



The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 6, SEP 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: Chapter Members,



First and foremost, thank you for being a Tarheel Central Chapter member. The summer is almost over, and the chapter is about to come back to life with the 9 September 4PM Board of Directors meeting, which is open to all members, followed by the 5PM Dinner Meeting.

During the summer your Board of Directors (BOD) has not been idle. A Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA pay portal has been established with an online service called "Cheddar Up". This service is free for our use thanks to MOAA National. Going forward this will be our preferred collection point for Dues, Dinner and Donations payments. Tom Denegre and Mike Chapman have put a lot into getting this online so please log in and give it a try. Thank you. Mailed in payments or payments at the door will still be accepted. Here is the Link:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-member-collection-67809/items>

The BOD has developed The Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) and the Volunteers Responsibilities Spreadsheet (VRS). These documents are posted on the Tarheel Central chapter website. Go to Members Only and log in. Then go to Members Only Reports.
<https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/reports/>

These documents are a work in progress that serve three main purposes: explain for new members the organization of the chapter; define chapter policies; and relate the responsibilities of the chapter leadership positions.

Finally, some chapter leaders will be ending their terms this fall, and we will need new leaders to step forward. The current 1st VP, Tom Miller will assume duties as the President, so his position will be vacant. Mike Chapman's term as Treasurer ends this fall and Jason Ford is resigning as the Programs Committee Chair. If you know of someone that would make a good future leader to relieve Tom as 1st VP, Mike as Treasurer or Jason as Programs Committee Chair, or would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please let me know. The position descriptions for these upcoming vacancies can be found in the SOP.

I am looking forward to seeing you in September.

As always,

- 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/>.

A blue rectangular advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. At the top, the MOAA logo (four vertical bars of increasing height) is followed by the text "MOAA® INSURANCE PLANS". Below this, the slogan "Standing with you at every stage." is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com/plans" are listed in a smaller, bold, dark blue font. The number "100392" is printed in a small font on the right side.

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 motto 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 inquiries 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 email 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** – George Lawson, LtCol, USAF (Ret) (Interim)

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

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



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – Ted Robinson:

The summer of 2025 has been very active in both recruitment of new prospective members and deactivation of current members. For multiple reasons: health, aging, and time constraints we have lost an unusually high number of members. The good news is we have a very strong roster of prospects (14), many of whom attended the Summer Social and who have expressed a strong interest in MOAA.

Soon you will receive an email titled “EVITE”, inviting you to the September meeting, Tuesday September 9th. This is a clever App (at no cost to the Chapter) that allows the Membership Committee to contact you on a timely basis, and more efficiently enables us to present an accurate number of meeting reservations to Salem Glen CC. When you receive your email, merely click on the correct response: “Attending”, “Number in Party”, or Regrets. Soon you will receive a Chapter Bulletin with more details. You will no longer receive telephone notices, except for the Christmas Dance and the Summer Social.

Please congratulate George Lawson for being named the new Vice Chair of the Membership Committee (effective Jan 2026), and also please thank all Committee members (see below) for their work in building our membership. The Committee is recruiting new Committee members for this year. If you are interested, please contact George Lawson, Ted Robinson or any Committee member listed below:

- Dennis Ammons
- Pam Angle
- George Lawson Vice Chair
- Alan Nealeans
- Joe Rogers
- Hank Rudge

- Mark Stanek
- Laurie Wesely

- Wes Whittaker
- Ted Robinson, Chair

The September Membership Committee meeting will be held on Monday September 8, 2025, for lunch, from 12:30 – 2:00 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 George at (803) 439-4818.



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

Remarriage, Divorce and your service earned benefits 10 September 1400 – 1500. For more info and to sign up, go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/healthcare-and-benefits/divorce-remarriage-webinar/>

From Steve Watkins, Board of Directors, Veterans Healing Farm, steve_watkins@me.com

(608) 225-0594: On Saturday, September 6, 2025, the Veterans Healing Farm will host the

Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon in Flat Rock, NC. This regional event will honor and celebrate the service of women veterans, while also recognizing and welcoming all veterans from North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and anywhere else. Veterans and their families can attend free of charge. The \$50 ticket cost has been fully covered by our sponsors. (Spouses and family members are welcome but must register individually.) Each attendee will receive a copy of the keynote speaker's best-selling book, *Delete the Adjective: A Soldier's Adventure in Ranger Training*, with a book signing immediately following the luncheon. Registration is now open - and all attendees must register online. 🙌 Please share this link with your chapters and contacts: <https://www.veteranshealingfarm.org/2025-women-warriors-luncheon> Use Promo Code: VETERAN at checkout to bring the cost to \$0. If anyone has questions or needs assistance, they can reach out directly to our Executive Director, Alan J. Yeck, at (607) 742-8643. All available on MOAA.org

Council of Chapters Dates open to all MOAA members (Note: you cannot officially represent the chapter without the president's approval):

- Aug. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Virtual Chapters. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 937 6468 7886)
- Sept. 25: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Council and Chapter Mentorship. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 922 2737 5813)
- Oct. 23: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Foundation. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 914 4733 5409)
- Oct. 28-29: Total Force+ Conference, Gaylord National Harbor, MD
- Oct. 30: Annual Meeting of the Membership, Gaylord National Harbor
- Nov. 14-15: Leader Training: East Workshop (Hershey, Pa.)
- Nov. 20: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Annual Awards. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 995 5369 6751)
- Dec. 18: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Year in Review/2026 Outlook. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 929 1511 3996)



DINNER MEETING PROGRAMS - Jason Ford: The presentation at our September MOAA meeting will be by Erinn Dearth with *Letters From Home*. *Letters From Home* infuses the classic style of war-time music with a witty, modern edge. Featuring high-energy singing and tap dancing performances by founder Erinn Dearth. Funny and heartfelt, harmonic and uplifting, *Letters From Home* will leave you feeling great about being human. They have performed **1000+ shows** across the world (including singing at the **75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy France, entertaining Battle of the Bulge veterans in Belgium**, and completing a full **50-States Tour in 2023**.) They are very inspirational as well as entertaining as they honor each branch of our military.

<https://www.lettersfromhomesingers.com/index.html>

Next Meeting set for Tuesday, 9 September 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. The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA must guarantee the host site the number in attendance for each Chapter dinner meeting. The Chapter is then obligated to pay for those dinners whether the member who made a reservation for dinner attends or not.

TREASURER – Mike Chapman:



2026 Annual Dues Billing

The annual dues for Regular Members for the next calendar year (2026) shall be determined by the membership at the annual November meeting after receiving the Board's recommendation on the matter.

Upon membership approval of the annual dues rate at the Annual Membership Meeting in November the Treasurer will, no later than November 20 send a single message email to all paying members, specifying (1) the

amount of the annual dues for the next year along with an explanation of any increase, and (2) the date payment is due, which in accordance with the Chapter Bylaws is the date of the succeeding January Chapter meeting.

The timely payment of annual dues by members of Tarheel central Chapter MOAA is required to maintain your membership in good standing. It is one of the primary obligations and responsibilities of membership.

A Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA pay portal has been established with an online service called "Cheddar Up". This is the preferred collection point for Dues, Dinner and Donations payments. **The Link to Cheddar Up is** : <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-member-collection-67809/items>

Mailed in payments or payments at the door will still be accepted.

September Dinner Reservations: See the reservation form at the end for important details! Reservations may be made by calling George Lawson (803) 439-4818 or galaws71@gmail.com. Telephone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, Sep 4th. Sign up with Mike Chapman, Treasurer to reserve your place at the meeting. The contact information is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end.



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.



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.

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** for Diane Womack Boyer, Laura Wesely and Nan Dewey at the **October** Dinner.

Parity for Surviving Spouses: Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) - a benefit for survivors of those who die in service or from service-connected conditions - lags

other federal survivor benefits. DIC provides only 43% of what a 100% service-disabled veteran receives. Civilian federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of the

employee's calculated retirement pay. This inequity leaves military survivors with less support than their civilian counterparts, despite the sacrifices their loved ones made in service to our country. **Here is the progress:** The Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 (S. 611/H.R. 2055) has been introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate bill, S. 611, was introduced on February 18, 2025, and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The House bill, H.R. 2055, was introduced on March 11, 2025, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. A subcommittee hearing was held on June 24, 2025. Currently, both bills are in the committee stage. Please write to your Senators and Congressmen to support this effort. It is imperative that everyone not only those affected by the passage of this bill continue to engage with their Senators and Congressmen/women to lend support to this very worthy cause. Go to:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/bipartisan-bill-would-strengthen-earned-support-for-survivors-of-veterans/>

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.



