

MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020



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Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the coming February 16th meeting, we have a great speaker. Rich Permenter, NOAA, Captain, (Ret) will focus on the mission and work of NOAA. I do not know about you but I do not know much about NOAA.

At the January meeting, we had the installation officers and it went off without a hitch due to the fantastic job of our 1st VP Joe Anderson and the President of the MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters, COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret).

We still have some members that have not pay their dues for the new year. Dues for 2020 need to be paid to Ron Wilsbach as soon as possible and, if you are not a National member, please take advantage of the free national Basic Membership. This will help the chapter qualify for the 5-star LOE award.

On April 19th, we will have COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret), Senior Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, MOAA National visit us and provide a presentation on their work in influencing our national legislature for the benefit of all veterans and military families. This will be a very informative meeting so mark your calendar and tell your military friends about the meeting.



Jay E. Garbus, CW4, USA (Ret), President

The mission of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is to promote MOAA purposes and objectives. This will foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services, and their Reserve and National Guard components. The goal is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniform 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.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, FEB 16th, 2020

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

Social Time **1500**

Meeting with Meal **1530**

Publisher and Editor – Jay E. Garbus

The **Newsletter** is published monthly for members and friends of Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA.

Editorial Policy: The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Chapter's Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Editor may be reached at (704) 400-0160

Chapter Website <https://www.charlottesmoaa.org/> / **MOAA Website** <http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action" <http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/>

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

PROGRAMS

February 16th - Rich Permenter, NOAA, Captain, (Ret) – Rich will brief us on the history and roles on the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Captain Richard Permenter served over 32 years active duty, beginning with 4 years enlisted service in the United States Marine Corps (two tours in Vietnam), followed by 28+ years in the NOAA Commissioned Corps from 1971 to 2000.

As a NOAA Corps Officer, he has served on NOAA ships fulfilling NOAA's missions in U.S. domestic waters, as well as on international oceanographic research projects in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Red Seas, and the Persian Gulf. He last commanded the NOAA Ship MT MITCHELL deployed to the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm to determine environmental damage caused by the intentional Iraqi oil spill during the hostilities. He has also served as Chief Scientist at sea conducting research on marine pollution, and as a member of the scientific complement on deep ocean geology and geophysics research projects.

During shore assignments, Captain Permenter has served in several assignments, including as Deputy Director of NOAA's Marine Geology Lab, as Executive Director for NOAA's Hazardous Materials Response and Restoration Office, and as Director of Operations for NOAA's west coast fleet.

Captain Permenter has received many awards, including the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, the highest award given by the Department, for his performance as commanding officer during the Desert Storm deployment.

March 15th - David Laws Dir, Services to the Armed Forces, American Red Cross, David, a chapter member, will talk about the Red Cross support for the military services, service members and families

April 19th – Our Chapter will have COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret), Senior Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, MOAA

National visit us and provide a presentation on their work in influencing our national legislature for the benefit of all veterans and military families.

Col. Terri Coles, USA (Ret) served over 20 years in the U.S. Army as a Signal Corps officer, serving in a wide range of command and staff assignments including postings in Korea and Germany and command at both the battalion and brigade level. She also served on the Department of the Army staff as an Inspector General and culminated her military career serving as a division chief in the Command, Control, Communications and Computer-J6 Directorate, on the Joint Staff, Pentagon.

Coles joined MOAA in 2012 and served as Deputy Director in the Career before assuming her role as Senior Director in Council and Chapter Affairs.



Transition Center

May 31st – JROTC Scholarship award presentations. This is a later May date due to Red Rocks Café scheduling and holiday conflicts.

LEGISLATION – Tony Castle

Licensing Compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses: An increasing number of occupations are establishing compacts that facilitate portability of licenses and opportunities to work in member states with an existing license. Having States enact laws approving these compacts further expedites licensure in

these occupations for separating Service members and military spouses. (2 of 5 Compacts signed into law, PSYPACT, EMS and Speech/Audiologist)

Implementation of supportive licensure laws: Most States have established laws that support licensure requirements for transitioning Service members and active duty military spouses; however, research has shown that some licensing boards have not fulfilled the intent of these laws. State legislatures can assist by requesting occupational licensing boards report on their efforts to implement these laws.

Enhanced State Initiatives to Improve Military Spouse License Portability: States have established various policies to improve license portability for military spouses; however, many of these revised policies do too little to address career turmoil experienced by military spouses. States can continue to make improvements by either revising the process or improving board compliance with previous enacted improvements.

Facilitate military spouse teacher certification: Military spouse teachers often encounter difficulty acquiring licensure in a state after a move. Providing flexibility in states accepting an existing standard certificate, establishing a temporary certificate, or expediting application and adjudication processes may alleviate the delays in garnering certification to teach in that particular state.

