



5 STAR
2015,18,19,20



5 STAR
2014,15,17,18, 20

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

Newsletter February 2022

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Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

February 20, 2022;3 p.m.

(RED ROCKS CAFE)

4223 Providence Rd

Charlotte, NC



President's message

Happy month of February – a month in which we celebrate Black History, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day (Guys, remember to buy flowers and candy for the special person in your life)...and much more. Whatever it is you will celebrate...ENJOY!!



This year's Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter officers are celebrating a successful 2021 and planning a great 2022 with initiatives for new membership growth and enhancing the value of active chapter membership for all members of the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter.

During our February meeting, I, as Chapter President, will discuss how we will operationalize the MOAA National goals at the Chapter level and talk about what each chapter member needs to do for MOAA as an organization to achieve its goals for 2022. During this year, we want to continue to encourage the involvement and participation of EVERY chapter member, including Surviving Spouses. Opportunities for involvement include being a member of a committee such as the Membership Committee, Program Committee, 50th Anniversary Planning 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 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.

LTC Joe L. Anderson, USA (Ret) President, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA, 336-324-1008

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.

Publisher and Editor – CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA

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

National MOAA and the Council are nonpartisan



CHARLOTTE METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS



MOAA Chapter coin
\$10.00 - contact Ron

PROGRAMS/MEETING DATES FOR 2022:

February 20th: Joe Anderson, Chapter President; Topic: Chapter Operation Plan for 2022

March 20th: Ann Spitzer, Background of WW I Battle in Flanders Field

April 10th: General Ken Wilsbach, USAF, Commander, INDO-PACAF Command. Topic: SITREP.

May 15th: JROTC Scholarship Award Presentations

June, July, and August – (NO CHAPTER MEETINGS)

WALKER WILLIAMS 111 APPOINTED CHAPTER PERSONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Chapter President Joe Anderson has appointed Chapter member, Walker Williams as Personal Affairs Officer for Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA. The Personal Affairs Officer's responsibilities are primarily (1.) In a case of serious illness or death, offer assistance to members and their family, as needed (2.) When called upon, help members and survivors in the submission of inquiries, applications, and claims to governmental agencies such as the VA, military personnel offices and finance centers, and Social Security offices (3.) Serve as the primary point of contact for issues related to survivor benefits information.

Walker M. Williams III, Col, USAF (Ret.) served in the USAF from 1962 to 1991. From 1991 to 2006, he served as the Deputy Executive Director at the Reserve Officers Association's Washington, DC, headquarters.

RECRUITING/RETENTION

"WHY JOIN MOAA" AND/OR THE LOCAL CHAPTER – HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The best recruiting for MOAA membership and local Charlotte-Metrolina chapter membership is by individual chapter members recruiting current, past, former, and retired officers that they meet in everyday life. This can be from work, church, social groups, civic organizations, clubs, family friends, and even strangers we meet in grocery stores, restaurants, and kids/grandkids soccer, etc. games. We

can sometimes recognize former military service members by the baseball caps they wear or the auto decals or license plate frame that indicate their past military service.

National MOAA

The most recognized and effective advocate voice with DoD, Congress and the administration for active duty, reserve, retired and veterans in obtaining, maintaining, and protecting the rights and benefits of service members and their families. MOAA is a leader of “military coalition” advocating for military personnel and benefit issues.

- Local chapter membership benefits:

- Camaraderie – fellowship and friendship with those that have also served as military officers.
- Monthly newsletter with federal/State and local information on legislation that directly affects those that have and are serving.
- Monthly dinner meetings will great speaker programs, both military related and local interest
- Opportunities to serve as a volunteer in community-based veteran support programs, i.e., Veterans Bridge Home (VBH), Patriots Path, Mecklenburg Community Veteran Support Council,
- Chapter supports 40 high school JROTC programs and 2 ROTC programs with Leadership Awards. Notably, CMS high school JROTC programs have a 99% graduation rate.
- Chapter provides a JROTC Academic Scholarship program that provides 4 to 5 \$ 2,000 scholarships annually
- Annual chapter JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament to fund scholarship program. Scheduled for October 7, 2022

Give those you meet, a chapter application or send them an email with the application attached. OR you can pass along contact information to Ron Morgan at: rbmorgan943@aol.com

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:

Mary Cuthbertson, marycut3@aol.com - Surviving Spouse Liaison

Surviving Spouses are encouraged to visit MOAA.org, where you can sign up to receive *The MOAA Newsletter* and choose areas of most interest to you, such health care and earned benefits, finance, and spouse and family.