ROTC/JROTC Programs: For the current 2024-2025, school year the following comments are provided:

Scholarships: Three schools submitted packets (Reynolds, E. Surry, N. Davidson). Two were awarded-Reynolds & E. Surry.

ROTC: Wake Forest SROTC (includes WS State & Salem College) was provided an award packet (medal/certificate/folder) for presentation at their Military Ball.

JROTC: Of the 21 units supported in the 6 counties, 15 high schools were presented with medals, 6 schools did not contact the Chapter. Breakdown as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Supported</u>
• Yadkin	Forbush-Army	Yes
	○ Starmount-Army	Yes
• Stokes	South-USMC	Yes
• Surry	East-Army	Yes
	○ North-AF	No
	○ Central--AF	No
	○ Elkin-Army	No
• Davie	Davie-Army	No
• Davidson	North-AF	Yes
	○ Lexington-Army	Yes
	○ Thomasville-Army	No
	○ Central-Army	No

Forsyth Note: All 9 schools supported at the W-S Forsyth County JROTC Joint Services Review. All Army & 1 AF.

Some Notes:

- For the schools we did not hear from last year, I followed up with a letter to the Senior Military Instructor highlighting the MOAA awards program for JROTC units. A few of those we did not hear from last year responded this year (Lexington, Starmount & Forbush). I'll follow up again this year.
- The majority of the national awards for both ROTC and JROTC units can be purchased online from vendors linked with the ROTC/JROTC program. The school does not have to contact a local or national chapter to obtain the award(s).
- After 23 years as a Senior Army Instructor, and representing the MOAA Richmond Chapter on many awards, I have seen a lot of unit award ceremonies. The quality varies greatly. My surprise recently was to attend a JROTC awards ceremony, and the cadets were not in uniform, but the Instructors were? Times have changed!
-



16 Aug 2025, our treasurer, Mike Chapman, CW-4, (at podium) had the honor to present two Purple Hearts (Army) Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Vietnam as well as a Vietnam Cross for Gallantry with Palm (Marine). The event was sponsored by Richard Childress Racing at their 15-building, 52-acre campus in Welcome, North Carolina.

SOCIAL SECRETARY - Warren Boyer:



Call 336 407-2374 if you have input.

Piedmont Pops | Aug 31 & Sep 6 @6:00PM: Piedmont Wind Symphony at Incendiary Brewing Downtown (The Coal Pit). The high-energy, family-friendly concert series lighting up Downtown Winston-Salem is back! These free-to-the-public performances bring the magic of live music right to the heart of the community, featuring everything from iconic movie scores and toe-tapping Broadway hits to patriotic favorites and crowd-pleasing live music trivia. Whether you're a longtime fan or a first-time listener, there's something for everyone at Piedmont Pops. Bring a chair, bring a friend, and experience the soundtrack of your summer! Diane and I hope to see y'all there!!

CONCERTS IN THE AREA DURING SEPTEMBER:

- 9/6/25 - "Landslide" Tribute to Fleetwood Mac. Shallowford Square, Lewisville: 7-9pm
- 9/6/25 - Piedmont Wind Symphony "Piedmont Pops Series". Incendiary Brewing Company (5495 Williams Road, Lewisville): 6pm
- 9/27/25 - "Singers in the Round" (Various Singers). Shallowford Square, Lewisville: 7-9pm

TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER OUTREACH:

Your Board of Directors has determined the following worthy causes are deserving of our donations. PLEASE MAKE DONATIONS THROUGH CHEDDAR UP; it is easy and safe: .

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/>

The Marine Corps League of Winston Salem sponsors a Pancake Breakfast

EVERY SATURDAY morning from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: American Legion Post #55, 111 Miller Street, Winston Salem.

COST (cheap): \$10 adults, children 11 and under \$5.00. YOU WILL NOT LEAVE HUNGRY. Complimenting the pancakes are coffee, juices, bacon, sausage, and both regular and sugar free syrups.

