





5 STAR 2015,18,19



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

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joeanderson1970@yahoo.com

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rbmorgan943@aol.com

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rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com

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Mongo.coke@gmail.com

Larry Stawicki 704-814-9739

stawickilp@aol.com

Surviving Spouse Representative

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marycut3@aol.com

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jgarbus@carolina.rr.com

CHAPLAIN

John Samb 704-572-0460

jwsamb@novanthealth.org

Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

May 16th Via Zoom

At 3:00 PM



Newsletter May 2021



President's Message

Our next meeting on Sunday, May 16 is going to be special, in that we will be celebrating the recipients of the 2021 JROTC MOAA Scholarships. They will be on the Zoom call with us, along with their parents, other family members and their JROTC Senior Instructors. It will be an exciting time and I want to encourage you to be a part of this celebration, as these scholars end one chapter in their development and prepare to begin another critical chapter as they prepare for the "rest of their lives. Please plan on being a part of this celebration.

The May meeting also marks the end of the first half of the business year for Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter as we embark upon our summer break during June, July, and August. The Board of Directors will continue to meet during the summer and conduct the business of the chapter and preparing to begin our "in-person" dinner meetings at Red Rockets in September.

During the summer, we encourage you to consider how you might contribute to the success of the chapter at the committee level, such as the Membership Committee, Surviving Spouse Issues Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Program Committee, and others. Feel free to contact me or a member of the Board of Directors, if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at the celebration on May 16.

NEVER STOP SERVING.

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

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/take Action/

CHARLOTTE METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

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

PROGRAMS

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

2021 – JROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

- Cadet Major Sriya Pokala
- Cadet Major Gabriel E. Alvardo
- ❖ Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Maria Figueroa



Sriya Pokala



Gabriel E. Alvardo

Ardrey Kell High School Rocky River High School Fort Mill High School



Maria Figueroa

<u>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</u>: 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

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 <u>Friday</u>, 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 <u>ALL</u> 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)



VETERANS BRIDGE HOME Support our efforts, here are the links to do so:

- Sign up for the Newsletter
- Join us for an upcoming Event
- Request Assistance for yourself or a Veteran you know
- Make a Donation

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER by: Mary Cuthbertson

- Articles for MOAA Newsletters SSAC members wrote monthly articles that are published on the first Thursday of each month in *The MOAA Newsletter*. Read past articles <u>here</u>.
- Celebrating the Elimination of the "Widows Tax" In February, several SSAC members
 attended the congressional reception on Capitol Hill to <u>celebrate the elimination of the Survivor</u>
 <u>Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset</u>, also called the widows tax. The
 repeal of the widow's tax is the result of lobbying and letter-writing dating back to the mid 1970s when associations like MOAA (then TROA) and others were lobbying for full payment of
 SBP without offsets to Social Security and DIC.
- Questions? Contact MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622, or find MOAA
 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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.

STATE TAX UPDATE: By: Amanda Dolasinski

North Carolina - MOAA members in North Carolina are strategically maneuvering to advance legislation that would exempt military pension from state income tax.

Col. Ihor "Iggi" Husar, USAR (Ret), first vice president of MOAA's North Carolina Council of Chapters, said all 15 state chapters are tracking two bills that would eliminate military pension from state income tax. He has led efforts to connect chapter members to the lawmakers in their districts to build more meaningful connections in hopes of passing the legislation.

"It's much better to have a constituent calling to make an appointment to do advocacy," Husar said. "It's more effective this way."

North Carolina House Bill 83 and its companion, Senate Bill 12, target tax exemptions for only military members. Other tax exemption bills in the state are broader, calling for tax exemptions for additional federal employees, and some state employees.

If passed into law, the full exemption would mean a revenue loss of about \$32 million for the state, according to the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. However, Husar said he believes the exemption would be counterbalanced by an influx of veterans who would choose to retire in North Carolina and would pay other taxes and boost the local economy through spending.

Beyond the financial impact, Husar said military retirees could strengthen the workforce because they are skilled, trained, and educated. Servicemembers are generally more educated now because higher educational requirements are necessary for promotions, he said.

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

- <u>Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation</u>

 Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.
- Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap
 MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families
 Act of 2021 (H.R. 475), introduced by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.).
 This bipartisan bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26,
 bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.
- Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act
 Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

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 15, 2021; September 18, 2021 (combined with leader workshop); October TBA 2021; NCCOC Annual meeting 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 highlight 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

<u>COVID-19 BURIAL BENEFIT</u> - <u>https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance</u>

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

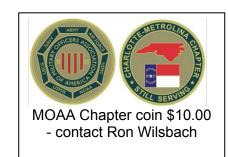
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES AND UPDATES

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.mhsnurseadviceline.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
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website
- CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals
- VA Coronavirus Website
- TRICARE Coronavirus Information







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

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 (NC04) Enrollment/Renewal Form

Date: Enter a date New Member: L Ren	ewal: L Enter Rank Branch of Service
Officer Status: (click arrow and select)	Surviving Spouse:
(Regular members must hold and mai organization as well as the local chap of you are a member of National MOAA, Membership No.	•
Not a MOAA National member yet? Chec provided at no cost to you.	ck here □ and a basic membership will be
First Name: Initia	Last Name:
DOB:	Spouse's Name:
Street Address:	City:
State: Z	ip Code:
Email:	Ph/Cell:
Annual Dues - \$30.00 ☐ Surviving Sp Please remit check and completed form	

<u>Membership Requirements:</u> Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the eight uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps) and the reserve and other components of these services may become regular members.

Widows and widowers of any deceased Officer, who would be eligible for membership, if living, are also eligible for membership. Spouse members are encouraged but not required to hold both memberships. (Surviving spouses of deceased MOAA Life Members retain their spouses membership.)