VETERANS BRIDGE HOME – See links below to support VBH.

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

THE PATRIOT MILITARY FAMILY FOUNDATION is again offering \$10,000 scholarships, paid to the school \$2500 per year for four years. This scholarship is available to any service member or veteran or their dependents for their 4-year bachelor’s degree at a North Carolina college or university. Applications are due by 31 March. Please get this word out to any appropriate military or veteran family. The following link allows them to download the application:

[Scholarships - Patriot Military Family Found \(patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org\)](http://patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org)

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.

IMPORTANT DATES:

National MOAA Workshop, 12, 13 August 2022, Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC

WHAT'S NEW FOR YOUR TAXES IN 2022

[Go to the MOAA website and register for the [MOAA's Tax Webinar \(Feb. 16\)](#)]

MOAA NEEDS YOUR HELP: SHARE YOUR TOXIC EXPOSURE STORY By: Cory Titus JANUARY 26, 2022

As we head into the second session of the 117th Congress, pressure is mounting, and time is running short to pass comprehensive reforms for toxic exposures. The two omnibus packages proposed by the Senate and House have [large price tags](#) given the size and scope of the affected veteran populations. MOAA remains committed to ensuring these changes are made, and we need your help to encourage Congress to pass these necessary reforms this year.

If you or someone you know has been harmed by toxic exposure while in service domestically or overseas, or suspects toxic exposures played a role in a current health condition, we want to hear your story. We are collecting stories from all generations to share in testimony, articles, and other MOAA publications to help our advocacy efforts.

MOAA'S NEVER STOP SERVING PODCAST tackles issues you care about most: your pay and benefits, health care, career transition tips, and more. Each week, host [Lt. Col. Olivia Nunn, USA \(Ret\)](#), talks with currently serving officers, veterans and veteran service organization leaders to provide expert guidance and insights.



Each episode can be streamed below, or access the podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [PodChaser](#), or [TuneIn](#). Check back for even more platforms!

MOAA HAS FOUR VIRTUAL CHAPTERS: the [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#), the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), the [Public Health Service Virtual Chapter](#), and the [Chaplains Virtual Chapter](#).

Interested in starting one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact Capt. Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's program director for engagement, at patw@moaa.org, or Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), senior director for council and chapter affairs, at erins@moaa.org, for more information.

COVID-19 BURIAL BENEFIT - <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.



SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: REFLECTING ON 2021

Here's a look at some of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council's accomplishments over the past year.

By [Gail Joyce](#), 2021 chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) began 2021 once again dealing with the fallout of the pandemic. Yet, we continued to support surviving spouses and spouses in a positive way and promote MOAA's strategic priorities at every opportunity through education, encouragement, and engagement. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish during a most unsettling time. Some of our accomplishments for this year include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison Training. SSAC members led surviving spouse liaison trainings during virtual meetings of four Regional Leadership Workshops and one in-person workshop. Average attendance for each workshop was 120, with 20 attending the surviving spouse liaison training. The year's final workshop was held in person in San Diego, where about 125 council and chapter leaders registered and 26 participated in our training. SSAC members continue to finetune the training based on evaluations and comments from participants.

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets once a month and is open to all MOAA surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons. Speakers cover important information regarding issues and concerns one month and the next is an open forum meeting taking questions and hearing concerns of attendees. [Learn more about the chapter, including how to join.](#)

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - VETERANS' BENEFITS

VA AMPLIFIES ACCESS TO HOME, COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs' [Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care](#) is expanding its [Home-Based Primary Care](#), [Medical Foster Home](#) and [Veteran-Directed Care](#) programs to make them available at all VA medical centers by the end of fiscal year 2026.

VA will add 58 medical foster homes and 70 Veteran-directed care programs to VAMCs across the nation and add 75 home-based primary care teams to areas with the highest unmet need.

"These [evidence-based programs](#) allow Veterans to age-in-place, avoid or delay nursing home placement and choose the care environment that aligns most with their care needs, preferences and goals," said Executive Director of VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care Scotte Hartronft, M.D. "Veterans using these programs have experienced [fewer hospitalizations](#) and emergency department visits, reduced hospital and nursing home days and fewer nursing home readmissions and inpatient complications."