We often have guests like members of the Executive Board representing the Triad Honor Flight. The Marine Corps League will be making a donation to the Triangle Honor Flight program to help pay the way for Veteran's to make the flight at their assigned times. We are hoping to have WXII-12 there for media support and hope YOU will join us at these special events. Bring your family, TELL YOUR FRIENDS and let's all help The Marine Corps League help our Community. We promise, the Pancakes are delicious.....

Semper Fi,

Jerry Johnson

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:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ○ Ann Zuhr (Ken) | Surgery |
| ○ Jerry Johnson (Gauch) | Cardiological Concerns |
| ○ Kay Savage (Jim) | Needs Our Prayers |
| ○ Charlie Stott | Prayer for Healing |
| ○ George Angle | Post-Surgery, Prayers for Healing |
| ○ Pete Armstrong | Surgery |
| ○ John Palmer Family | Needs our Prayers |

We celebrate those who have recently been listed on our Thoughts and Prayers listing but who have recovered from either their illness or accident, and we thank our Creator for that blessing.

A LIVELY HAPPY BIRTHDAY APPLAUSE TO:



- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| • Bob Dixon | 7/2 |
| • Fred Howell | 7/17 |
| • Debrah Houck | 7/22 |
| • David Uhl | 8/1 |
| • Scott Gamble | 8/4 |
| • Tom Cornejo | 8/5 |
| • Richard Hobbs | 8/9 |
| • Jason Pardue | 8/14 |
| • Laurie Wesely | 8/14 |
| • Rick Kirkland | 8/17 |
| • Jere Carter | 8/24 |
| • Trent Jessup | 8/20 |
| • Wes Whitaker | 8/28 |
| • Al Nealeans | 8/31 |



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry N. Moore, 2nd VP: MOAA urges all of us to take action ([Legislative Action Center](#))! Please use this link (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>) and endorse the support: Improve Tricare Access For Families. Please consider contacting our elected officials and let them know to support this valuable initiative. Within the article there is a simple link that will allow you to send your support to the applicable officials.
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/push-to-help-combat-injured-retirees-continues-with-senate-ndaa/>

[senate-ndaa/](#)

Aviation Cancers Study Bill Becomes Law: After being introduced in three successive congresses, the VFW-supported ACES Act of 2025 was finally signed into law August 14, 2025. [Public Law 119-32](#) mandates a comprehensive study of cancer prevalence, morbidity, and mortality among military fixed-wing aircrew, with a focus on potential links to occupational toxic exposures. Targeted cancers include brain, colorectal, melanoma, and prostate.

As a heads-up, in addition to MOAA, **another excellent source of information** for veterans, retirees, active duty, reserve, and families is Military OneSource. From the site: "[Military OneSource](#) (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>) from the Defense Department is your 24/7 gateway to trusted information, resources and confidential help. When MilLife happens, it's your "first line of support" — giving service members and military families tools to stay well and thrive."

Health Care, Earned Benefits and IDs: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/dod-no-termination-date-set-for-legacy-retiree-ids/>

On May 19, 2025, the House passed H.R. 1815, the Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Loan Program Reform Act of 2025, which would establish a Partial Claim Program as part of the VA Home Loan Program to allow veterans who have fallen behind on their mortgages to receive federal assistance. Specifically, the VA would be allowed to offer financial assistance to veterans to prevent foreclosures by purchasing a portion of the outstanding mortgage balance from lenders. This bill is an attempt to replace the recently terminated Biden-era Veterans Affairs Serving Purchase program, which lacked transparency and sustainability. **The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act of 2025 was signed into law by President Trump on July 30, 2025.**

Suggested visit to WWII The National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, VA see: <https://www.dday.org/visit/>

---- Regards/Barry N. Moore

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: tedrobinson128@gmail.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. M1900DMC



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.

VA Processes Record-Breaking Number of Disability Claims This Year, with 62% Approval Rate

Found at: https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/08/20/va-processes-record-breaking-number-of-disability-claims-year-62-approval-rate.html?ESRC=mr_250825.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250825

Military.com | By Patricia Kime; Published August 20, 2025 at 2:33pm ET

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The Department of Veterans Affairs says it has processed more disability claims this fiscal year than last, exceeding 2024's record-breaking amount by nearly 6,600. As of mid-August, VA claims adjudicators had processed 2,524,115 claims compared with 2,517,519 in fiscal 2024. According to VA Press Secretary Pete Kasperowicz, 61.8% of the claims were approved, providing benefits to nearly 1.3 million veterans or family members. The department has made changes in the past several years designed to process disability compensation claims faster and reduce the number of claims older than 125 days -- what the department refers to as its backlog.

