



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
Winter 2015/Feb**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2015 to all our MOAA Western North Carolina Chapter members. It’s exciting to be starting another year with many opportunities for us to make important contributions to our communities and to our fellow veterans. I know I speak for your Board of Directors when I tell you that we have some plans that will allow anyone interested to participate. I’ll just give you an idea of some of them in this Message. You’ll be hearing more at our February meeting.

First of all, a number of us have participated in the Veteran’s Restoration Quarter’s (VRQ) “Kitchen Crew” lunch preparation mornings. As a result your board decided that we would take on a regular, monthly commitment for the fourth Wednesday of each month throughout this year. We now have 3 “crews” (8-12 members) who will alternate months in support of this very worthwhile veteran’s support activity.

Not to forget our friends at the CLC in Asheville, we will host an Ice Cream Social the afternoon of 7 February from 1300-1500 at the Center. This will involve around 10 of our chapter members and the cost of the ice cream and goodies.

As many of you heard at our meeting in November our chapter has also teamed with Four Seasons Hospice in support of the “We Honor Veterans” program. This is a joint effort between MOAA National and the national Hospice and Palliative Care organization. Between Don Jackman, Frank Ortiz, and me we have conducted 8 “pinning” ceremonies with local veterans who were nearing the end of their lives. I can honestly tell you from my experiences with these ceremonies they are some of the most meaningful events of which I’ve been a part...ever. I had one wife tell me just as we had finished the “pinning” at the bedside of her unconscious Viet Nam veteran husband that this was the **only** time he had ever been thanked for his service. That really made it all much more than worthwhile. Please get in touch with me if you want to learn more about how you can be a part of this team. One of every four deaths today is a veteran! So, we can anticipate being very active honoring our fellow vets and their families at this critical time in their lives.

Now, on to some info regarding our upcoming general meeting on Saturday, 21 February. As is our custom for the “cooler” months we will begin with our social hour at 11:00 at the Hendersonville Country Club. Lunch will be followed by our guest speaker. This month our speaker will be Mr. Chris Hartley, author and Civil War historian. Please see a more complete biography further in this newsletter.

Don’t forget your sweetheart on Valentine’s Day! See you on the 21st.

Best Regards; John

Saturday, Feb 21 Quarterly General Meeting
Hendersonville Country Club 11AM Social



MOAA Legislative Affairs Report

Legislation and news concerning the military and national security in Congress

The 114th Congress convened on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. There was little defense-related legislating this past quarter of our newsletter, but there is some news.

Recent House Votes

Fiscal 2015 Defense Authorization - Motion to Concur - Vote Passed (300-119, 15 Not Voting)

The House voted to concur in the Senate amendment with a House amendment and pass the bill that would authorize \$495.9 billion for the Defense Department's base budget, \$17.5 billion for national security programs within the Energy Department and \$63.7 billion to support Overseas Contingency Operations including \$5.1 billion to counter the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES

Fiscal 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations - Passage - Vote Passed (236-191, 6 Not Voting)

The House passed a bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. As amended the bill would bar the use of funds to implement the administration's immigration policies or to grant any federal benefit to any illegal immigrant as a result of those policies.

Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES

H.R.22 - Hire More Heroes Act of 2015

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. *Rep. Patrick McHenry voted YES Rep. Mark Meadows voted YES*

Recent Senate Votes

Surveillance Authorities - Cloture - Vote Rejected (58-42)

The Senate failed to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to a bill that would prohibit the bulk collection of domestic telephone and Internet metadata by intelligence agencies. It would allow intelligence agencies to query data held by telephone companies if the government can demonstrate the search is needed to fight terrorism.

Sen. Richard Burr voted NO Sen. Kay Hagan voted YES

Congressional News

Committee on Oversight and Gov Reform hearing: The Ebola Crisis: Coordination of a Multi-Agency Response Both McHenry and Meadows sit on committee. Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Lumpkin and MG James M. Lariviere. Deputy Director, Political-Military Affairs (Africa), testified on US military deployment to support efforts to stop the ebola epidemic in Africa.