According to [VA's Policy Analysis and Forecasting Office](#), the number of Veterans of all ages who are eligible for nursing home care is estimated to expand from approximately 2 million Veterans in 2019 to more than 4 million by 2039. As this population grows, VA remains steadfast in providing the highest levels of care to Veterans in the least-restrictive settings.

These programs provide an in-home or smaller care setting than traditional institutionalized long-term care. This smaller setting of care supports less risk of transmission of COVID and other infectious diseases. Many Veterans have chosen these programs instead of institutionalized care during the pandemic for more flexibility in care preferences and less risk of COVID transmission.

MOAA IN ACTION: MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOAA'S TRICARE GUIDE - This new edition of MOAA's TRICARE Guide gives you details on how your earned health care benefit has you covered and the latest updates for making the most of it. That's not all: We bring you the details on MOAA's work to shield and protect your health care benefit from efforts to diminish it, so that it can shield and protect you.



TAKE ACTION

Ask Your Lawmakers to Preserve the National Cemetery Benefit | Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center

A House Armed Services Committee (HASC) [report on this year's NDAA](#) expresses the committee's concerns regarding proposed eligibility changes and "directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2022, on potential locations of the next national cemetery."

Legislation is still required for a [halt to ANC eligibility changes](#). The joint DoD-VA report to designate the next national cemetery that will afford full military honors can set the foundation for language in the next NDAA. While a halt to eligibility changes was not included in the most recent NDAA, it was proposed as a Senate amendment. This issue will require continued advocacy as the HASC report is pending.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES:

THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS): Find your nearest SOS coordinator at <https://dcs9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos-find.html> Use the dropdown lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/region. If a coordinator is not listed, please call 855-707-2769 for survivor assistance.

TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE: Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080, or use the form at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryID=18004>

VA: 1-800-827-1000 <http://www.va.gov>

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov>

Update ID cards: 1-800-538-9552; www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi

VA BURIALS & MEMORIALS PAGE: VA burial benefits can help service members, military retirees, veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service, whether in a local cemetery or in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. The VA Burial and Memorial Products Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides clear and concise information on VA burial benefits for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors; read the guide at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials-guide.pdf> Go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/#get> to find out how to apply for burial benefits and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS: The National Defense Act of 2000 ([Public Law 106-65](#)) authorizes Military Funeral Honors to Active Duty Soldiers, Retirees and Veterans. Under the law, at a family's request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include the presence of a military funeral honors detail that will oversee folding and presenting the U.S. flag and playing "Taps". **Your funeral director is responsible for making the necessary arrangements.** Go to https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/183/~how-do-i-arrange-for-military-funeral-honors%3F for details. A complete list of resources for funeral directors and planners is at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/funeral-directory-and-planner-resources/>



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS

MEETING DATES -

NCCOC quarterly meetings - 6 & 7, May 2022; 16 & 17 September 2022; 4 & 5 November 2022

HOW TO GET URGENT CARE UNDER YOUR TRICARE HEALTH PLAN

BY TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

Urgent care might be an option for you if you don't believe you have an emergency," said Dr. Stacy Usher, lead nurse of Clinical Oversight and Integration for the TRICARE Health Plan. "Urgent medical conditions are usually ones that aren't considered emergencies but still require professional medical attention within 24 hours. Examples might include a small cut that might need stitches, a fever, or a sprained ankle."

[Emergency care](#) means care for an illness or injury that threatens your life, limb, sight, or safety. If you reasonably believe you have an emergency, always call 911 or your international emergency number. Or, go to the nearest emergency room.

If you have questions about your injury or illness, you can call the [Military Health System Nurse Advice Line](#). Nurses are available 24/7 to help you find the care you need. Are you in the U.S., Guam, or Puerto Rico? If yes, call 1-800-874-2273 and choose option 1. You can find other [countries' numbers](#) on the website.

Retirees and Family Members

If you're a retiree or retiree family member in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, you can get urgent care from any TRICARE-authorized urgent care center without a referral. You should see a TRICARE network provider to avoid more out-of-pocket costs.

Would you like to know more about your potential costs? For details about all the network and non-network costs for urgent care, you can check out the [TRICARE 2022 Costs and Fees Sheet](#). Or, you can choose your health plan and your status on the [TRICARE Costs](#) page to see your current costs.

Remember, urgent care is for minor medical issues. You can search online for a [TRICARE-authorized urgent care center](#) near you. You can also call your [regional contractor](#) for help finding an urgent care center. Learn more about [urgent care](#), so you know where and when to go if you need care.



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.