



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 May 2022



### CHAPTER BOARD

#### PRESIDENT

Joe Anderson 336-324-1008  
[joeanderson1970@yahoo.com](mailto:joeanderson1970@yahoo.com)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

Chuck Martin 571-239-5630  
[chuckmartin63@msn.com](mailto:chuckmartin63@msn.com)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Ron Morgan 704-708-8866  
[rbmorgan943@aol.com](mailto:rbmorgan943@aol.com)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE

Tony Castle 980-224-8965  
[ccastle645@gmail.com](mailto:ccastle645@gmail.com)

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ron Wilsbach 704-844-9450  
[rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com)

#### DIRECTORS

Larry Stawicki 704-814-9739  
[stawickilp@aol.com](mailto:stawickilp@aol.com)

Ed Grant 704-998-7428  
[Edward.grant08@gmail.com](mailto:Edward.grant08@gmail.com)

#### SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

Mary Cuthbertson 704-293-6704  
[marycut3@aol.com](mailto:marycut3@aol.com)

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jay E. Garbus 704-400-0160  
[jegarbus@gmail.com](mailto:jegarbus@gmail.com)

#### CHAPLAIN

Ed Grant SAME AS ABOVE

#### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

#### NEXT MEETING

May 15th, 2022;3 p.m.

**(RED ROCKS CAFE)**

4223 Providence Rd  
Charlotte, NC



### President's message

Our next meeting on Sunday, May 15 is going to be special, in that we will be celebrating the recipients of the 2022 JROTC MOAA Scholarships. 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.

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 15.

### 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**



**Charlotte -Metrolina Chapter awarded 2021 5-star Col Marvin Harris Communication Award.**



### **PROGRAMS/MEETING DATES FOR 2022:**

**May 15th:** JROTC Scholarship Award Presentations

### **JROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AWARDEE'S - 2022**



Cadet Sergeant Major  
Jack Hugh Cooper -  
Fort Mill High School



Cadet Lt. Commander  
Rolando Moises Perla  
Benitez  
Sun Valley High School



Cadet Colonel Ava  
Grace Yardley  
Parkwood High School



Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
Karolina Paris Kacinskas  
Weddington High School

**THE MISSION OF THE U.S. ARMY JUNIOR ROTC** is "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens" by instilling the values of citizenship, service to the nation, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. JROTC is a service to our nation in that it provides cadets the motivation and skills to improve physical fitness; think critically and creatively; communicate effectively; work as a team member; pursue meaningful careers especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and become successful citizens.

## **JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST** – (NO CHAPTER MEETINGS)



Charlotte Metrolina Chapter Leadership Award presentation on 21 April 2022, on campus, to C/Capt Saul A Barrios. Shown L to R: Colonel Chuck Martin, Col, USAF, Ret; C/Capt Saul A Barrios, Lt Col Rashida Graves, USAF, Commander, AFROTC Det 592. The Leadership Award was presented by Col Martin before the entire Det 592 Cadet Wing.

### **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](mailto:rbmorgan943@aol.com)

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** -In case you have been wondering how things are going with the MOAA Advocacy in Action program for 2022, here is the latest news from our chapter. You may remember that our effort was to propose two pieces of legislation and advocate for a reasonable military pay raise in light of inflation. The pieces of legislation are HR 1282, the Major Richard Star Act and HR 4834 The Stop Co-pay Overpay Act. HR

1282 allows combat injured veterans to collect both disabilities pay from the VA as well as appropriate retired pay from DOD, consistent with their time in service. I have been able to reach out to three Congressional offices in our area, Rep. Alma Adams (NC 12), Rep. Dan Bishop (NC 9), and Rep. Kathy Manning (NC 6). Although they all appear willing to hear our opinions, so far I am not aware of any legislative movement for any of these proposals. I will let you know if anything changes in the future.

