



5 STAR
2015,18,19



5 STAR
2014,15,17,18



Officers Serving the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service & NOAA

Newsletter April 2021



President's Message

Spring has "sprung" and MOAA National and its chapters across the nation are preparing to focus on MOAA's Legislative agenda with the 117th Congress of the United States. In the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter we are grateful for the work that VP, Legislative Affairs, "Tony" Castle is doing to represent us when it comes to Legislative Affairs for MOAA in the Charlotte area. If Tony calls upon you to assist in any of his efforts, I encourage you to seriously consider his request.

I want to continue our appeal to ALL chapter members, including Surviving Spouses, to consider opportunities for involvement in the chapter such as becoming a member of a committee such as the Membership Committee, Program Committee, Surviving Spouse Affairs Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and others. **If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me or a member of the Board of Directors.**

This year is getting off to a great start as we begin to think about the 50th anniversary of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter. Just how impactful this year will be will depend largely upon the extent of your engagement. Thank you, in advance, for committing to making a difference.

NEVER STOP SERVING.

Joe L. Anderson, President, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA, 336-324-1008

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Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

April 18th

Via Zoom

At 3:00 PM

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.

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.charlottemoaa.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.

CHARLOTTE METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

(All programs will be done virtually via ZOOM unless otherwise indicated.)

PROGRAMS

April 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m., Blake Bourne, Executive Director of Veterans Bridge Home (VBH) – VBH is the focal point agency for veteran support in the greater Charlotte area and now for central North Carolina. He will provide a VBH update on their new offices, new and continuing programs and their expanded NC territory for the coordination and delivery of veteran support. Will also address support needs and volunteer opportunities for chapter members in our community partnership with VBH.

May 16, 2021; 3:00 p.m. - JROTC Awards

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Chuck Martin, 1st VP and Program Chair is looking for two volunteers to work with him in identifying and selecting guest speakers for our Sep 2021 and out guest speakers for selected Chapter meetings. Intent would be to do some "brainstorming" on getting interesting speakers for members and spouses would be one goal of the committee. Goal would be to identify individuals with interesting backgrounds and stories to tell. Another issue would be to act as a backup should Chuck be away. Committee involvement would be a Zoom or telephone meeting monthly for an hour or less...and an occasional email to tie issues down. If interested and willing to serve, please contact Chuck at 5712395630 or chuckmartin63@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Why maintain your membership in MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

CHAPTER DUES

If you have not paid your chapter dues for the 2021 Calendar year, why not take care of this important matter today? Please complete the Renewal Form included on the last page of this newsletter and mail along with your check day.

JROTC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS – We will announce scholarship awardees in April and formally award the scholarships at our May 2021 meeting. It has been five years since our "first class" of scholarship

awardees began their journey toward adulthood and their life's endeavors. Many may be wondering **...WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Well...Melody Alexander was actually our first awardee, and this is what she has been up to since 2016. After graduation from Ardrey Kell High School, Melody went on to University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a minor in Japanese. Her senior thesis project, "Sexual Health Education and STD Prevention in minority Communities in Durham" received highest honors. At UNC Melody volunteered at local public schools, at a free health clinic, joined a sorority and was a member of the Asian American Center Campaign Team to advocate for and fundraise for the development of an Asian American Center at UNC. This effort earned the 2020 Intergroup Collaboration Diversity Award from the UNC Office for Diversity and Inclusion. Melody is currently an emergency department nurse at Duke Regional Hospital and is a volunteer and board member for Neshama Animal Rescue in Raleigh. She has done us proud.



JROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT - The JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament is the chapter's signature event and it is the major source of income that funds the JROTC Scholarships. It is scheduled for **Friday, October 8, 2021** at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. After having to cancel the 2020 tournament due to Covid restrictions and the resulting sponsor financial issues, the 2021 tournament is critically important to rebuild the scholarship fund account so that we may continue to provide annual scholarships for deserving cadets.

The success of this year's tournament is dependent upon the support of **ALL** members in volunteer roles, securing sponsorships, and in other capacities. **YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND REQUESTED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN ANY WAY, PLEASE CONTACT RON MORGAN (rbmorgan943@aol.com) OR RON WILSBACH. (rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com)**

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

SURVIVING SPOUSE VIRTUAL CHAPTER

If you are a surviving spouse, consider becoming a member of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. It is open to any surviving spouse of an officer of any U.S. uniformed service across the country. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to: mssvc02@gmail.com. The group plans to hold hour-long virtual meetings every quarter.

The Latest on the SBP-DIC Offset Elimination

Read more about the process on the DFAS website.

(If you have any questions, please contact our chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison, Mary Cuthbertson at marycut3@aol.com.)



MOAA NATIONAL 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.

LEGISLATIVE - MOAA Key Objective for 2021 – EDUCATE AND INFORM CONGRESS

- Protect Value of Military Health Care Benefit
- Military Family Support Programs
- Equity of benefits and protections for Guard and Reserve
- Access and Quality of Veteran Healthcare

KEY DATES:

May 2021 – Advocacy in Action (formerly Storming the Hill)

Sep 17/18, 2021 – Southeast Regional Leader's Workshop (Raleigh, NC)



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS

NCCOC MEETING DATES – 2021

May 14-15, 2021 - Due to continuing restrictions related to in-person gatherings, it is anticipated that the 2nd quarterly NCCOC meeting will be virtual via Zoom.

