



**5 STAR  
2015,18**



**5 STAR  
2014,15,17,18**



## NEWSLETTER MAY 2020



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#### Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

#### NEXT MEETING

**May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Cancelled**

Red Rocks Cafe  
4223 Providence Rd  
Social Time **Cancelled**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you all are healthy and not going stir crazy in the house. The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting everyday activities for everyone thru out the world. I do not think we will get back to "normal" life again as there will be new norms we will need to learn and live with. If you feel stressed-out, please seek help, speak to friends or medical people. You are not alone in this. Keep us posted on any needs.

If you notice on the header, I have the new uniform service emblem for the US Space Force which is under the US Air Force for now. They are recruiting from all the other uniform services, both for officers and enlisted into their ranks. There is an article on the Space Force seal included in this newsletter.

Because of federal and state restrictions, we have had to cancel the meeting in May at the Red Rock Café. We will work on alternative methods to present certificates to the scholarship awardees. Most importantly, we will get the \$ 2,000 checks posted to their student accounts at their chosen college/university.

We are awaiting word from the national MOAA Foundation about a renewal of a Military Family Initiative Community Outreach Grant for 2020-2021. It will be used for support of our veteran mentorship program and for other veteran support in our partnership with the Veterans Bridge Home.

We also have a new Board member Chris Coke who is also the Lake Norman Satellite Chapter President. Please give him a warm welcome when you see him.

*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.*

**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.

**PROGRAMS – *May meeting Cancelled***

June, July and August, no meetings.

September 20, 2020 / 4223 Providence Rd 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting

October 18, 2020/ 4223 Providence Rd 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting

November 15, 2020 / 4223 Providence Rd 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting

December 13th, 2020 / 4223 Providence Rd 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting

January 17, 2021 / 4223 Providence Rd 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting

**LEGISLATION** – Tony Castle – There are still no face-to-face meetings between MOAA members and elected officials to conduct advocacy discussions. But you can get involved in virtual grass-roots communication in support of MOAA's priorities. You can find details on these priorities as well as tools to help you contact your legislators at MOAA's Legislative Action Center at: [www.takeaction.moaa.org/](http://www.takeaction.moaa.org/). Routine business is continuing in Washington but is being made more difficult by the closure of some buildings and social distancing rules.

The FY2021 Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills are in work with Committees and Staff in both Houses and hearings on these bills are in progress. The NC General Assembly is currently adjourned and not scheduled to reconvene until 28 April 2020.

It remains to be seen if the General Assembly will reconvene early in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If additional emergency funding becomes necessary, that would most likely require legislation. Various committees will be working during the recess period. I am sure you know that Gov. Cooper has declared a State of Emergency related to the virus and has issued several Executive Orders to close schools and public facilities and enforce social distancing guidance. I recommend that you monitor this unfolding situation within the State and take appropriate action to stay safe and well.

See MOAA report farther down in the newsletter.

**MOAA FOUNDATION MILITARY FAMILY INITIATIVE GRANT** – The 2020 grant request for our continuing MOAA/VBH mentoring partnership has been submitted and received by the MOAA Foundation. We want to expand and enhance the veteran mentorship program with technical skills workshops and, as applicable, provide for financial assistance support for transitioning veterans and their families.

**JROTC SCHOLARSHIP** - Bill McKenna with Larry Stawicki and Robin Garbus recommend 5 JROTC students for scholarships. A total of 13 applications were received. The applicants worked hard on their essays and were highly recommended. The awardees are as follows:

<b>Miss Aaliyah Clough</b>	C/Sgt1stClass	<b>Rocky River High School</b>
Parent: Sophia Lewis		
<b>Aaron C. Zimmerman</b>	C/Cpt	<b>Hopewell High School</b>
Parents: Jonathan and Penelope Zimmerman		
<b>Ryan Shubert</b>	C/1stLt	<b>William A. Hough High School</b>
Parents: James and Maureen Shubert		
<b>Miss Ann Sloyan</b>	C/Major	<b>Weddington High School</b>
Parents: Christopher and Maureen Sloyan		
<b>Tyler W. Vaughn</b>	C/Drill Cmdr	<b>Sun Valley High School</b>
Parents: Tim and Lynnette Vaughn		

### **NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**

June 1 - Surviving Spouse Liaison Award

June 1 - Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Award

June 1 - Last date to reconcile the CM to 100% in order to receive \$\$\$\$ which is a ***One time bonus***.

