and tissue from deceased donors for transplantation. They are devoted to building connections that save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation. Her message was like MOAA's, "Never Stop Serving". If organ donation feels right to you, visit honorbridge.org.

Based on significant member input concerning our Reserved Seating Policy, the Board of Directors has amended the policy. Only prospects, the prospect's host, and the guest speaker will have reserved seats at a numbered table. Hope to see you at the next Dinner Meeting on April 8th. We are going to have a recognition ceremony for our surviving spouses and our speaker will be one of our own, Barry Moore.

- Take Care and Beware, Phil Briscoe

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.

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 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)
7. Jackie Kohler, (Surviving Spouse Liaison)

Chapter Assistants:

8. **Chaplain** – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
9. **R-JROTC Programs** – Al Chandler, LTC (Ret)
10. **Public Relations** – Al Nealeans, COL USA (Ret)
11. **Social Secretary** – Warren Boyer, 1 Lt, USMCR (Vet)
12. **Calling Chain** – Jerry Johnson, Col, USMCR (Ret)

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

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

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

ONE AND ALL: The Kernersville VA Clinic will host a Health Fair on May 21 2025. In addition to various vendors promoting healthy food and healthy lifestyles a 2K Walk/Run will be the premier event. Please mark your calendar. This event will give our MOAA chapter the opportunity to walk, run and RECRUIT. Stay tuned for updated information and invitations from Ted Robinson, Membership Chair.



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

All available on MOAA.org

- MOAA National Conference 28-29 October 2025 at the Gaylord National Resort National Harbor Maryland
 - Protecting yourself from Identity Theft April 8 1400 -1500
 - MOAA Legislative Update - April 29 1400-1500
 - 2025 MOAA Charities Golf Tournament Potomac MD, May 19th, 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>



DINNER MEETING PROGRAMS - Jason Ford:

1. APR 08: Barry Moore will speak about his involvement in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.
2. MAY 13: Wes Whitacker, ROTC and ROTC Awards, Presentation of JROTC Scholarships.
3. SEP: Erinn Dearth from Letters From Home that she will perform for us at our September MOAA meeting.

Our Book Exchange – Like One, Take One – is going away due to unuse. If you donated books or would like books, please contact Jason Ford.

Next Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 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.



← 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. **Members, please pay your 2025 dues! Make checks payable to THE TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER of MOAA and give or mail to Mike Chapman (his contact info is on the Dinner Reservation Form at end of newsletter.**



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



SECRETARY - Mary Laverdure:

"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.



BOARD DIRECTOR - Mark Ferketish:

The Local Knights of Columbus at, St Leo's Church, provides direct support to Veterans in North Carolina and other VA Centers Nationwide.

This support is done locally through providing bed linen, clothing, toiletries, and supporting Veterans morale through delivering personally signed Greeting Cards throughout the year and at Christmas. We will have an opportunity to be involved in this effort and provide direct support to Veterans through personally signing greeting cards during the April 8th Dinner Meeting. The responses received from the Veteran organizations confirm these greeting cards and are meaningful and greatly appreciated. Your personal involvement in this effort at the April Dinner Meeting will make this support to Veterans possible. More to follow at the dinner Meeting.



WEBMASTER - Tom Denegre:

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.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Ted Robinson:

Our membership now stands at 115. Please welcome our newest member, Tom Gatewood and his wife Elizabeth. Tom is an Army veteran and met many members at our March meeting. In addition, two prospective members, Chris Campbell and David Uhl, were also in attendance.

The membership is to be congratulated for successfully introducing prospective members into the Chapter and for providing the welcoming atmosphere encountered at our monthly meetings. There are now ten military officers on our prospective member roster.

To enhance the individual members’ efforts, the Membership Committee has established recruiting initiatives to identify potential members. These include engagement with MOAA National, the JROTC program, visiting the Kernersville VA Clinic, and meeting with the USNA Alumni Club, to name few. Still, the most effective means is one on one contacts by our members.

Each Committee member is available to assist you when you meet a prospect. The committee members are: Dennis Ammons, Pam Angle, Jerry Johnson, George Lawson, Alan Nealeans, Joe Rogers, Hank Rudge, Mark Stanek, Laurie Wesely and Ted Robinson, Chair.