September 2021; October 2021; November 13, 2021

Chapter legislative representatives have worked with the North Carolina Veteran's Council to bring to the attention of our legislators issues of importance to the military, veterans and retired military communities. In April we participated in a session at which we visited the representative and senator in our respective districts. During these sessions we hi-lited the importance of the following issues:

1. Recognition of Gold/Blue Star Mothers (Families) - HB64
2. Approval of the budget for NC Department of Veterans Affairs – three items are of particular importance:
 - a. NC Vets Cemetery staff 17 employees need to be put on one state payroll, currently paid from receipts from the operation. Additionally establish a trust fund for long term maintenance of the cemetery when full and there is no cash flow from receipts.
 - b. Increase funding for DVA in addition to the DMVA which was never included when formed in 2015.
 - c. Increase the budget for NC Scholarships for Children of Wartime vets.
3. Equal Tax Treatment of Gov't Retirees (Extend Bailey) HB213, HB 650 and SB 188
4. Property tax relief for certain veterans with service related disabilities. Provide veterans that are permanently and totally disabled as designated by the Department of Veterans Affairs with greater property tax exclusion. Passage of legislation to further assist these veterans would relieve some of the stress they endure daily.
 - a. There are 60,000 disabled veterans in North Carolina.
 - b. Current property tax relief is 45%
 - c. Support raising deduction to 100%
 - d. County Commissioners oppose because of adverse impact on county budgets

The legislators with whom we spoke were receptive to the proposals we endorsed and appeared enthusiastic to provide their support. Unfortunately, in the case of the officials who Triangle Chapter contacted, they were in the minority party and saw little prospect for advancing the legislation we advocated.

In the current legislative session 36 pieces of legislation impacting active duty military, military bases, veterans or retirees have been introduced. Of the 36, three address the tax treatment of retirees. Of the three bills, two seek to extend the provisions of Bailey, Emory Patton to those state and federal employees or service members not covered by the original settlement. As of this date two bills on Hyperbaric Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury have been combined and passed. The remaining bills are still in committee.

4TH BRANCH – NC LEGISLATION WE SUPPORT!

- SB4: [Equal Tax Treatment of Gov't Retirees](#); Primary Sponsors: Sen. Jim Burgin (R-Harnett, Johnston & Lee), Sen. Don Davis (D-Greene & Pitt) and Sen. Michael Lazzara (R-Jones & Onslow)
- HB 75: [Gov't Retirees Tax Deduction](#); Primary Sponsors: Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow), Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), Rep. Pat Hurley (R-Randolph) & Rep. Mike Clampitt (R-Haywood, Jackson & Swain)
- HB 52: [Equal Tax Treatment of Gov't Retirees](#); Primary Sponsors: Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow), Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), Rep. Pat Hurley (R-Randolph) & Rep. Mike Clampitt (R-Haywood, Jackson & Swain)

COVID-19 BURIAL BENEFIT - If you know of anyone who had a family member pass away from COVID-19, FEMA will provide up to \$7,000.00 to reimburse funeral expenses for deaths that occurred after January 20, 2020. The program starts in April and the information can be found on:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

This is a very important benefit for anyone who has lost someone due to COVID. Please help get the word out about this.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES AND UPDATES

If you believe you may be suffering from the virus and you are:

- *A TRICARE beneficiary:* Call the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1, to receive guidance. You can also connect with a nurse via web or video chat at www.mhsnurseadvice.com.
- *A VA beneficiary:* Contact [your local VA facility](#) prior to visiting. You can also [send a secure message via the MyHealtheVet portal](#) to receive guidance. Learn more about virtual care options [here](#). UPDATE: As of March 19, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices no longer will offer in-person services, including scheduled appointments.
- *Outside the VA and TRICARE networks:* Call your health provider.

Coronavirus Resources

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](#)
- [CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals](#)
- [VA Coronavirus Website](#)
- [TRICARE Coronavirus Information](#)



JROTC Scholarship Fund **BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**



SPONSORED BY



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

Friday, October 8, 2021
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation - Mint Hill, NC

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

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

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

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

JROTC Scholarship Fund Benefit Golf Tournament - Oct 8, 2021

LEVELS & REGISTRATION

PRICE INCLUDES: Green fees, Cart, 2 Beverage Tickets on Course, Continental Breakfast, Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes & Gifts. Sponsorships will also get signage at tee/green.

PARTICIPATION

Individual Golfer \$110 4 Person Team \$440

SPONSORSHIPS

TEE/GREEN SPONSORSHIP

Individual \$100 Company Signage \$200 4 Person Team + Signage \$500

PRIME COMPANY SPONSORSHIPS

All levels include: Acknowledgement at Tournament Dinner, and company name and/or logo on printed material, press releases and MOAA website.

A representative of each sponsor company will be invited to and be recognized at the JROTC scholarship awards dinner/ceremony in May 2021/2022.

Platinum Sponsor \$2,000

- (3) Foursomes
- Title Sponsor Banner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer
- Opportunity to speak at Awards Dinner

Gold Sponsor \$1,500

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

Silver Sponsor \$1,000

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

Registration Form - JROTC Scholarship Fund BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021

Please Check One or Several: (Mulligan packages available at Registration) PARTICIPATION: Individual Player \$110 4 Person Team \$440

SPONSORSHIPS: Individual \$100 Company Tee/Green \$200 4 Person Team Tee/Green \$500

____ Prime Company Sponsorship (Level)

Team Captain/Player Name: Phone: Email:

1. 2.

3. 4

PAYMENT: Checks payable to MOAA Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

Please detach and send form by October 1, 2021 (and payment if by check) to:

Ron Wilsbach – MOAA Scholarship Golf Tournament, 10944 Casetta Drive, Matthews, NC 28105-5918



Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch _____ DOB _____

Spouse's Name _____ Street Address : _____

City _____ Email _____

State _____ Zip _____ National Membership Number _____

Ph/Cell: _____

Annual Dues - \$30.00

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 eight uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Space 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. 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.