Advance enrollment: Military children attend an average of 6-8 schools during their school life. Military families transferring on official orders are usually not eligible to register in courses, programs or lotteries for charter/magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries. Schools could allow preliminary registration/enrollment or application pending relocation and waive proof of residence until the family moves.

In-State Tuition Continuity: In many States, students with a military sponsor stationed in a State are considered in-State for tuition purposes. However, if the sponsor has a change of station out of State between receiving their letter of acceptance and start of classes the student loses this status. States can alleviate this burden by allowing a spouse or child of an active Service member assigned to duty out-of-State to be deemed an in-State resident for purposes of determining tuition/fees at all State learning institutions as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in-State.

Virtual School Enrollment: Military families seek continuity and stability for their children's education. Virtual schools can provide a bridge for military children transitioning to a new school district where they may no longer have access to specific curricula. Eligible military children could participate without a residence requirement if moving to/from the school within impacted states and for the gaining school, to accept credits taken through the virtual program.

State policy to support identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect: State laws do not require child protective services to identify military families in cases of child abuse and neglect, or to report cases to the appropriate military authorities. Changes in State law can support both local government and the Military Departments concurrently assisting in child abuse or neglect cases involving military families.

Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers: Because States frequently have long waiting lists, Service members face large gaps in service every time they transfer across state lines. Allowing Service members to enroll their exceptional family member in the State they designate as their legal residence (e.g., where they pay taxes, vote) can stabilize their request for support.

"Ask the Question" Campaign: Encourages states to engage all helping agencies (healthcare, social services, education, and others) to ask the question, "Have you or a family member ever served in the military?" and have the question on all intake forms. State veterans affairs organizations may provide exceptional services to veterans who self-identify/seek those services.

MOAA/VETERANS BRIDGE HOME (VBH) MENTORSHIP PROGRAM An Informations System (IS) Workshop was held on January 30 with 15 attendees. Instructor was Todd Criswell with Wells Fargo and a mentor in our program. He will conduct follow on sessions for web site development and programming. If interested in learning more, contact at rbmorgan943@aol.com

JROTC SCHOLARSHIP - Bill McKenna with Larry Stawicki and Robin Garbus. Scholarship applications were due for submission no later than February 8, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS -
February - We have submitted our application for the COL Marvin J. Harris Communication award
March 31st - Last date to change the Committee Module More later.



May 1st - Levels of Excellence (moaa.org>Chapters>Council and Chapter Awards>Best Practices) More later.
June 1st - COL Steve Strobbridge Legislative Liaison Award (moaa.org>Chapters>Chapters>Council and Chapter Awards) More later
June 1st - Surviving Spouse Liaison Award (moaa.org>Chapters>Council and Chapter Awards) More later
The four NCCOC meeting for 2020 will be on Saturday
February 15th - The first meeting will be held at the VFW Headquarters, 917 New Bern Ave, Raleigh, NC 27601. We will begin at 1000 hours and adjourn at 1430 hours.
May 16th - TBA
August 15th - TBA
November 14th - A two-day weekend, Friday and Saturday, but that will be determined later.

MOAA NEWS

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. To reach our Member Service Center, please call 1-800-234-6622 or email us at msc@moaa.org.

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE MISSION FOR 2020

This will be a tumultuous news year of partisan politics, with the focus on the upcoming presidential election as well as the 33 Senate seats and 435 seats in the House of Representatives up for election.

MOAA will continue to remain decidedly nonpartisan. Our team works with every elected official, seeking positive change for the members of the seven uniformed services, our nation's veterans, and all military families and survivors.

In January, the 116th Congress begins its second session, and MOAA continues to stay focused on our mission. We've spent the past year meeting with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss pay equity, military medicine, survivor benefits, and other issues affecting servicemembers and veterans and their families. With record-level support during the first session on issues like [repealing the "widows tax,"](#) it's clear our lawmakers know MOAA will remain equally engaged during the second half.

"Our team has analyzed issues of benefits and compensation common to servicemembers and veterans and their families and survivors. We plan to clearly communicate specific actions we will undertake this coming year to address concerns across these expansive topics," said Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), vice president for Government Relations. "Please be sure to sign up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) online for updates."

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH CARE BENEFIT **Objective:** Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military-medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care.

Overview: Access to quality health care is paramount for servicemembers and retirees and their families. MOAA continues to target our advocacy efforts at preserving a strong military medical system and keeping TRICARE effective and affordable for all beneficiaries who earned and rely on these health care benefits.

In recent years, servicemembers and retirees have carried the increased burden of paying more for their health care than most people think. The notion that these beneficiaries pay little to nothing for health care provides the fuel to raise TRICARE fees and copayments for lawmakers and administration officials to fund military readiness or other programs not directly related to health care or medical readiness.

