



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

January 2024



CHAPTER BOARD 2024

PRESIDENT

Nelson English 980-622-3895
nwenglish@aol.com

1st V. PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

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Ron Morgan 704-708-8866
rbmorgan943@aol.com

3rd V. PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE

Tony Castle 980-224-8965
ccastle645@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Eric Kelly 980-328-8029
Eric_Kelly_1999@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Susan Bryant 704-249-9271
susrebbry@yahoo.com

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

Emily McClain 980-505-0977
emrethompson@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Joe Anderson 336-324-1008
joeanderson1970@yahoo.com

DIRECTORS

Ed Grant 704-998-7428
edward.grant08@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

Ed Grant SAME AS ABOVE

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Jay E. Garbus 704-400-0160
jegarbus@gmail.com

Next Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2024 @ 3 p.m.

Red Rocks Café

4223 Providence Road, Charlotte

President's message

Happy New Year! Here's to an outstanding 2024 with better fulfillment of faith, health, exercise, and friendships.

I am very appreciative of your support for leadership of this great MOAA chapter. And special thanks to President Joe Anderson for his continual leadership, guidance, and support. I will lean on the advice and assistance of our leadership team and members to ensure the annual success of our chapter.

Your tremendous support for our 2023 toy drive in the November meeting exceeded expectations. The toy collection display looked like a Toys-R-Us outlet. Many smiles, joy and happiness were delivered for Christmas. Let's continue this *serving our community* energy in 2024.

Our next chapter meeting is 3 PM, Sunday, January 21 at the Red Rocks Café. I hope you will attend and invite a new member.

NEVER STOP SERVING

Lt Col Nelson English, USAF, Retired
President, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA
NWEnglish@aol.com
980-622-3895

TOGETHER WITH TRUIST



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

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS – CMC – MOAA

PRESIDENT-Nelson English

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP-Ron Morgan

3RD VP/LEGISLATURE-Tony Castle

SECRETARY-Eric Kelly

TREASURER-Susan Bryant

PAST PRESIDENT-Joe Anderson

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON-Emily McClain

DIRECTOR-Ed Grant

NEWSLETTER-Jay Garbus

CHAPTER DUES: Annual chapter dues for 2024 are due!!!

If you are a "new" chapter member that joined and paid in September 2023, or after, your dues for calendar year 2024 are fully paid. There are several ways to pay your annual chapter renewal dues (\$30.00 for regular chapter membership and \$ 10.00 for Surviving Spouse membership).1. Complete the attached membership form, include a check, and send it to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter P O Box 79276 Charlotte, NC 28271 (new P O Box number). 2. Go to the chapter website: www.charlottemoaa.org Under the Membership heading, see category of Pay Now, complete credit card info and submit. You will receive a successful transaction notice and the Chapter Treasurer will also receive a message from our Square payment service. 2024 promises to be a great and meaningful year with maximized JROTC/ROTC scholarship awards, new community veteran support initiatives, highly interesting programs, and consideration of flexible meeting dates. Please pay/renew your dues as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact Ron Morgan, VP, Membership

CHAPTER MEETING DATES-2024

January 21, 2024 – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Speaker - Veterans Services Officer, Michelle Marciano

February 18, 2024 – Emily McClain – Surviving Spouse Liaison, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA
March 17; April 21; May 19; June-August – no meetings

NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:

Members, please note that the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter's mailing address has changed to:

P.O. Box 79276, Charlotte NC 28271, effective immediately. You may use this new address for offline payment of membership dues or other correspondence.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS - From Tony Castle (ccastle645@gmail.com, 717-519-7093).

From a national perspective, MOAA has a great deal in mind for legislative priorities. Of course, 2024 is an election year, and members of Congress are hopefully eager to make the session seem relevant as voters think about what may have been accomplished.