July - NCCOC "Chapter Reports" due for the first six months of the year.

### **The four NCCOC meeting for 2020 will be on Saturday**

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Telephone conference due to COVID-19

August 15<sup>th</sup> - TBA

November 14<sup>th</sup> - 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](mailto:msc@moaa.org).

**2020 AGENDA** - 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.

MOAA's Government Relations staff identified the following objectives, which broadly represent priorities with targeted actions (not all inclusive) to address anticipated threats for the coming year. As we continue the fight to sustain benefits, health care, and compensation in support of the uniformed services and their families, we will keep our members informed on progress throughout the year.

"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."

**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

**Option 1: if you are a retiree with 20 years or more of service and have a VA rating of 50% or greater.** This program is called Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). You get full retired pay and full VA compensation. CRDP removes the VA waiver from your retired pay, allowing you to collect all your *taxable* retired pay. If you have a VA rating of 40% or less, your retired pay is still docked by the VA waiver amount.

**Option 2: if your injuries or disabilities are combat-related.** Even if you qualify for CRDP, you might get a better benefit from Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). You can receive full, *tax-free* retired pay for "time served" and full VA compensation, regardless of your years of service or your VA rating. There are three catches:

1. Your situation must be combat-related (this standard has some flexibility).
2. Your retired pay restoration is limited to "time served." For example, say a person is medically retired from service due to a disability. His service disability rating is 60%. He has 5 years of service at medical retirement. Technically, retired pay for a person like this is figured at 60% of base pay due to their service disability rating. But if his retired pay were figured based on "time served," it would be: 5 years X 2.5% = 12.5%. So CRSC would restore retired pay up to 12.5% of base pay, but not the whole 60% of base pay he was awarded. He would lose everything over 12.5% to the VA waiver. This is because, everything over 12.5% is based on his service disability rating. All of the VA comp is based on a disability rating. Double dipping laws prevent two payments for the same event.
3. Your retired pay restoration is limited to your combat-related disability rating, which could be less than your VA rating. As additional background information: The VA rates all service illnesses and disabilities — combat or not. Under CRSC, the service rates only the combat portion of your illnesses and disabilities. It is not unusual for someone to have a higher VA rating than a combat-related rating because the combat specific issues can be a subset of the greater VA rating.

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON** - Information or to join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, email [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com). An [online application](#) also is available.



**MOAA UNIFORMED SERVICES NURSE ADVOCATES VIRTUAL CHAPTER**

The cruise to Bermuda in September has been cancelled.



**ON GOING EVENTS (If not cancelled during this period)**

1. Mecklenburg Veterans Council – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](https://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>

### **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](http://www.mhsnurseadvice.com).
- *A VA beneficiary:* Contact [your local VA facility](#) prior to visiting. You can also [send a secure message via the MyHealthVet 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.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](#)
- [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](#)

**U.S. SPACE FORCE SEAL HAS ARRIVED** - A month after the newest military branch was formally signed into existence, President Donald Trump unveiled its official seal in a tweet.

The seal includes the words "Department of the [Air Force](#)," making clear that Space Force falls under the service, just as the [Marine Corps](#) falls under the [Navy](#).

"The creation of the U.S. Space Force seal pays tribute to the newest Armed Service that organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. The U.S. Space Force seal honors the Department of the Air Force's proud history and long-standing record of providing the best space capabilities in the world," the official said.

The central element, which reminded many of Star Trek, has a long history in the Air Force, according to the statement.

"The delta symbol, the central design element in the seal, was first used as early as 1942 by the U.S. Army Air Forces; and was used in early Air Force space organization emblems dating back to 1961," the official said. "Since then, the delta symbol has been a prominent feature in military space community emblems."

According to a U.S. official familiar with the design process, the design Trump tweeted Friday is the official seal for the U.S. Space Force. The "logo will come at a later date," the source said.

Space Force has yet to announce a rank structure, a full system of [uniforms](#) or even what to call members of the new service.



## Find 6 Words Hidden in the Picture



Since there was no meeting here are the words – cord, cat, tiles, couch, mirror and straw.

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



MOAA Chapter coin \$10.00 -  
contact Ron Wilsbach



## 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 [misc@moaa.org](mailto:misc@moaa.org) or call 800-234-6622.