The government should be doing more to stabilize and improve the TRICARE program and the Military Health System (MHS), rather than disproportionately shifting readiness costs to beneficiaries or enacting cuts to medical billets and health and research programs that provide essential operational support.

Actions:

- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases
- Stand down efforts to cut military medical billets and efforts to dismantle the MHS

- Stop cuts to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, which provides education to uniformed health professionals, scientists, and leaders

SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES **Objective:** Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.

Overview: Programs and services for military and veteran families are often the first to see cuts to staffing, quality, and availability when government funding becomes tight. These benefits are essential to ensure servicemembers are squared away and can focus on the mission. Additionally, military spouses play a vital role in a servicemember's decision to stay in the military. When DoD prioritizes people first, it can retain a mission ready all-volunteer force.

Actions:

- Improve comprehensive housing reform and accountability
- Improve accountability of contract movers and claims during PCS moves
- Create incentives to increase quality child care provider accessibility and capacity options
- Include military spouses as a target group for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and improve occupational licensure transitions
- Preserve Parole in Place and improve paths to citizenship for servicemembers and families

Concurrent Receipt for All Retirees **Objective:** End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.

Overview: Since 2004, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments authorized the concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability pay for those who retired with a rating over 50% by the VA. Unfortunately, those who retired with less than a 50% rating from the VA and those who did not reach the 20-year mark and were medically retired under Chapter 61 do not receive the compensation they deserve. Incremental improvements to concurrent receipt that include Chapter 61 retirees and those retired with a 40% rating is the next step to extending concurrent receipt to military retirees.

Actions:

- Approve concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 retirees
- Approve concurrent receipt for service-connected disabled retirees rated 40% and below

SUPPORT THE TOTAL FORCE **Objective:** Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.

Overview: National Guard and Reserve troops are an essential part of America's national defense strategy. Over the past two decades, they have been used in an operational capacity, constantly serving on domestic and international missions to help protect our country. Despite conducting the same duties as their active duty counterparts, they are not receiving the same credit for their active time. To support our servicemembers in reserve components, changes must be made to reflect the total force mentality.

Actions:

- Eliminate Guard/Reserve retirement pay processing delays
- Ensure timely health care benefit for Guard/Reserve retirees
- Expand Military Lending Act protections and support
- Expand GI Bill parity for their service

BETTER, FASTER DOD/VA SERVICES **Objective:** Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through the VA and DoD.

Overview: MOAA believes in promoting national recognition and understanding of military service and how health care and benefits are earned through service in uniform, which are qualitatively different from "entitlement" or "social welfare" programs. While we recognize the fiscal pressures Congress is under, MOAA considers it our obligation as a leadership organization to do what is right for veterans and their families, and to do all we can to make them as whole as possible as they live out their lives once they take off the uniform. As such, we oppose decisions that erode foundational services and benefits delivered through the VA and DoD or decisions that degrade health care and benefits.

The honor, dignity, and respect of a veteran at the time of their burial is an essential component to these benefits, so resources should be provided to meet the demand of those seeking burials at cemeteries across the nation.

Actions:

- Enhance suicide prevention programs and access to behavioral health care
- Assure appropriate health care and benefits for service-connected exposures
- Strengthen and preserve support services for servicewomen and women veterans
- Improve wounded warrior and caregiver programs
- Implement the VA MISSION Act and identify legislative improvements
- Preserve earned military-veteran burial benefits

STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT ALL UNIFORMED SERVICES **Objective:** Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services to recruit, retain, and manage personnel.

Overview: During a 35-day government shutdown in January 2019, servicemembers of the Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and NOAA worked without pay. To sustain all services' ability to perform missions critical to national security, lapses in appropriations or budget concerns should not affect earned compensation and benefits. Additionally, federal statutes that support the armed forces' ability to grow and maintain their force should apply equally across the uniformed services, depending on mission needs.

The morale, welfare, and readiness of servicemembers are negatively affected by incidents of sexual harassment and assault. To foster a culture of trust with servicemembers, there must not only be confidence in the chain of command that it is safe to report a sexual assault or incident of harassment, but also the assurance that servicemembers see immediate administrative and legal justice.

Actions:

- Sustain continuous and timely appropriations for whole of government
- Ensure the continuity of pay and benefits during lapses in appropriations
- Ensure authorizations and appropriations for the Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and NOAA Corps to meet expanding mission needs.
- Ensure implementation of sexual harassment and assault reporting programs through expanded protection of the safe to report program, and strengthen deterrence measures for sexual harassment prevention through command administrative actions for substantiated sexual harassment investigations.