The April Membership Committee meeting will be held on Monday April 7th, 2025, for lunch from 12:30 – 2:00 PM at Salem Glen CC. If you want 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.

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/>



SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON – Jackie Kohler: There will be a **Surviving Spouse Recognition Ceremony** at the April Dinner Meeting at which time we will be recognizing Nan Dewey, Diane Womack Boyer and Nalyn Hipwood.

Also, we will have 3 of our Chapter members flying with us to DC on the **Honor Flight** on Wednesday April 30th, they are Warren Boyer, Jerry Johnston and Tina Rudge!

Thanks, Jackie

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-](https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/)

[advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/](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/>

February 2025 MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Newsletter:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#search/Surviving+spouse+newsletter/FMfcgzQZTCrkDpthCcsQJqljwmwbtPtB?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

Please contact Jackie at jackie.kohler53@gmail.com or (336) 829-8011.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHAIR - I.B. Southerland:

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.



- Scholarship Status Update: April 4th is the deadline for applications! None have been received to date.
- JROTC Program Update: We have requests from 3 high schools for Medals – Lexington; South Stokes; Forbush

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-USAF; S. Stokes HS-USMC; E. Surry HS-ARMY; and Surry Central HS-USAF. 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.

SOCIAL SECRETARY - Warren Boyer:



Call 336 407-2374 if you have input.

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

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: Celebrates America’s veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials. It cost \$600.00 per participant. **The 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/>

PERSONAL AFFAIRS - Dennis Ammons:



Please notify Dennis, if you hear that a member or spouse is having difficulties at: 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 April:

1. Harry Howell - 4/4
2. Thomas 'Ronnie' McDonald - 4/5
3. Tom Stump - 4/6
4. Barry Moore - 4/8
5. Vicki Sullivan - 4/20
6. Phil Briscoe - 4/23
7. Cheryl Rawls - 4/28



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry N. Moore, 2nd VP: Tarheel friends: Though not a big fan of the concept I do see some strengths in the idea, which has been batted around often before. It's good for all of us to stay aware of these sorts of ideas. From Defense News: "A recent... opinion piece suggests that the only way to achieve joint force design is to move force acquisition out of the hands of the military services and instead, "structuring the budget around the joint force design rather than just service-specific priorities."
[https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2025/03/19/joint-force-design-is-still-a-service-](https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2025/03/19/joint-force-design-is-still-a-service-centric-mission/)

[centric-mission/](https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2025/03/19/joint-force-design-is-still-a-service-centric-mission/)

"TRICARE Improves Coverage of Early Alzheimer's Treatment

TRICARE addressed a critical coverage gap by approving provisional coverage of a new type of drug for the treatment of early stage Alzheimer's disease – a move supported by MOAA and fellow key military and veterans groups.

For up to the next five years, TRICARE will cover Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved monoclonal antibodies (MABs) lecanemab (brand name Leqembi) and donanemab (brand name Kisunla), for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in patients with mild cognitive impairment or in the mild dementia stage of the disease. The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs approved the change last October.

MOAA has worked to fix this coverage gap since the 118th Congress alongside stakeholders like The Military Coalition (TMC) – a group of military and veterans service organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members combined."

Tarheel Members: Congressman Addison McDowell, 6th District North Carolina, was recently appointed to be the Vice Chair of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Even though the 6th District is landlocked, the Coast Guard plays a critical role in helping stop the flow of fentanyl and other illegal drugs from entering North Carolina's coast and subsequently being distributed throughout North Carolina.

Three legislative bills that might be of particular interest to Tarheel members.

H.R.333 — 119th Congress - Introduced in House (01/13/2025) - Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

This bill modifies provisions related to military retired pay. Specifically, the bill authorizes veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50% to concurrently receive both retired pay and disability compensation. The bill also makes qualified disability retirees with less than 20 years of retirement-creditable service eligible for concurrent receipt, subject to specified reductions in retired pay.

