



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc.  
Spring 2014/May**

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Welcome to spring! Isn't it wonderful to be in this part of our country this time of year? Especially after the dreary winter we've encountered. Now, it should be "smooth sailing" through Thanksgiving (...with any luck!)

As we are well into our second quarter of the year and anticipating our May 16 gathering I must reflect on two very moving events I attended recently. Those were memorial services for two of our own...BG Bill Rousse, USA (Ret) and Major Allyn Noel, USA (Ret). Both men served our country with great honor and distinction... especially as helicopter pilots in Viet Nam. I was awed and inspired by the comments made by friends and family about how much both men had loved their country and their time in the service. Both men were proud—not boastful; patriotic—not radical; humble—yet determined. These were two men had worn their uniforms with honor and dignity. I'm very certain as they arrived at the pearly gates they were each greeted with the following words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Much has been going on this quarter with your board. As examples: My wife and I had a wonderful dinner at Deerfield with MOAA member-residents. Three board members attended two veteran's "receptions" at Lake Pointe Landing to discuss ways that our chapter might assist veteran-residents. Discussions were held with the administration of Hospice to determine how our chapter might work with veterans who are Hospice care-receivers. Based on the demographics of Western North Carolina the board believes that we should be looking for ways to assist veterans in their later years. We may well have a rather unique opportunity in this regard. Also, if you have any ideas along this line, please let us know. Please see the other brief article in this newsletter regarding "We Honor Veterans"

Finally, a reminder about our upcoming meeting. By popular demand we are having a Friday, late afternoon BBQ at the Club on 16 May. Social hour begins at 4 with dinner and program beginning at 5. Many of you brought guests to our last meeting. Some of those guests have become chapter members as a result. Great job! Here's another wonderful opportunity. Our guest speaker is our good friend Jeff Miller, one of the founders of Honor Air. You won't want to miss this. And you'll want to invite a fellow veteran officer as well. We also have a special surprise in store for Jeff.

In closing, I wish you a warm, wonderful spring. And I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces at the 16 May BBQ.

Blessings;

John



**Friday, May 16 Quarterly General Meeting**  
**Hendersonville Country Club 4Pm Social**  
**Dinner and Program 5 PM (casual, no denim)**

**MOAA Legislative Affairs Report April 2014**  
**LTC Karen McKay USA-Ret; Legislative Liaison**

Legislation that affected the military in the past session of Congress\*:

**Military Sexual Assault Prosecutions – Passage - Vote Passed (97-0, 3 Not Voting)**

Senators finished work on reforming the military's practices for reporting and prosecuting sexual assaults within its ranks...passing a bill written by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-MO. The bill would amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 to require special victims' counsels in sexual assault cases and forbid using the defendant's military record in defense arguments. The bill would also require the evaluation of whether commanding officers have established a climate in which allegations of sexual assault are properly managed and fairly evaluated and a victim can report criminal activity without fear of retaliation or ostracism. *Sen. Richard Burr voted YES / Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES*

**Military Prosecutions – Cloture - Vote Rejected (55-45)**

The Senate failed to invoke cloture on a bill that would require decisions to prosecute felony-level crimes in the military, except those unique to the armed forces, be made by experienced commissioned officers who are not in the alleged perpetrator's chain of command. *Sen. Richard Burr voted NO / Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES*

**Veterans Benefits – Motion to Waive - Vote Rejected (56-41, 3 Not Voting)**

The Senate rejected a motion by Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., to waive all applicable budget laws when considering a bill to expand veterans' benefits. The motion required a three-fifths majority to waive applicable budget laws under Senate rules. *Sen. Richard Burr voted NO / Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES*

**Veterans Benefits -- Cloture - Vote Agreed to (99-0, 1 Not Voting)**

The Senate agreed to invoke cloture and proceed on a bill that would extend and expand health care and education benefits for veterans and their families. *Sen. Richard Burr voted YES / Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES*

**Veterans Benefits – Motion to Wave - Vote Rejected (56-41, 3 Not Voting)** The Senate rejected a motion by Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., to waive all applicable budget laws when considering a bill to expand veterans benefits. The motion required a three-fifths majority to waive applicable budget laws under Senate rules. *Sen. Richard Burr voted NO / Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES*

\*Information courtesy of **MegaVote**, the newsletter of Congress.org, a non-partisan educational organization in Washington, DC.

**How to follow Congressional votes:** It's not easy. Some Members' official websites list their votes on bills, others do not. If you know a bill's number or title, that will facilitate a keyword search.

[www.burr.senate.gov](http://www.burr.senate.gov)

Senator Richard Burr's website is very useful, informative and easy to navigate. Offers a detailed list of his votes on bills.