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - MOAA UNIFORMED SERVICES NURSE ADVOCATES VIRTUAL CHAPTER –

September 2020, the **Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter** and the **Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter** will host a 6-day, 5-night cruise to Bermuda.

On this trip, explore pink sand beaches, pastel-painted estates, military strongholds and enjoy underwater adventures, fine dining and brilliant golf courses.

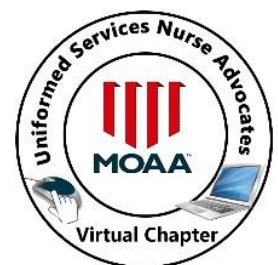
Both cruises are possible through a partnership with MOAA Vacations. As an added benefit, a portion of the sales go directly to benefit the MOAA chapter or council hosting the trip.

Col. Jeri Graham, USA (Ret), founding member and president of the virtual nurse's chapter, decided to organize the Bermuda cruise as a way for the online groups to meet face-to-face. But neither trip is limited exclusively to chapter or council members. All are invited for the cruise.

There are 159 cabins available for the Bermuda trip exclusively to MOAA members, family and friends.

Reservations start at \$429 per person for an inside cabin, with options available for ocean view balconies and suites. [Click here for more details](#). All room prices are based on double occupancy.

Jeri has even established a "hugely successful" Cabin Mate Finder program to help members traveling by themselves to find a roommate for the cruise. To participate, [just fill out this compatibility form](#) on the MOAA Vacations website, and she will pair you with another MOAA member who has similar interests.



The Cabin Mate Finder program can “help people meet other people and help split expenses” for the cruise, Graham said.

On at-sea days, Graham plans to hold chapter and advocacy meetings with breakout sessions to discuss MOAA’s key legislative issues. She is also hoping to have a few high-profile speakers as well.
“We’ve invited the three surgeons general,” Graham said.

ON GOING EVENTS

1. Mecklenburg Veterans Council – 1st Tuesday every month at 11:30 am. Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive, Ste. 2000 (Community Support Services), Bldg. D, Charlotte, NC. The meeting room is the Queen City Conference Room, 2029
2. Veteran Network breakfasts on the first Thursday of every month, starting at 0730 at Another Broken Egg in Ballantyne. Total cost is \$ 13.
3. Veteran Network Uptown Lunches on the second Wednesday of every month starting at 11:45 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church Community Room. Total cost is \$ 10.00. Pre-register at Veterans Bridge Home website and lunch is only \$ 5.00. This lunch has great speakers.

AMAZON SMILE CHAPTER DONATIONS - **Ronald Wilsbach**, Thank you for registering Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA at org.amazon.com and welcome to AmazonSmile, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers. Spread the word to your supporters so they can generate donations for your organization when they shop. When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they’re asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they’re taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3779812>



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Equal Tax Treatment for **ALL** Government Retirees

MOAA PRIME SPONSORS/SUPPORTERS FOR CHAPTER'S JROTC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



Women Who Serve Forum

Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Goodwill Opportunity Campus | 5301 Wilkinson Blvd.
2nd floor | Charlotte, NC 28208



What: A can't miss day of exceptional speakers and workshops to inspire women who share a bond from serving in the military. Join us for a women-led, women-focused day of empowerment and personal development. The day will be filled with authentic, no filter discussions on how to amplify your life after the military.

Why: The military to civilian transition is often-times more challenging for women. Successfully transitioned women share their path (and detours) as a guide to find your true strength, illuminate options for your next chapter and actively build a support system to help you thrive. Come ready to learn, share and create your action plan for success.

For Whom: Any woman who has served or is currently serving in the military... any branch, any rank, at any time.

Tickets \$25 | Breakfast, lunch and parking included.

Limited number of scholarships may be available on first request, first served basis.

To register, please visit www.redcross.org/womenwhoserve



American Red Cross
Greater Carolinas Region



Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch _____ DOB _____ Spouse's Name. _____

Street Address : _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

National Membership Number _____ Ph: _____

Annual Dues - \$25.00 - After March 1st, 2020 Dues increase to \$30.00 Annually
Surviving Spouse Dues remain at \$10.00 annually.

Please remit check and completed renewal form to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA
PO Box 31394
Charlotte, NC 28231-1394

Membership Requirements: Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the seven uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Public Health Service) and the reserve and other components of these services may become regular members. Widows and widowers of any deceased individual, who would, if living, are eligible for membership as auxiliary members. Regular members must hold and maintain membership in both the national organization as well as the local Chapter. Spouse members are encouraged but not required to hold both memberships. (Surviving spouses of deceased MOAA Life Members retain their spouses membership.)

Not a MOAA national member yet? A basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for \$48.00 per year. Get all the details at msc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.