It introduced a new Automated Benefits Delivery System in 2022 to accelerate reviews of claims for common conditions and adopted a new scheduling assistant program to help determine whether an exam or additional medical opinion is necessary to adjudicate an application. In May, the VA also reinstated mandatory overtime for claims processors to further reduce the backlog. As a result, employees are processing claims faster this fiscal year than last, completing them at a 17.8% faster rate, according to the VA. "Under President [Donald] Trump, VA is making major improvements to better serve veterans, and this announcement underscores that fact," VA Secretary Doug Collins said in a news release. "We look forward to implementing more reforms to increase customer service and convenience for those we are charged with serving." The Veterans Benefits Administration -- the arm of the VA that handles disability compensation, education, housing and pension benefits for veterans -- ended mandatory overtime for claims adjudicators in July 2024 after requiring it for seven years.

At the time, then-Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs said that employees had been effectively processing claims and mandatory overtime was no longer necessary. He added, however, that the VBA would allow employees to volunteer for overtime. "As we've looked at our production levels, as we looked at the workforce levels, I felt it was prudent for us to make this change," Jacobs said during a press conference July 9, 2024. During a hearing on May 15 before the House Appropriations Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies subcommittee, Collins pledged to maintain essential personnel, including claims processors, and address the backlog by putting "resources and time to where it needs to go." "I want our employees to step up," Collins said. "We're going to give you every opportunity to perform at the highest level, veteran benefits, disability folks, claims folks."

Of the claims approvals, nearly 64% received a disability rating of 70% or higher, with 23.8% receiving 100% disability rating, according to data provided by the VA to Military.com. Roughly 42% of the approved claims in fiscal 2025 were related to the PACT Act, the landmark 2022 legislation that expanded health care and benefits for former service members exposed to environmental pollutants caused by burn pits and other exposures in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The top three health conditions approved for disability were tinnitus, paralysis of the sciatic nerve and knee problems. The top three health conditions denied a rating or compensation were hearing loss, lumbosacral or cervical strain, and sleep apnea, Kasperowicz said. As of Saturday, the department had 675,319 pending claims, with 154,873, or 23%, considered to be backlogged -- pending for 125 days or more.

The figures are down from nearly 1.1 million claims, including 292,499 backlogged claims in 2023, the year following passage of the PACT Act. As of July 25, the Veterans Benefits Administration had 19,804 claims

processing personnel, down from 21,908 at the start of fiscal 2025. The top reasons claims adjudicators cited as reasons for leaving their jobs were personal health issues, to change careers, job stress or pressure, and geographic location.

Related: VA Declares 300,000 Health Care Jobs Exempt from Ordered Freeze on Federal Hiring
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/01/23/roughly-300000-v-a-jobs-exempted-federal-hiring-freeze-bid-protect-veteran-services.html>

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Interesting MOAA note here in the pulled quote and link. The awardees averaged more than \$3,000 each applicable chapter affiliate. *"The grants support MOAA councils and chapters providing services to local military and veteran families — either **directly or through partnerships** with other community organizations — in one of 10 areas of critical military and veteran family need: housing, food assistance, employment, health (including behavioral health), family support, community reintegration, financial assistance, legal assistance, transportation, and crisis relief. The 2025 grants will support Junior ROTC and ROTC programs, housing for veterans in need, food assistance, recovery and support services, Veterans Treatment Courts, a military transition seminar, and a camp for children of fallen servicemembers, among many other high-impact local programs."* <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/member-spotlight/42-moaa-chapters-receive-community-outreach-grants-from-the-moaa-foundation/>

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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.

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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Tarheel Central Chapter

DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Tuesday, Sep 9, 2025

Cheddar Up reservations, indicated by Dinner payment on Cheddar Up, Telephone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, Sep 4th; 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 (919) 601-3800 and Send Checks to Treasurer:

Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA
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p8a284@yahoo.com