Every year the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) must be passed to approve military pay as well as funding for the various military operations around the world. With regard to the pay raise, MOAA had suggested a 5.2% increase, but this has been cut to 3.2% by Congress and it looks as though that will be the final number.

The Major Richard Star Act, designed to compensate severely injured veterans has been endorsed by a majority of members of Congress; however, it has not yet been approved due to funding concerns. With regard to the BAH cutback, it does appear this will be returned to 100% over a period of time. This has been one of the MOAA priorities for this session of Congress. Finally, military healthcare is another important issue, both for active duty and retired members. MOAA has been advocating for a reversal of pharmacy network cuts which were part of the DHA recent policies. Likewise, MOAA is strongly advocating those potential cuts in TRICARE for Life benefits not be considered. Certainly, the recent difficulty in military recruiting is a significant concern for Congress and cuts in military benefits do not help. Many more details are available in the monthly MOAA magazine if you are interested.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE NEW MOAA BOARD MEMBERS

CHAPTER PRESIDENT - LIEUTENANT COLONEL NELSON W. ENGLISH, USAF (Retired)

Lieutenant Colonel Nelson W. English is a retired US Air Force officer and a high school AFJROTC instructor. He graduated from Bartlett High School, Anchorage, Alaska and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the US Air Force Academy and a Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Lt Col English earned his Master Navigator wings with over 3,800 hours while flying in the B-52G, B-1B, and NATO AWACS aircraft. He served in military staff positions with the US Air Force Air Staff, the Joint Chiefs of Staff J-7 Directorate, NATO AWACS, and Eighth Air Force. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as the Chief, Planning Division at Prince Sultan Air Base followed by the assistant Air Attaché to the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar. Col English's final active-duty assignment was at Tuskegee University as the Professor of Aerospace Science and Commander for AFROTC Detachment 015.

Lt Col English stays actively involved with his church, First Baptist Church ~ West, the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Boy Scout Troop 252, and the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Lt Col English is married to the former Chiquita Newkirk of Ivanhoe, NC. She is a 1979 graduate of North Carolina A&T State University. She is a retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel and served as a teacher's assistant in the Cabarrus County School System.

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON – EMILY MCCLAIN

Emily earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and a Master of Science Degree in Library Science, from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. She is currently employed as a Media Coordinator at Covenant Day School in Mathews, NC. Her husband, CPT David J. Thompson was killed during his 3rd deployment to Afghanistan in 2010. He was a Special Forces HALO team leader. His death caused her to learn to navigate life as a single mother to a 4- and 7-year-old. Over the last 13 years, she has learned a lot about benefits from both DOD and the VA as well as how to navigate many private organizations, dealing with benefits for surviving spouses. Now that both of her daughters are college age, she has shifted her focus to helping to ensure that surviving spouses continue to have a voice, most specifically with legislative actions. In September 2023, she met with several members of Congress through TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) to advocate for comprehension remarriage legislation, Dependent and Indemnity Compensation increases, as well as Tricare for young adults.

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 PARAPHERNALIA



There's no better way to show your pride of MOAA and the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter than wearing official merchandise, found at the [MOAA Store](#) online. There's a good selection of quality men's and women's apparel; it costs no more than you'd pay at the mall; and they deliver it to your front door. Wear it at official functions and in the community, where it can be a great conversation starter and generate more interest in our chapter from local veterans. Please check it out! Eric Kelly (USAF-Ret), Chapter Secretary."

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 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!

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/rsl

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.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter's own Jay Garus on his election to a second term as President, NCCOC.

MOAA HAS FIVE VIRTUAL CHAPTERS

They are: Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter, Chaplains Virtual Chapter and the Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter. Inquiries can be sent via email to Moajavc@gmail.com. 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, or Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, at erins@moaa.org, for more information.





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
Note New PO Box/and Zip Code: PO Box 79276
Charlotte, NC 28271

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 spouse's membership.)

Not a MOAA national member yet? A basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for \$59.00 per year. Get all the details at msc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.