



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc.
Summer 2014/AUG**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I write in this July edition of our chapter newsletter we are approaching the celebration of our nation’s birthday on the 4th of July. It has become our “middle” summer holiday, usually filled with picnics, parades, and if you’re fortunate...fireworks after dark. Interestingly, this year it also marks (almost to the day) the 100th anniversary of another event which took place far away from where we are, in the city of Sarajevo, then part of Austria-Hungary. On 28 June 1914, an assassin shot to death Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie. This event triggered a chain reaction among European nations (and finally much of the world) that led to The Great War—World War I. By the end of that conflict more 17 million military personnel would be killed or missing from both sides. Of course, this war was to have been the war to end all wars. History has shown us this was not the case.

So, you may ask, what does the 4th of July have to do with the beginning of WWI? My point is this...for the past 100 years (and clearly since 1776) men and women of our military have been involved with many, many crises, sacrificing much to keep our nation free. While all have given some and some have given all, veterans have all made an important contribution which enables us to enjoy our picnics, parades and fireworks in celebration of this great nation’s birthday.

We members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and our Western North Carolina chapter enjoy the brotherhood (...and sisterhood) of our associations with one another. We enjoy being together for our quarterly meetings, breaking bread, and reliving old times. We also take part in activities which support veterans and veteran organizations. We work with our elected officials in efforts to protect our veterans and veteran’s families. And we try to help veterans who are nearing the end of their lives. This is what we can do to continue on with the legacy of our forefathers, and mothers, in arms. Those noble ones who have said, “Yes, I’ll go”, when needed.

Our very special guest speaker on 15 August will be Mr. Jerry Hester, nominated by Senator Burr to be the Chairman of the World War I Centennial Commemoration. You won’t want to miss our BBQ and program beginning at 1700 on Friday, 15 August. You will find the application last page of this newsletter.

Until then, have a wonderful month. Keep cool. And be safe.

Best Regards;

John

Friday, Aug 15 Quarterly General Meeting
Hendersonville Country Club 4Pm Social
Dinner and Program 5 PM (casual, no denim)



MOAA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT: LTC Karen McKay USAR-Ret

July 2014

Legislation concerning the military and national security in the past session of Congress*:

Recent House Votes

>**Fiscal 2015 Defense Appropriations - Passage - Vote Passed** (340-73, 18 Not Voting)

The House passed a bill that would provide \$570.4 billion in non-war discretionary funding for the Defense Department in fiscal 2015. It also would provide \$79.4 billion in fiscal 2015 for contingency funds to support operations in Afghanistan and the general war on terrorism.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

>**Fiscal 2015 Defense Authorization - Passage - Vote Passed** (325-98, 8 Not Voting)

The House passed a bill to authorize \$592.9 billion for defense programs in fiscal year 2015, including \$79.4 billion for overseas contingency operations. The bill would authorize a 1.8 percent pay increase for military personnel and prohibit a new round of Base Realignment and Closure.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

>**Fiscal 2014-2015 Intelligence Authorization – Passage - Vote Passed** (345-59, 27 Not Voting)

The House passed a bill to authorize classified amounts for fiscal 2014 and 2015 for 16 intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities, including the Office of the National Intelligence Director, the CIA and the National Security Agency (NSA) and foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department and Homeland Security Department.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

>**Benghazi Select Committee–Passage - Vote Passed** (232-186, 14 Not Voting)

The House approved a resolution establishing a 12-member panel to examine both the events that led to the Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, as well as the Obama administration's response to it and to subsequent congressional inquiries.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

>**Mil Con/Veterans Affairs Appropriations – Passage - Vote Passed** (416-1, 14 Not Voting)

The House approved a bill on Wednesday to provide \$165 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, military construction, and military housing. The bill would provide \$58.7 billion in advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for certain VA medical care programs. Only Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho voted against the measure.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

Recent Senate Votes

>**Veterans Benefits - Passage - Vote Passed** (93-3, 4 Not Voting)

The Senate passed a bill to allow veterans experiencing long wait times or who live more than 40 miles from a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility to see doctors outside the VA health system, as long as the doctors participate in the Medicare program or are at a federally qualified health center, Defense Department facility or a facility funded by the Indian Health Service. It would also authorize the VA secretary to demote or fire poor-performing Senior Executive Service employees.

