



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 2023



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Next Meeting

May 21, 2023; 3:00 p.m.

Red Rocks Café 4223

Providence Road

Charlotte



President's message

From the President

Congratulations to the recipients of the chapter's 2023 JROTC scholarships who we will recognize and honor, along with their parents, at our May 21st meeting. It will be an exciting time as these scholars prepare to graduate from High School, ending one chapter in their development and beginning another critical phase as they prepare for the "rest of their lives". We hope you can be 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, JROTC Scholarship Benefit Golf 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 21.

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.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 **National MOAA and the Council are nonpartisan**

CHARLOTTE METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTER MEETING DATES - 2023

May 21 – JROTC Scholarship Awards Dinner

June-Aug - Summer Recess (no general membership meetings).

September 17; October 15; November 19; December (no meeting)

Congratulations to the 2023 Charlotte-Metrolina chapter JROTC Scholarship Awards

Cadet Major Jazzie Lee
West Charlotte HS



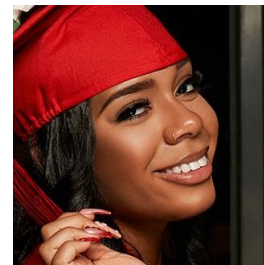
Cadet Makayla Meyers
Audrey Kell HS



Cadet Major James
Herendeen Fort Mill HS



Cadet LET4 Jaliah Wilson -
Phillip O. Berry Academy
of Technology



Cadet Capt Nolan
Donaghy Hopewell HS



Cadet Major Genesis
Delgado Ortega/ William
Amos Hough HS



Cadet LTJG Grace Lowery
South Mecklenburg HS



Samantha Zermeno
Nations Ford HS





OPERATION SAVE CEDAR GROVE

Our thanks to BG Tia Young, Ron Morgan, Ed Grant, Tracy Young, Natalie Terry and others who represented Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter in the Veterans Bridge Home (VBH)-led project called OPERATION SAVE CEDAR GROVE...., which was designed to clean up a cemetery which has been neglected over the years. It is a cemetery where Black Veterans and prominent leaders in the Black Charlotte community were laid to rest many years ago. Above is a picture from one of the clean-up days which gave CMC MOAA members an opportunity to partner with VBH, TRUIST employees, and other veterans in giving back to the Charlotte community.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Monday, May 28, 2023

Please take the time to honor those who gave their lives while serving our country.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES- Advocacy is a very important component of the mission of MOAA. During the month of April, the Advocacy team at MOAA Headquarters conducted "Advocacy in Action", which is the name of the Advocacy campaign designed to bring Congressional attention to issues of importance to veterans and military retirees. This year the campaign was in person in Washington, D.C. in late April as representatives of MOAA from across the country assembled to meet with members of Congress.

This year there are two issues of greatest importance. First is an effort to restore the military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to cover 100% of expenses. In a plan to save DOD money, BAH was reduced following the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act by 1% per year for the next 5 years. Consequently, an E-5 with dependents will now spend \$1332 a year out of pocket. An O-3 with dependents will pay \$1596 per year. It is time to rescind these cuts, especially as inflation continues to affect military pay adversely.

The second initiative is to urge the restoration of thousands of brick-and-mortar pharmacies to the TRICARE system. A new pharmacy contract from the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has caused the nationwide pharmacy network to be cut by 25%. This is mostly harmful to TRICARE eligibles living in rural areas, or who are elderly or who are dealing with serious medical conditions.

How can you help? First, inside the April issue of "Military Officer" magazine from MOAA are preprinted letters to Senators Schumer and McConnell as well as to Congressmen McCarthy and Jeffries. Please sign and mail these letters. Even more impactful would be a personally written message to your own Congressional representatives. If you are not sure who these people are, you can find out at www.congress.gov by entering your address. Contact as a constituent is always most important. Feel free to contact me, Tony Castle, at ccastle645@gmail.com with any

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER:

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter: Membership continues to grow, with 210 members from 38 states. The chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker, and alternate months are an informal gathering to exchange information and ideas. For more information, send an email to mssvc02@gmail.com.

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 NEVER STOP SERVING PODCAST

In the third season of *MOAA's Never Stop Serving Podcast*, we are sharing first-person accounts from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each week, you will hear directly from the men and women who survived these battles, and how their combat experiences shaped the people they are today.

Each episode can be streamed below, or download/follow/subscribe to the podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [PodChaser](#), or [TuneIn](#).

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

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.

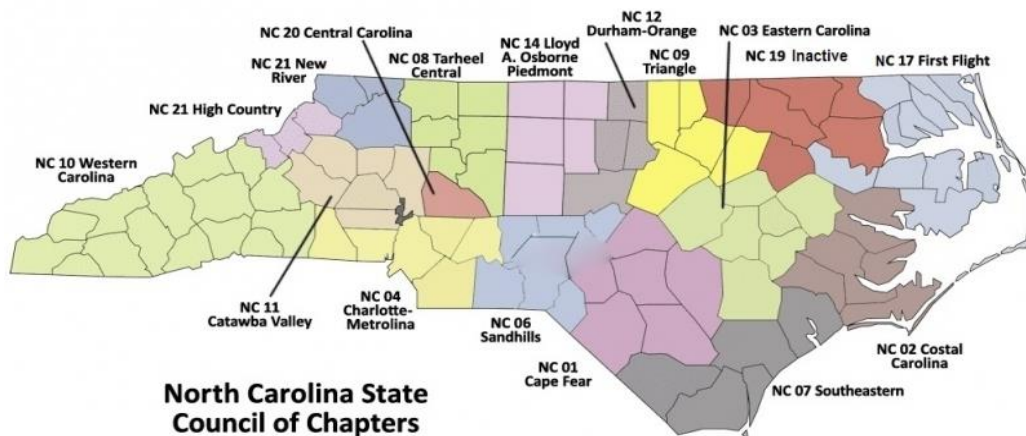


MOAA Chapter coin \$10.00 -
contact Ron Wilsbach



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS

MEETING DATE - Council Cruise November 11, 2023, out of Charleston, SC see flyer below.





SHOP ONLINE FOR VETERANS CRUISE LOGO APPAREL FROM QUEENSBORO APPAREL CO.
Please Login – MOAA Store (qbstores.com)

Step 1. Begin by Registering for your personal account.
That will open an online store with available logo apparel for our cruise.

Step 2. When you see an item that interests you, select it.

Step 3. Then insert a number in the box next to size and color for the quantity desired. That action will send it to your cart.

Options.

Step 1. Additional shopping is an option.

Step 2. When you are ready for checkout, you will be asked for shipping and billing address plus credit/debit card info.



Logo for the cruise will be embroidered on all items you select.

If you need help with the ordering, suggest you send an email to Queensboro at <https://www.queensboro.com> or you can call Ken Klassen, VP-1 for NCCOC at 910-616-9614.

Note: Guests will receive berthing info, details for final payment and other details later this spring from AAA Travel agent Lorna Tiller. She can be contacted by email: ltillertravels@gmail.com or ph. 910-540-3390. It is shaping up to be a major social event in November. Dress to impress, sell the MOAA brand and wave the Flag!!

Bon Voyage



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.