H.R.303 — 119th Congress - Introduced in House (01/09/2025) - Retired Pay Restoration Act

This bill allows the receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation with respect to any service-connected disability. Under current law, only individuals with service-connected disabilities rated at 50% or more receive both without offset.

Individuals who were retired or separated after at least 20 years of military service due to a service-connected disability shall be eligible for the full concurrent receipt of both veterans' disability compensation and either military retired pay or combat-related special pay.

H.R.680 — 119th Congress - Introduced in House (01/23/2025) - Caring for Survivors Act of 2025

This bill increases the monthly rate of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Dependency and indemnity compensation is a monthly payment made to eligible survivors (i.e., spouses, parents, or children) of (1) certain veterans who died as a result of a service-connected condition; (2) service members killed while on active military duty or active or inactive duty for training; or (3) veterans who did not die from a service-connected condition, but were totally disabled by a service-connected disability for a certain period of time.

The bill also (1) reduces, from 10 years to 5 years, the period of time that certain veterans must have been rated totally disabled due to a service-connected disability in order for a survivor to qualify for benefits; and (2) specifies the amount that is payable to survivors of veterans who were rated totally disabled for a period of less than 10 years before their death.

Military Spouses Exempted From Return-to-Work Mandate Feb. 18, 2025 | By C. Todd Lopez, DOD News: While the president has ordered federal employees who have been working remotely and teleworking back to their offices, an exception is now in place for those federal employees who are spouses of military service members. Read more at: <https://www.defense.gov/news/news-stories/article/article/4069473/military-spouses-exempted-from-return-to-work-mandate/#:~:text=While%20the%20president%20has%20ordered,spouses%20of%20military%20service%20members.> ---- Regards/Barry

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 ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

Council and Chapter Presidents:

Good morning. In the spirit of keeping you informed of major events impacting our association, I'm writing at General Kelly's request to provide a copy of the statement MOAA national has released through our communications channels regarding the recent actions of the new administration and its potential impact on the military and veteran community.

MOAA's position has not changed -- in this uncertain time, MOAA is focused on our core mission to preserve and protect the earned benefits of our uniformed services community, including those who are currently serving, veterans, retirees, families, and surviving spouses. It is extremely important for MOAA to stay focused on our mission as directed in our congressional charter as a nonpartisan, nonprofit association. Our mission is our compass and North Star to ensure we are not distracted or drawn into unrelated social or political issues. I want to reassure you our headquarters team is vigilantly monitoring current events, and if we identify an impact or actual threat MOAA will act to preserve and protect our earned benefits.

Our complete statement follows. Please reach out if you have questions and thanks for your leadership and support, Jim

Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions

March 2025

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has always advocated for a strong national defense, with a particular focus on the people whose service and sacrifices make it possible. Maintaining this strength requires both sufficient funding and a capable workforce. However, the nation's growing debt and fiscal challenges pose a significant risk to future prosperity and place increasing pressure on our ability to sustain a robust force.

Given this reality, ongoing budget scrutiny to find efficiencies and savings is not only appropriate but necessary. However, early results from these exercises and actions have highlighted the need for thoughtful implementation and greater caution as budget reviews continue. There have been opportunities to reconsider and reverse rapid decisions when their negative consequences became evident; a prime example came in the protection of military spouses with existing remote-work arrangements from a return-to-work directive that would've significantly harmed military families. We must balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining a strong and prepared all-volunteer force, ensuring the nation upholds its promises to those Americans and their families who commit themselves to uniformed service and sacrifice for their country.

Those who serve and have served in uniform make extraordinary commitments and sacrifices — not only for our national defense, but for the very ideals that define America: freedom, security, and prosperity. Military members uphold the foundation of economic prosperity and freedoms all Americans enjoy — foundations built by veterans. These servicemembers swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, many putting their lives on the line, to make this happen. They don't join to get rich or receive accolades, they join to defend and protect liberties often taken for granted. In return, they expect the nation to honor its commitments and uphold promises made to care for them and their families both during and after their service. Fulfilling these promises is essential to ensuring those who wear the uniform — and their families — continue to encourage future generations to serve.