[www.hagan.senate.gov](http://www.hagan.senate.gov)

Senator Kay Hagan's website is also very useful, informative and easy to navigate. Offers a detailed list of her votes on bills.

<http://mchenry.house.gov/>

Congressman Patrick McHenry's website offers no list of his votes or legislation, nor any links to sources of information on his voting record.

<http://meadows.house.gov/>

Congressman Mark Meadows' website is also very useful, informative and easy to navigate, with a detailed list of her votes on bills.

(Continued Page 3)

Other places to look for information on bills and votes:

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)    [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)    [www.Congress.org](http://www.Congress.org) :to sign up for MegaVote, which will email you notices on how your elected representatives voted on specific legislation. Very useful tool.

**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT!** Let your Senators and Representative know how you want him or her to vote on specific bills and issues. Congressman Meadows said in November that no Member of the House had heard from military retirees over the two recent budget acts that hurt us. If they don't hear from us—**loud and clear!** --they assume we don't care and that we accept our fate.

Use the phone or email to communicate with your Members—the phone is better. They do count the “fors” and “againsts” on any specific issue or bill. You can also email Members from their official websites. Contact them frequently, and don't hesitate to nag them—the squeaking wheel gets the grease. Don't sent snail mail letters—since 9/11 they go through multiple layers of security and often don't ever reach their destination.\*\*\*

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG MEN GONE?

When Richard Nixon ended the draft, America lost something vital to its soul.

The quality of our military has not suffered. We have a splendid volunteer force defending our country and freedom right now. It's the best educated, best trained and best equipped force we have ever had. They are not the problem. The problem is that they represent only a very small fraction of America. For the first time in our history, the overwhelming majority of American families not only do not have a member in service, they don't even know any family that does.

Besides shared contribution, experience and sacrifice, what we lost by ending the draft was character. Our country is in crisis, and most of our nation's problems can be traced to the lack character attributes that should be taught by mothers and fathers and are certainly instilled through military service: self-discipline, personal accountability, responsibility, self-reliance, selflessness, integrity, respect and patriotism.

Perhaps the greatest of these is discipline, from which all else must surely flow. Ask a strapping young man knocking about in life trying to find himself today, “Have you considered the military?” “Oh, no,” is the common response, “I couldn't stand all that discipline.” That is sad, and a sad commentary on what we have allowed to happen to our great country.

“The Marine Corps builds men.” And women. So do the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. More than instilling character, the military exposes young people to milieus that he or she might never otherwise encounter. To use the current politically correct term “diversity”: every race, ethnicity, religion, culture, economic class, education and experience that makes up this great country coming together and working together on a level playing field. And building a national common denominator of shared experience and, yes, character traits.

Bottom line, it is the strength of our country that keeps us free, and that is a personal responsibility. Writing of “the necessity of obliging every citizen to be a soldier,” Thomas Jefferson wrote in a letter to James Monroe in 1813, “We must train...our citizens, and make military instruction a regular part of collegiate education. We can never be safe until this is done,” It would also put us on the road to restoring the nobility of character that Alexis de Tocqueville so admired in Americans in 1831.

Mandatory community service is no substitute for Jefferson's vision.

(Originally published in the Asheville Citizen March 2011; copyright Karen McKay)



**Visit and “Like” us at WNC-MOAA on Facebook, more to come**

## 2014/5 Officers/Board Members

### **Board of Directors**

|                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| President          | John Knapp      | CAPT USNR-Ret.  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP | Spence Campbell | Col USA-Ret.    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP | Jeff Snyder     | Col USAF-Ret.   |
| Secretary          | Marleen Varner  | Aux             |
| Treasurer          | Mike Covell     | CAPT USN-Ret.   |
| Past Pres.         | Don Jackman     | LTC USA-Ret.    |
| USA                | Chuck Luce      | LTC USA-Ret.    |
| USMC               | Robert Smith    | LtCol USMC-Ret. |
| USN                | Herb Mensch     | CAPT USN-Ret.   |
| USAF               | Ken Hadeen      | Col USAF-Ret.   |
| At Large           | Frank Ortiz     | MAJ USA-Ret.    |
| Satellite Rep      | Bob Smith       |                 |

### **Appointed Positions**

|                |                |                  |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sr Advisor     | Rick Devereaux | MajGen USAF-Ret. |
| Chaplain       | Bob Lair       | Col USA-Ret.     |
| Editor,NL      | Bob Smith      | Maj USA-Ret.     |
| Legal Affairs  | Micky Parnell  | Capt USA-Ret.    |
| Legis. Affairs | Karen McKay    | LTC USA-Ret.     |
| Pers. Affairs  | Ken Hadeen     | Col USAF-Ret.    |
| VA Hosp LNO    | Len Baker      | LTC USA-Ret.     |
| Webmaster      | Len Baker      | LTC USA-Ret.     |

