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Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

February 21
Via Zoom



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY



President's Message

As the newly installed President of Charlotte Metrolina Chapter of MOAA, I would like to say THANK YOU for electing me to lead the chapter for 2021. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

This year's chapter officers, and board are planning a great chapter year with initiatives for new membership growth and enhancing the value of active chapter membership for all members of the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter. We look forward to providing interesting and fun chapter meeting programs, opportunities for community involvement, and a unique military service camaraderie. There will also be opportunities for all members to support MOAA's national, state, and local legislative agenda to protect the benefits of members of the military community.

During 2021, we want to encourage the involvement and participation of EVERY member, including Surviving Spouses. Opportunities for involvement include being a member of a committee such as the Membership Committee, Finance Committee, Surviving Spouse Issues Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Program Committee and others. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me or a member of the Board of Directors.

This is going to be a great year in the nearly 50-year history of Charlotte Metrolina Chapter. Just how impactful it 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, LTC (RET) 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/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

PROGRAMS

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

February 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. -Presenter - 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 highly informative meeting so mark your calendar and tell your military friends about the meeting.



March 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. – Presenter- - Joe Anderson, Chapter President. - 2021 Chapter Operating Plan.

April 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m. TBA,

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

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 - The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is proud to announce that multiple JROTC college scholarships of \$2000 each for some of the outstanding cadets from the JROTC units that we support in the greater Charlotte area will be awarded in the Spring of 2021.

Applications have been emailed to the JROTC Senior Instructor for each of the 39 units we support. Each high school unit can select one cadet from their program to compete for a scholarship. The certified mail return deadline to our chapter for the completed application must be postmarked **no later than February 12, 2021**. We intend to announce scholarship awardees in April and formally award the scholarships at our May 2021 meeting. For the past several years, the chapter committee has selected 4 or 5 awardees.

JROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT - The Chapter's Scholarship Golf Tournament 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 JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament is Charlotte Metrolina Chapter's Signature Event. Its success 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 OR RON WILSBACH.**

PASSING OF CHAPTER MEMBER - TOM CANNON – Tom Cannon, Captain, USN (Ret) and chapter member passed away on January 31st, 819 Black 2021. Tom was one of the founders of the Town of Matthews Veteran Council and a strong supporter of chapter's scholarship fund golf tournament. Service details are still unknown. Expressions of condolences can be sent to his wife, Barbara, at 819 Black Oak Drive, Matthews, NC 28105

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.

MOAA's 2021 Legislative Priorities

Here are MOAA's priorities for advocacy as the 117th Congress begins its work.

MOAA needs all members to be at the ready to reach out to your legislators, and keep that engagement going as needed to make sure your voice is heard.

- Recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the Landscape for Many of Our Priorities
- Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit
- Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays
- Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges
- Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay
- Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards
- Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures
- Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent with Their Active-Duty Counterparts
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services
- Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an Option for Those Currently Eligible to Receive Full Military Honors, Through Expansion of Our National Cemetery
- Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees
- Improve Survivor Benefits
- Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER - By: Anne Hartline (former Surviving Spouse Advocacy Committee Chair)

"Despite obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC)

continued to serve all surviving spouses and spouses in the focus areas of encouraging, engaging, and educating.

Some major accomplishments were:

- **Surviving Spouse Liaison Training at MOAA's Regional Leadership Conferences** — SSAC members led training at the in-person Florida conference in January and at the virtual events in Colorado Springs and Louisville in September and November, respectively.
- **Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter** — Membership continues to grow, with 134 members from 30 states. The chapter meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at 1 p.m., Eastern



Time. The 2020 July and October meetings took place via Zoom. For more information, email mssvco2@gmail.com or go to the [surviving spouse section of MOAA.org](https://www.moa.org/surviving-spouse-section).

- **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 [here](#).
- **Celebrating the Elimination of the “Widows Tax”** — In February, several SSAC members attended the congressional reception on Capitol Hill to [celebrate the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset](#), 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.
- **Selection of New SSAC Members** — Barbara Bowman (Oklahoma), Renee Brunelle (Florida), Patricia Green (Florida), and Vivianne Wersel (North Carolina) were selected to serve on the council from 2020-24, with the option of remaining on for two additional years. [Read more about members of the SSAC](#).
- **Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award** — Mary Dunagan from the Cape Canaveral (Fla.) Chapter was selected for this award. She also serves as the surviving spouse liaison for the Florida Council of Chapters. [Read more about Mary and her accomplishments](#).
- **Facebook Group Name Change** — The group was renamed [“Surviving Spouses and Friends”](#) so people other than surviving spouses can join.

The opportunity to serve as an SSAC member for the past six years has been a great honor for me. MOAA is an organization composed of a myriad programs designed to serve members and led by incredible professionals. I feel I have been part of an SSAC team that has blazed new trails for surviving spouse members and spouses of living uniformed servicemembers. We changed our name from “auxiliary members” to “surviving spouse members” to represent our status as voting MOAA members. What began as an almost total focus on advocacy six years ago has developed into a broad spectrum of programs.

I especially appreciate the opportunity to assist in the development of the surviving spouse liaison training for the MOAA regional conferences. I am confident the new SSAC will raise services to higher levels as they “never stop serving.”

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.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS

COUNCIL GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR 2021:

- Advocacy
- Pass 4 laws to make NC military friendly.
- Support National MOAA on their priorities.
- Gain advocacy support from NC Veterans Council to get our priorities accomplished.

NCCOC MEETING DATES – 2021

February 19 - 20, 2021; May 15, 2021; September 2021; October 2021; November 13, 2021

NCCOC MEMBER - CMDR. MATTHEW WALKER EARNS COAST GUARD ENGINEER OF THE YEAR HONORS

BY: AMBER MONKS

Recently named Coast Guard Engineer of the Year, Cmdr. Matthew Walker always knew he wanted to serve. For more than two decades he’s done just that, through many tours of duty in several capacities – as a pilot, a professor, and as an engineer. His work in that last capacity took him to the Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, N.C., where he serves as Engineering Services Division Chief. When he’s not earning patents for developing repair tools, spearheading training efforts for dozens of engineers, and adapting maintenance plans to adjust for COVID-19 precautions, he’s serving as president



of the Elizabeth City Satellite Chapter of MOAA's First Flight Chapter.

Walker turned to MOAA initially to foster community at his duty station, he said. After identifying MOAA as a catalyst for connecting his community, he worked with leaders from chapters in the region and formed a satellite chapter that would serve his immediate location.

Lt. Cmdr. Albert DelGarbino, USCG (Ret), First Flight Chapter president, said it's clear Walker has made a difference. "During the [2018-19] government shutdown, Commander Walker helped organize a food bank for Coast Guard personnel and their families [...] who were not receiving pay," DelGarbino said. "His efforts helped provide much-needed food and basic supplies for the Coast Guard community until the end of the shutdown."

As president of the Elizabeth City Satellite Chapter, Walker highlights the importance of MOAA's advocacy work to prospective members, as well as the usefulness of MOAA member resources for military life, career transitions, and through retirement. An award ceremony is set for Washington, D.C., on Feb. 18, per the award announcement, pending COVID-19 conditions.

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](#); [CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals](#); [VA Coronavirus Website](#); [TRICARE Coronavirus Information](#); [DoD Coronavirus Response Website](#); [Health.mil Coronavirus Information](#); [National Institutes of Health Coronavirus Information](#); [Latest Coronavirus News from Military.com](#); [Latest Coronavirus News from Military Times](#)





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.