Despite statements to the contrary, some of the cuts made to the federal workforce and budget have negative consequences for the uniform services community, veterans, and families. Veterans, who

make up approximately 30% of the federal workforce, are being dismissed. The speed of current actions is preventing recognition of the previous commitments made by the nation through veterans' hiring preferences. Similarly, military spouses who are granted a federal hiring preference are also being let go. For military spouses, the impact extends beyond household income—their job loss directly impacts the readiness and retention of their uniformed partners. Military families increasingly rely on dual incomes, and the loss of that second income stream plays a significant role in the decision to remain in service. These preferences were not established as handouts, but as a strategic investment recognizing the vital role of these workers in supporting recruiting, retention, and overall warfighting readiness.

Unfortunately, in the rush to make reductions, broad assumptions have emerged that veterans and spouses are simply being handed employment. In reality, their unique skillsets, experience, and dedication are highly valued and difficult to replace. Many of these individuals sought federal jobs so they could continue to serve the country and, in some cases, keep their military family together, when they could have commanded higher salaries in the private sector. As demonstrated in previous reversals and during DOGE updates that have highlighted a need to clean up the inevitable mistakes, some of these actions should be reversed quickly to eliminate inadvertent impacts on national defense.

The pace of current actions underscores the need to apply lessons learned and proceed with greater caution as budget reduction efforts, such as those announced for DoD, take place. As in previous budget-cutting exercises, it is not unusual for operations and maintenance and military personnel accounts to receive the most scrutiny. These tend to be the easiest areas to generate quick savings, free from the political or contractual concerns associated with other parts of the budget.

Once again, the right statements about supporting the uniformed service members and families who bear the burden are being made. But history tells us budget discussions often lead to reductions in "people programs" – housing allowances, healthcare benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, compensation, and manpower reductions themselves. These cuts may appear to offer immediate savings, but they have often proven more expensive thanks to unintended long-term costs:

- **Retention and Recruitment Risks:** Reductions in benefits make military service less attractive, weakening our ability to maintain a skilled and ready force.
- **Readiness Degradation:** Morale and stability among servicemembers decline when financial security is undermined.
- **Historical Lessons Ignored:** Past budget reductions, such as those seen during the 2014-2016 sequestration period and after Operation Desert Storm, led to force management challenges and cost more to correct. The costs to hastily reverse force reductions made without connections to actual defense strategies were significant. Even more costly was the extensive loss of experience, as new recruits replaced experienced members (who were in many cases paid to depart).

If increasing focus on warfighting and meritocracy is a target, then addressing harder but more lucrative places to generate savings should be in the plan. Though more difficult given the amount of associated political considerations, there are opportunities to generate savings through responsible defense budget reform:

1. **Efficient Program Management:** Allowing defense leaders to shutter outdated programs, weapon systems, and infrastructure through a BRAC would free up significant funds.
2. **Acquisition Reform:** Addressing inefficiencies in the procurement process would reduce costs.

3. **Long-Term Fiscal Planning:** Instead of making hasty cuts to meet short-term budget targets, policymakers should focus on sustainable financial strategies that prevent costly course corrections.

The men and women in uniform understand their duty to serve and protect this nation. It is the nation's duty to ensure their sacrifices are honored — not just with words, but with policies that reflect the value of their service. Budget constraints must be addressed — even within DoD and the VA, but cuts should not come at the expense of those who have given so much. By working together — lawmakers, advocacy groups, and the American public — we must find fiscally responsible solutions that uphold our commitment to those who serve.

MOAA stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we, as a nation, fulfill the promises made to those who serve and have served — along with their families. Now is not the time to erode our servicemembers' earned benefits. Rather, it's time to find solutions.

Jim Carman, CAE
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Vice President Council/Chapter and Member Support
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
201 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2539
800.234.6622; ext 107
Direct: 703.838.8107
www.moaa.org

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.
- **Something for Everyone:** From snorkeling in crystal-clear coves to exploring historical sites, Bermuda offers activities for every kind of traveler.
- **Choose Your Perfect Cabin:**
- **Cozy Comfort:** Inside staterooms start at just \$800 per person (double occupancy)
- **Oceanfront Bliss:** Unwind in an ocean view stateroom for \$900 per person.
- **Balcony Bliss:** Enjoy the fresh sea air and breathtaking views from your private balcony for \$1100 per person.
- **Suites & More:** Looking for extra space or traveling with a larger group? We can accommodate your needs!
- **Booking is Easy!** Secure your spot on this unforgettable adventure with a minimal deposit. Plus, final payments aren't due until July 14th, 2025!