Phone numbers listed on: [WNC-MOAA.org](http://WNC-MOAA.org)



**MG Rick Devereaux enlightening the Chapter on UAVs**



**Pres Knapp presenting mug to Rick Devereaux**

## **NCDMV Fee Changes**

Last years legislature changed the fees for many military special tags. Many that were \$10 extra are now free of extra fees, some are totally free (with one free tag per veteran). Call or go by your local DMV or look at the Military/Veteran's Registration Plate Application MVR-33A form at: [http://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/Plates\\_MVR33A.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/Plates_MVR33A.pdf). I found this out by accident when renewing mine and the extra fee was not there. Bob

### ***DMV Applies the Veteran Designation to Driver Licenses and Identification Cards***

Effective October 7, 2013, DMV began offering the opportunity for veterans to request a veteran designation to be placed on their driver licenses and identification cards. This service can be obtained at any drivers license office throughout the State. Below are DMV's procedures for obtaining the designation.

#### **Temporary Solution**

The Temporary Solution is a decal that is applied by hand to the back of the drivers license card at the DMV headquarters office in Raleigh. The decals are not available in local drivers license office however a duplicate license may be requested there for a \$10 fee, present your DD214, the examiner will then request a duplicate with decal.

#### **Permanent Solution**

When renewing your license present your DD214 and the decal will be affixed at no additional cost ( regular renewal fee applies).

## ***Volunteer opportunity***

### **We Honor Veterans**

Two administrators from the Four Seasons Hospice in Hendersonville gave a very informative presentation on the “We Honor Veterans” program to your board of directors on 9 April. Hospice has invited our MOAA chapter to “partner” with them in supporting this nation-wide program which supports veterans in their later years. The board unanimously voted to participate. MOAA volunteers will be needed at two levels: A basic level whereby a volunteer (after a 3 ½ hour, one-time orientation) will accompany a hospice care-giver and conduct a “Pinning Ceremony” with the veteran. And, a fully qualified hospice volunteer who receives 12 hours of instruction and becomes a care-giver to a veteran. More information will be provided at our May meeting. Or, if interested, please contact our chapter president, John Knapp, directly.

### **Chaplin’s Corner**

#### **Bob Lair COL USA-Ret**

In 1942 a little book of devotions was published for armed service personnel. It contained brief devotions and prayers for every day of the year. The writers represented many religious denominations. The book was entitled *Strength for Service for God and Country*.

One of the daily prayers simply says:

*God, I do not ask for courage for the whole of life, but rather for the courage to live a moment at a time. And that moment for Thee. For Christ’s sake. Amen.*

The author of that prayer was Paul S. Rees of the Covenant Tabernacle of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### **WESTERN SATELLITE FORMATION NEWS**

Thanks to the hard work of Brent Ramsey, Chuck Luce, and Frank Burda the creation of another venue for fellowship and service is progressing nicely. They are planning to have an initial meeting very soon. Brent attended the Black Mountain Satellite meeting and “picked the brains” of those who were involved in formation and maintenance of this venue. This will help us recruit new members and have a larger “One Powerful Voice”. **Thanks Gentlemen!**

### **Black Mountain Satellite News**

The meeting was held at Givens– Highland Farms Retirement Community March 12 with 22 attending. A buffet was catered by the dining room staff and the guest speaker was Ms Kelley Freeman, Volunteer coordinator, ABCCM VRQ. She explained some of their programs that many were not aware of. Givens-Highland Farms agreed to host our meetings and the group unanimously agreed due to the trials and tribulations of moving around. The group approved a donation of \$150 to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries from accumulated funds to support Veterans in need of assistance in transportation to VA and other medical appointments

### **Thanks!**

Many thanks to Past President Clinton Smoke for his efforts organizing and recruiting at Deerfield, he is responsible for the addition of many members to our rolls. Others should attempt to emulate! Thanks again Sir.

## **TAPS**

William C. Rousse, BG USA-Ret, March 21, 2014; survived by wife Mimi, Asheville

Allyn Noel, MAJ USA-Ret, March 25, 2014, survived by wife Michele, Hendersonville

More information and links to obituaries can be found in the TAPS section of [WNC-MOAA.org](http://WNC-MOAA.org)

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Bill Engles, CW-2 USA-Ret, wife Nettie; Asheville

Thomas (Tom) A. Head, CAPT USN-Ret, wife Legare'; Flat Rock

David Hinson, CAPT USNR-Ret, wife Jean; Arden

Cedric Hunter, Col USAF-Ret, wife Jan; Burnsville

Steve Rhoades, BG USA-Ret, wife Vivian; Hendersonville

Jean D Walker, AUX, Asheville

**Welcome aboard and hope to see you at the May 16 gathering!**

## **2014 Calendar**

Chapter General Membership Meetings: Friday May 16 and Friday Aug 15 informal cookouts, 4PM; Saturday Nov 15, 12PM. Note August meeting is annual meeting for business purposes. All at Hendersonville CC