Charles A. (Tony) Castle MD, FACOG

### **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:**

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY** - 2022 Monday, May 30, 2022, Time 10AM - 12PM

Gethsemane Cemetery and Memorial Gardens  
1504 W. Sugar Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262

Please attend as we give honor to those who gave their lives while serving our country.  
Guest speaker will be John B. Gouch Jr. A special presentation by the CMPD Honor Guard.  
Special music provided by Abby Reimertanner. A caisson will be provided by Happy Trails, and the dove release is provided by Brad Alexander. Lunch will be served following our ceremonies. Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

### **Zoom SS Virtual Chapter Meetings**

May 17 1 PM Eastern: Advocacy in Action After Action Review (Mark Belinsky)

June 21 5 PM Eastern: Social

July 19 1pm Eastern: Renee Brunelle

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

[Join us for an upcoming Event](#)

[Request Assistance](#) for yourself or a Veteran you know

[Make a Donation](#)

### **Meet the Surviving Spouses Virtual Board:**

Michele "Micki" Costello— President

Virginia Gail Joyce—Vice President

***Position open*** -Secretary

Pat Green— Member at Large

Barbara "Barb" Smith -Membership

Sheila Padgett —Treasure

Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel— Author/ Editor Virtual Chapter Newsletter

### **2022 U.S. ARMY RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK**

*Produced by Army Retirement Services, the 2022 U.S. Army Retired Soldier Handbook is available for download as a PDF document from the Army Retirement Services website at*

[https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/2022\\_ArmyRetSoldierHandbk.pdf](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/2022_ArmyRetSoldierHandbk.pdf)

### **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 [mssc@moaa.org](mailto:mssc@moaa.org).

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

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

**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 participating in 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](mailto:patw@moaa.org), or Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), senior director for council and chapter affairs, at [erins@moaa.org](mailto:erins@moaa.org), for more information.

## **DID YOU KNOW? Learn More About These Benefits, Programs, and Resources**

**Member Benefits:** While MOAA's basic membership provides an all-electronic experience to members, paid membership (Premium and Life) provides member access to books and guides, financial advice, career transition services, expert advice on military pay and benefits, and so much more.

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:**



Since 1993, surviving spouses are falling further and further behind in meeting their financial obligations from month-to-month. Many surviving spouses of WWII, Korea and Vietnam are receiving only DIC. These DIC recipients struggle monthly with their budget of \$1,357.56, juggling bills to meet the rising costs in health and dental insurance, housing, utilities, food, clothing and other living expenses. Some receive DIC and minimum Social Security benefits.

Congress must take action to rectify this inequity by increasing the current amount of DIC to a level comparable to other federal employees. Surviving spouses from WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam are now in their 60's through 90's. These surviving spouses are in dire need for an increase in DIC. MOAA supports S. 976 and similar legislation in the House to increase DIC from 43 percent (\$1,357.56) to 55 percent to align with other federal benefits. the downsizing processes.

## **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - VETERANS' BENEFITS**

**VA Changes** Hours before Biden's address, [the VA announced](#) plans to add nine new cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected ailments](#):

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.



- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

### **HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER**

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. If you reside overseas and the toll free number is not available, call your Retirement Services Officer listed on page 15 for assistance. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name • Disability Rating • Copy of death certificate • Social security number and/or service number • Circumstances surrounding the death • Retirement date • Date and place of birth • Next of Kin (NOK) information • Retired rank

### **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.

### **MOAA IN ACTION:**



### **MOAA's Top Three Priorities 2022- Get involved today!**

1. Major Richard Star Act House: H.R 1282 Senate Bill S. 344  
Impacts current and future members who may face the same fate of early retirements due to combat injuries.
2. Stop Copay Overpay Act House Bill H.R. 4824 Tricare Mental Health Copay Directs Secretary of Defense to limit copayments for outpatient visits for mental health or behavioral health under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.
3. 4.6% Military Pay Raise Focused on the 4.6% raise for all ranks. Addresses currently serving and their families (pay and benefits).
4. Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (H.R. 3402) and (S 976)-  
Caring for Survivors Act, #1 Goal of The Military Coalition Survivor Committee Brings DIC payments in line with benefits to surviving spouses of Federal employees!

### **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](http://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](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 - 13 & 14 August 2022 - Raleigh

4 & 5 November 2022 – Hawthorne Inn, Winston Salem.



### **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.



**Friday, October 7, 2022**  
**Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation - Mint Hill**  
**NC SAVE THE DATE**







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