



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 November 2022



### CHAPTER BOARD

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#### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

### Next Meeting

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022; 3:00 p.m.

Red Rocks Café

4223 Providence Road

Charlotte



### President's message

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, this is an opportunity for each of us to think about and be grateful for the many blessings that we receive daily. Obviously, we should express our gratitude throughout the year; however, many times "life" gets us distracted and we fail to take

the time to give thanks. I want to encourage you to "count your many blessings" and give thanks to God for those many kind blessings.

**WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?** Family....Friends.....A place to live..... Food on your table .....Financial Resource... **WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR??** I am thankful for you and your service to our country. I am thankful for you and your service to the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA.

### NEVER STOP SERVING.

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



MOAA Chapter coin  
\$10.00 - contact Ron

**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.charlottemoaa.org> / **MOAA Website**

## **CHARLOTTE METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS**

### **Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA 2023 Dues Notice**

January 1, 2023, marks the new fiscal year for CMC. Annual dues for regular Chapter members is \$30.00 and for Surviving Spouse it is \$10.00. You may pay your dues at any time by several methods. If attending the November meeting, we will take cash or check. Or you can mail your check to:

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter NC04  
P.O. Box 31394  
Charlotte, NC 28231

We now have online payment via two methods. You can pay through your MOAA national account, or you can now go to [charlottemoaa.org](https://www.charlottemoaa.org) (Chapter Website) and click on Membership at the bottom of the home Page menu left side and then select regular or surviving spouse. Scroll down for your credit card info and follow the prompts. After you click the final Button, it will take several minutes to deliver an email message that will be your receipt.

## **CHAPTER MEETING DATES**

### **November 20 – Speaker – Maj Gen Al Flowers, USAF RET)**

Please join us on Sunday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, at Red Rocks Café on Providence



Maj Gen Al Flowers, USAF, Ret, will be our speaker, using the Zoom capability from San Antonio. His formal biography is attached to the Newsletter...but that does not tell the full story! General Flowers is a native North Carolinian with many family members in the state. He was raised in a “sharecropper” environment and learned the value of hard work and family values early on. He joined the AF right out of high school to escape poverty and gain opportunity. Through talent, hard work, mentors, a solid religious foundation, and wonderful spouse, he went up the promotion chain to E-7 and a commission. He retired as an O-8 with a wide range of leadership assignments

in financial, and training/education billets at base, Major Command, Component Command, and Air Staff/Secretariate levels.

The General retired in 2012 after 46+ years of continuous service making him the longest serving Airman in AF history and the longest serving African American in defense history. Al and Ida have one son; Al Jr is a BGen in the AF Medical Service Corps; two grandkids (one at the USAFA; the other in the Corps of Cadets at TX A&M). The legacy goes on!

The General penned a book, post-retirement, Refection of a Servant Leader, which is a must read and inspiration to parents, children, and grandchildren, as well as JROTC and ROTC cadets. He is in demand as a speaker across the spectrum of leadership gatherings and serves on a myriad of Boards of Directors. Gen Flowers presentation is entitled: The Legacy We Receive; The Legacy We Live; The Legacy We Leave!

## **December 2022 – NO MEETING**

### **NOMINATIONS (ELECTIONS) - WILL TAKE PLACE AT NOVEMBER MEETING**

**2023 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD** – “In accordance with our Chapter By-Laws, elections of officers for the 2023 Calendar Year will take place at our November meeting. If you are interested in serving our chapter as an officer or as a board member, please contact Chuck Martin, Chair, Nominating Committee. He can be reached at mobile # 571-239-5630 or email: chuckmartin63@msn.com. STILL SERVING AMERICA.”

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** -The Major Richard Star Act has reached a milestone goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House – the threshold for it to be placed on the chamber’s consensus calendar. This significant accomplishment, along with ongoing efforts in the Senate, show clear progress in MOAA’s focused efforts and teamwork with fellow service organizations through The Military Coalition, to expand concurrent receipt to more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA benefits they receive.

### **AN IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE READ**

#### **TOYS FOR TOTS FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

Every year our chapter members have given generously for this locally focused charity that assists many families in need in having a truly Merry Christmas and we want to continue our tradition again this year. Keep in mind that donated toys and other items are to be **new and unwrapped**. Items can be for babies and toddlers up to children in their early teens.

Our in-person chapter meeting on November 20 at Red Rocks Café will be the **ONLY** chapter meeting opportunity to contribute toys for this year's USMCR TOYS FOR TOTS campaign. **THERE IS NO PLANNED DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING.**

**PLEASE BRING YOU DONATED ITEMS TO OUR MEETING AT RED ROCKS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 3 P.M.** A chapter member will take all donations to a campaign drop off location. **THANK YOU.**

## **SURVIVING SPOUSES**

**“WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA”** - December 17, 2022, is National Wreaths Across America Day which is a way to honor our veterans. A ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at 10am at Gethsemane Cemetery and Memorial Gardens, 1510 W Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28262

**MOAA's COLA Watch** - For 2023, that means military retirees would see an average increase of more than \$240 in their monthly retirement checks. Veterans receiving disability compensation from the VA also would see their monthly disability payments increase, with the average monthly amount going up by more than \$150.