Sen. Richard Burr voted YES

Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES

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

Recent North Carolina General Assembly

>The North Carolina General Assembly has too many legislative actions affecting veterans and the active duty military to list here. You can look them up on www.ncga.state.nc.us and do a keyword search for "veterans 2014"

For this report as well as information on Mega Vote and how to contact our Senators and Congressmen see the Legislative tab on our website: WWW.WNC-MOAA.org (Continued on page 3)

Congressional News

Congressman Patrick McHenry (NC-10) has been selected by Majority Whip-Elect Steve Scalise (R-LA) to serve as his Chief Deputy Whip, the number 4 GOP leadership position in the House.Reps. Meadows and Bera Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Address VA Wait Times: <http://meadows.house.gov/press-releases/rep-meadows-and-bera-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-address-va-wait-times/>

Rep. Meadows' Hezbollah Bill Passes Committee:

<http://meadows.house.gov/press-releases/rep-meadows-widelysupported-hezbollah-bill-passes-committee/#.U7WuI61dVbw>

Meadows visited the **Appalachian Care Medical Mission, reporting it in his 15 June 2014 “Weekly Update” and drawing attention to this little-known DOD program:**

The pop-up medical mission is located in Swain County and Cherokee County for the first two weeks of June. Appalachian Care is a Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program, administered through the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). It conducts operations in medically underserved communities throughout the US. Medical services are provided free of charge for community members. It also provides training opportunities for military reservists.

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

Other places to look for information on bills and votes:

www.hagan.senate.gov

www.senate.gov

www.house.gov

www.house.gov

www.Congress.org

www.Congress.org to sign up for MegaVote, which will email you to

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

notify you on how your elected representatives voted on specific

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

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.***



ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT 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. 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.

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 st VP	Spence Campbell	Col USA-Ret
2 nd 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	Maj USA-Ret

Appointed Positions

Sr Advisor	Rick Devereaux	MajGen USAF-Ret
Chaplain	Bob Lair	Col USA-Ret
NL Editor	Bob Smith	Maj USA-Ret
Legal Affairs	Micky Parnell	Capt USA-Ret
Legis. Affairs	Karen McKay	LTC USAR-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



Burgers-R-Us crew, Black Mountain Satellite



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. The initial planning meeting and a follow up meeting were very productive and the first full meeting is scheduled for 12 Noon, July 29 at the Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant in Waynesville.

Thanks Gentlemen!

BLACK MOUNTAIN SATELLITE NEWS

The group met at Phil's Bar-B-Que (due to construction at Highland Farms) July 9th with 25 attending including two new members. The program was presented by local running store owner Pete Ripmaster who ran the 350 mi course used by the sled dogs in the Iditarod race.

Seven members of the Black Mountain Satellite cooked for the Independence Day celebration at the NC State Veterans Home on July 3. Over 200 burgers were cooked on the grills donated by the chapter. We were told that the outdoor activities were the favorites. The chapter is going to donate more of the 12x12 shade pop-ups like the three previously provided. Plans are underway for another cookout and further support. A local car club, the Route 70 Cruisers from McDowell County and others provided a car show and a local band provided music.

NC State Veterans Home Residents Chowing Down



Route 70 Cruisers Car Show



JROTC UPDATE: Jeff Snyder Col USAF-Ret

May was a busy month for many of the 17 western NC High Schools with JROTC programs. As the school year wound down, cadets participated in JROTC awards assemblies and military balls at their schools. Our chapter sponsors a leadership award that is presented to a rising senior from each school; selected by the unit's JROTC staff based on the cadet's demonstrated leadership during the year. Our chapter members were able to attend 6 of the 17 awards ceremonies to present the leadership medal and certificate of recognition. JROTC staff presented the medal/certificate on our behalf for the awards assemblies we were unable to attend.

Our goal for the upcoming school year is for chapter members to present the leadership award at all 17 High Schools. The Western Satellite of the chapter has helped move us towards that goal by taking "ownership" of the High Schools in the far western part of the state. Thanks to Chuck Luce for making that happen! We will get the word out to the chapter membership next spring as the High Schools schedule their awards assemblies. We are also looking into a proposal for a chapter member(s) to "adopt" a JROTC unit. Initial thoughts are that the member(s) would participate in the unit's activities when possible, be available for mentoring/ career days, and present the chapter's leadership award, etc. We are still working on details...more to follow.

In other JROTC news, the chapter donated \$500 to East Henderson High School's JROTC unit to support additional cadets being able to attend the JROTC leadership camp held each summer at Converse College in South Carolina. Lt Col (ret) John Wilkerson, senior military instructor at E Henderson High School (and a chapter member), reports back that, thanks in part to our donation, 10 first-year cadets attended the camp. Three of cadets were recognized as honor graduates, an award given to only 30 of the 200 cadets attending.



E. Henderson JROTC Cadets, MSgt Jensen, & Jeff Miller



MSgt Jensen, E. Henderson JROTC accepting check

2014 DUES WERE DUE and PAYABLE Jan 1 and DELIQUENT MARCH 1

As of July 20 our chapter is now 216 strong. However that number will soon be much less as 39 have yet to pay their dues for 2014. We do not mail out invoices or bills. The last three newsletters have reminded all of the due date and have notified members of their dues status by a notation above their address or in an email if sent electronically. We hate to lose members but this has been a continuing problem for years. If the date on your newsletter is 2013 this will be your last newsletter unless your dues are received or an error in our accounting is brought to our attention. Contact our treasurer Mike Covell at 828-242-6816.