Black Mountain Satellite: Second Wed each odd numbered month at Highland Farms, 11:30AM (May14)

## **Online Membership Dues Payments by Credit Card**

WNC MOAA members may now pay their annual membership dues by credit card. Here's how it works. Log on to [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org). Select Chapters from the drop down tab at the top of the page. When on the Chapters page, select Online Chapter Dues Payment. Complete filling out the form and your dues will be paid for the year. You have just saved time and postage. You have also saved me time from making deposits at the bank. It's a win-win operation. At this time, you can only pay for the current year and Auxiliary Members are not eligible for this service. If you have any questions, contact Mike Covell, Chapter Treasurer, 828-242-6816.

## **2014 Dues were due and payable Jan 1**

As of Apr 24 our chapter is now 215 strong. Unfortunately we have 56 members with dues in arrears. We have used this newsletter as your "invoice/reminder" that dues are due. We include your individual status as we have it in our records on the back page above your address. Also, we include your national MOAA number for example: **0123456 PAID THRU 2013**. This would indicate you now owe 2014 dues, and we have your National #. If there is no number, or it is incorrect or if your records indicate you have already paid, please contact me at: [robertsmith656@msn.com](mailto:robertsmith656@msn.com) or 828-925-7070. The treasurer and I will resolve the problem. We have hoped to avoid a mailing separate invoice. Every year we must call numerous times to get all that intend to maintain chapter membership to pay. We do not want to lose any members, the more we have the stronger our voice and ability to help other Veterans. Addresses and e-mail addresses are other hard items to keep current. Please remember when moving or changing e-mail address to let the chapter know. If we do not have a correct address it is very time consuming to track you down, further if we mail your newsletter and it is returned we are charged more to get it back than it cost to send it. Snowbirds please consider opting for the electronic delivery (see comment on keeping e-mail address current). I usually have around 40 that get e-delivery however we still must mail 200 copies to get a favorable printing and mailing rate. Please help us get the word out effectively at minimal cost. Cheers, Bob

## **WNC-MOAA Treasurer's Summary**

**Bank Balance \$10,943.31 2014 Budget \$19245.35**

**2013 Budget Income v. Actual \$15,993.71/\$23629.71 Budget Exp vs. Act \$15,993.71/\$13,143.36**

**Quarterly Meeting  
Hendersonville Country Club  
Friday May 16, 4PM check-in and Social**

Our Guest Speaker will be Jeff Miller Co-founder of Honor Air. Jeff is a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal, Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and many other awards for his efforts to recognize veterans and provide support. He has done many great things for the ABCCM Veterans' Restoration Quarters including a very successful coat drive that our chapter participated in by raising 10% of the stated overall project goal in about 10 days. The fund raising effort was so successful it also provided many other items for the residents. Recently his organization and the American Legion Post helped with the reroofing project at the VRQ.



Jeff at WWII Memorial on an Honor Flight



Rev Scott Rogers, ABCCM, Don Jackman, Bob Smith, Jeff Miller at VRQ for clothing distribution in 2010

***MAY MENU -Backyard Cookout***

Chef Grilled Angus Burgers  
Herb Grilled Chicken Breasts  
Rolls, Buns, Cheeses, Garnishes, etc  
House Made Potato Chips  
Tomato and Cucumber Salad

All Beef Hot Dogs  
Pulled BBQ Pork  
Baked Beans  
Macaroni; Potato Salads  
Club Made Ice Cream and Cookies

***Remember the Hendersonville Country Club requests no denim, casual including shorts OK.***

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC  
OF  
AMERICA, Inc.

WNC MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

Is the official publication of the WNC Chapter  
Of MOAA  
Published Quarterly  
Editor:  
MAJ Robert A. Smith USA-Ret.  
c/o WNC MOAA  
P. O. Box 1984  
Hendersonville NC 28793  
EditorMountainNews@WNC-MOAA.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***General Chapter Meeting Registration and Renewal Form***

**Chapter Meeting/Luncheon REGISTRATION**

Clip or Copy and Mail To: **WNC MOAA; P. O. Box 1984; Hendersonville, NC 28793**

**DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: *Tuesday, May 13, 2014***

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ meal (s) At ***\$20 per person.***

I/We plan on attending the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on Friday, May 16, 2014

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

This is the 1st WNC MOAA event attended: **Y/N**

**2014 Dues were Due and Payable Jan 1 2014, past due March 1**

**Chapter Membership RENEWAL :\$25 Regular member and spouse; \$5 auxiliary (surviving spouse)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Service:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ST:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**National MOAA#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_