Contact Lorna Tiller, our dedicated travel agent:

Call: 910-343-1978 (Office) or 910-540-3390 (Mobile)

Email: ltillertravels@gmail.com

Limited cabins available! Reserve yours today!

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)

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

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

[TAKE ACTION](#)

Exclusive Discounts for MOAA Members - Members save year-round on shipping, storage, and so much more. Access your deals today! [Click Here](#)

2025 MOAA Signature Cruise Burgundy & Provence - Lyon to Arles, September 14 - 21, 2025

Cruise the Rhône and Saône rivers, with MOAA's President, and fellow MOAA members on this 7-night cruise on Uniworld's *S.S. Catherine*.

You will experience once-in-a-lifetime adventures like:

- Experience "Village Day" in enchanting Viviers
- Visit Avignon's majestic Palace of the Popes
- Stroll the very streets of Arles, made famous by Van Gogh
- Hike the vineyards of the Rhône
- Pedal through Lyon
- ...and so much more!

[LEARN MORE](https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/TMF/) or copy this address into your browser: <https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/TMF/>



MOAA Signature Cruises

Cruising with MOAA Vacations offers a safe and convenient way to experience a high-quality and affordable vacation. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with your fellow MOAA members and their guests from around the country as you make new friends and reconnect with others. Plus, MOAA leadership and staff are onboard to ensure you have a stress-free vacation and enjoy every part of the trip to the fullest as you make lifelong memories. Our special MOAA pricing will save you thousands off what you would pay for a comparable all-inclusive luxury cruise. Plus, MOAA Members get \$150/person

on board credit (\$300/stateroom). Want to find out more? Join us for a fun and informative online seminar to learn about this cruise! All registrants receive a copy of the recording after the online seminar, so even if you can't attend live, we encourage you to register! *MOAA Signature Cruises and Tours benefit MOAA and MOAA's Charities.* CONTACT MOAA VACATIONS TO BOOK YOUR TRIP TODAY! **Phone: 1-800-211-5107;**

Email: mail@moaavac.com; Website: <https://moaavacations.com>; *Sign up for the MOAA Vacations e-newsletter for more information on upcoming trips, as well as special offers.* **BOOK NOW** <https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/TMF/>

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.

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/. Local Events You Might be Interested In:

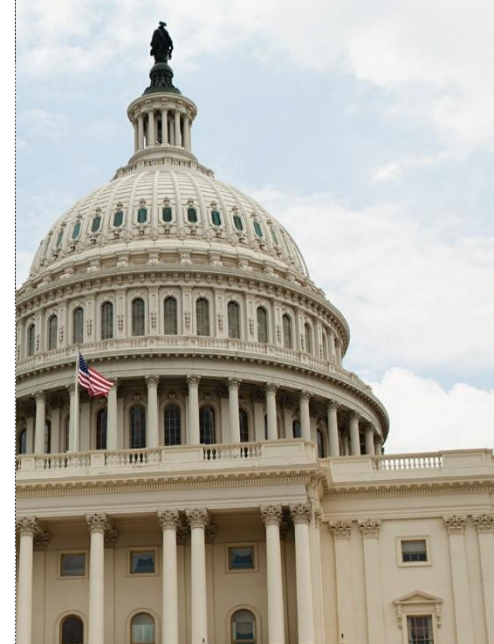
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THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

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) _____

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



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

Visit 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. 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

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, April 8, 2025

Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, April 3rd; 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: _____

Add CY2025 Dues at \$45: _____

Grand Total: _____ Check #: _____

Make all checks payable to: Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA

Call Reservations into:

Jerry Johnson, COL, USMC (Ret)
Call: (541)280-5950
Text or Email: gaucho.johnson@gmail.com

Send Checks to Treasurer:

Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA
% Mike Chapman
3160 Presley Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
p8a284@yahoo.com