TAPS

No losses have been reported this quarter!

More information and links to obituaries can be found in the TAPS section of WNC-MOAA.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Harold Dolenga CAPT USN-Ret, Nancy; Hendersonville
John Plant COL-USAR-Ret, Judy; Asheville
Steve Mihocka CPT (former) USAR/NG; Hendersonville
William G Farrell CAPT USNR-Ret, Madeline; Hendersonville
Rob Wright COL USAR-Ret, Marie; Hendersonville

Welcome aboard and hope to see you at the Aug 15 gathering!

2014 CALENDAR

Chapter General Membership Meetings: Friday Aug 15 informal cookouts, 4PM; Saturday Nov 15, 11AM
Note August meeting is annual meeting for business purposes. All at Hendersonville CC

Board Meeting: Oct 8, 12 noon, HCC

Black Mountain Satellite: Second Wed each odd numbered month at Highland Farms, 11:30AM (May 14)

Western Satellite: Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant 12 noon, July 29

VRQ Car Show: October 18, 10AM

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 and download the Military/Veteran's Registration Plate Application MVR-33A form at: http://www.ncdot.gov/download/dmv/Plates_MVR33A.pdf.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS INFORMATION: Ken Hadeen Col USAF-Ret

If you haven't updated your Wills, Power of Attorneys and Beneficiaries recently, **now is a good time to stop and take the time** to update all accounts and sources of information. Don't forget your digital estate!! As we move into the digital age with passwords for bank accounts, investments, social media, and dozens of other digital accounts, instructions for survivors on how to handle each of these accounts should be made and available.

ID CARDS

Retired Military personnel, spouses, and dependents needing to renew or to obtain a new ID card can do so at the National Guard Armory in Asheville. You must call for an appointment (828) 271-5000, option 3. The address is: 100 Minuteman Lane which is past the Baptist Home on Richmond Hills Drive, Asheville, NC.

USAF NATIONAL MUSEUM PREPARES for WWI COMMEMORATION

The National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, is preparing to host a commemoration for the centennial of World War I in Europe. The event, dubbed World War I Dawn Patrol Rendezvous, is set to take place Sept. 27-28. It will feature vintage model airplanes, "such as the Nieuport, SE-5, and Fokker Dr. I triplane," states a July 9 release. The museum has boasted it as one of America's "premier historical aviation events." The festivities will include pilots performing precision flying and participating in a flour-bombing competition, a WWI reenactment, and a parade of automobiles from that generation. The museum will also have an exhibition of WWI radio-controlled aircraft, games, simulators, and a collector's show of items from the war. The last WWI Dawn Patrol Rendezvous took place in the fall of 2011, states the release.

WNC-MOAA Treasurer's Summary

Bank Balance \$8303.62 2014 Budget \$19245.35

QUARTERLY MEETING (also annual meeting)
Hendersonville Country Club
Friday Aug 15, 4PM check-in and Social
See program info on page one in President's message.
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.

MAY GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: John Knapp

The final dinner count was 89 for the May Cookout event. That number included our guest speaker, Jeff Miller, who was inducted as the first honorary member of the chapter, and four members of the E. Henderson color guard, and their NCO who all stayed for dinner. Great turnout for a wonderful meeting. Jeff's remarks were right on the mark; and many attendees came up to me afterward and complimented us for having him speak. ALSO, the Honorary Member presentation went over very well. By the standing ovation he received, I think everyone agreed on our choice. Jeff was not only surprised, but very humbled. He told me afterward that this honor meant more to him than we would ever know.

The chapter sponsored a WW II Veteran for the Operation Overlord trip to the D-Day Memorial and the check was presented to Jeff Miller, who received it on behalf of the veteran. A special thanks to Rick Devereaux for bringing it to our attention, \$600 well spent in my opinion. We also presented two additional checks for \$500 each. One to the House of Flags toward their painting project accepted by Bob Lair and the other to the E. Henderson HS JROTC to support their attendance at a Leadership Camp this summer in Spartanburg. That check was accepted by MSgt. Jensen, NCO with the JROTC unit.

Finally, as a result of our solicitation for volunteers for the "We Honor Veterans" project with Hospice I have had three people tell me they are interested in participating. If we can get a total of six or more Hospice will set up a special orientation program for just our group. Please let me know if any of you are interested or hear of anyone who might be.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WNC MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

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c/o WNC MOAA

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General Chapter Meeting Registration and Renewal Form

Chapter Meeting/Luncheon REGISTRATION August 15, 2014

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

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: *Tuesday, Aug 12, 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, Aug 15, 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 : _____