## **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](mailto:msc@moaa.org).

## **MOAA'S NEVER STOP SERVING PODCAST**

**Episode 5:** As Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in 2021, Elliot Ackerman, a former Marine Corps infantry officer and MARSOC team leader, found himself in the middle of an unofficial evacuation effort to help Afghan allies escape the country. Ackerman, a Silver Star recipient and author, wrote about the effort and his experiences in Afghanistan in his latest book, [\*The Fifth Act: America's End in Afghanistan\*](#).

## **MOAA IN ACTION: URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT CONCURRENT RECEIPT**

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support The Major Richard Star Act, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

## **HELP SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILY ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

Help MOAA build support for H.R. 4824, the Stop Copay Overpay Act, which would reduce TRICARE copays for mental health visits and address the financial barrier to accessing mental health services.

## **URGE YOUR SENATORS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION HALTING CUTS TO MILITARY MEDICINE**

Please contact your senators and urge them to support H.R. 7900 Sec. 780, which would halt medical billet cuts for three years and increase congressional oversight and DoD reporting.

## **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.

## **Major General Alfred K. Flowers, USAF, Ret** (Biography)

Major General Retired, Alfred K. Flowers is President, KAL-46 Consulting, Author of *Reflections of a Servant Leader* and former Chief Operations Officer and Senior Strategic Advisor for two San Antonio minority owned business. He is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Budget or simply said The Air Force Budget Director where he was responsible for \$170 Billion Dollars of Air Force funds. He currently serves on seven non-profit boards where he is the chairman of two and vice-chairman of one.

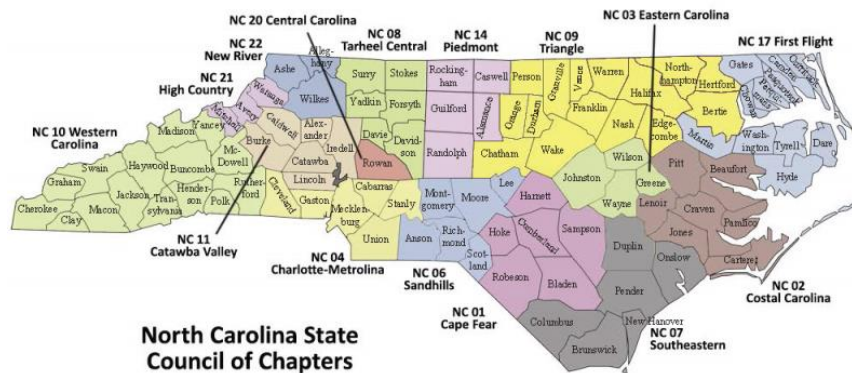
Following high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of seventeen. After completing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, Texas, he was assigned as a supply warehouseman at Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota followed by a year at Da Nang AB, Vietnam and five other assignments prior to 1975. He received his A.A. degree from Thomas Edison University, B.S. Degree from Southern Illinois University, and master's degrees from Ball State and The National Defense University. In 1978, after thirteen years of enlisted service, Gen Flowers attended Officer Training School where he was a distinguished graduate and commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He served as a budget officer at several Air Force bases, Chief of Budget at Headquarters Air Combat Command, Director of Budget Programs HQ USAF, and Chief Financial Officer, HQ Air Education and Training Command and The United States Special Operations Command, J-8. He Commanded the Holms Center at Maxwell AFB, Alabama and The Second Air Force at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. In 2009, he was appointed as The Deputy Assistant Secretary of budget in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. On 1 January 2012, after forty-six years and five months of service, he retired from the United States Air Force, making him the longest-serving airman in Air Force history, the longest serving African American in defense history, and the longest serving continuous active-duty member in the history of The United States Department of Defense.

His military recognitions include two Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal plus seventeen other decorations. Gen Flowers served on the board of directors for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Air Force Aid Society and the Air Force Services Agency and is currently serving on seven boards as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director. Gen Flowers was inducted into the Air Education and Training Command Order of The Sword on 6 April 2012 making him the 224<sup>th</sup> Air Force inductee since 1967. He was also inducted into The Order of The Long Leaf Pine by the Governor of North Carolina in August 2016. Additionally, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Association, 1 March 2019. On 28 August 2020 he was inducted as an Air Force Officer Training School Distinguished Alumni. He received the U.S. Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award in October 2020. He is married to Ida M. Flowers, and they have one son, BG Alfred K. Flowers, Jr., USAF, MSC.



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

**MEETING DATES** - Council Cruise November 11, 2023, out of Charleston, SC.



Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day

December 17, 2022

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Please join us for a brief ceremony where we will pay tribute to all our veterans.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022

Time: 10am

Location: Gethsemane Cemetery and Memorial Gardens  
1510 W Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28262

We will open with a short program, and the laying of the wreaths, followed by light refreshments.

All family members of our veterans are VIP guests.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath for a veteran please visit Gethsemane's website



## 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.