Press Releases:

Burr

Senators Richard Burr, Kelly Ayotte, John McCain, and Lindsey Graham today introduced [legislation](#) that would restrict transfers of detainees from Guantanamo Bay in order to best protect Americans and our national security. The Detaining Terrorists to Protect America Act of 2015 would suspend international transfers of high and medium risk detainees, prohibit transfers of Guantanamo detainees to Yemen, extend the current prohibition on transfers to the U.S., and increase transparency regarding risk assessments of the remaining Guantanamo detainees.

Senator Richard Burr released the following statement after reviewing the report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), which examined the potential that C-123 aircraft flown and maintained by Air Force Reserve crews from 1972 to 1982 were contaminated by Agent Orange residue from their service in Vietnam and that those crews and maintainers were likely exposed to unsafe levels of Agent Orange dioxin.

Today, Senator Richard Burr introduced a resolution recognizing the heroic acts of the Montagnards, an indigenous tribespeople of Vietnam. This resolution is a historic first in the Senate, which has not previously honored these brave individuals who fought alongside the United States military during the Vietnam War.

(continued on page 3)

Senators Richard Burr, John McCain, Richard Blumenthal, Roy Blunt, Lisa Murkowski and Joe Manchin today introduced [The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act](#), legislation that offers several critical measures that would improve mental health care and suicide prevention resources for American service members.

HAGAN

Senator Kay Hagan issued the following statement after the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling against victims of Camp Lejeune water contamination:

"I am extremely disappointed in today's court ruling. These men and women and their families have sacrificed on behalf of our nation, and it is unconscionable that the Administration has tried to deny them justice after all they've been through".

The Legislative report has been shortened for this publication the full report is available on our website

VA HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Micky Parnell suggested to the board that the chapter collect items to make Christmas better for those at the Community Living Center. Although the project was started fairly late in the year the outpouring was great. The below letter from the Hospital Medical Director indicates the volume of items provided. Our chapter supports the CLC, the NC State Veterans Nursing Home, and the VRQ. Hopefully by getting the program going strong we can provide even greater support this year. Micky worked the project with very



JAN 09 2015

**CHARLES GEORGE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
Asheville, North Carolina 28805-2087**

In Reply Refer To: 637/135

Mr. John Knapp, President
Military Officers' Association of America
133 Larchmont Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28791

Dear Mr. Knapp:

I thank you and the members of the Military Officers' Association of America for the recently donated supply of 77 sweat jackets, 29 sweat pants, 19 fleece jackets, 32 short sleeve T-shirts, 3 long sleeve T-shirts, 102 tubes of toothpaste, 102 toothbrushes, 1 pajama set, 5 boxes of personal care items and 14 books. As requested, these items were delivered to the Community Living Center to be distributed to the residents as their needs are identified.

Please note donations to VA for deposit are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law as contributions for a public purpose. For tax purposes, the VA did not provide you any goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, for this contribution.

I know without a doubt that our Veterans are very grateful for your kind and generous donation. Again, I thank you for your support of our hospitalized Veterans.

Sincerely,


CYNTHIA BREYFOGLE, FACHE
Medical Center Director

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
Auxiliary LNO	Rev Nancy McCarthy

Go to: WNC-MOAA.org for contact info

Keep this page as it will not be inc. in each issue

Always available at: wnc-moaa.org

2015 Calendar

General Meetings (all at Hendersonville CC)

Feb 21 Saturday at 11AM check-in/social
May 8 Friday at 4PM check-n/social BBQ/cookout
Aug 21 Friday at 4PM Check-in/social BBQ/cookout
Nov 21 Saturday at 11AM Check-in/social

Board Meetings-12 Noon

Apr 21 (House of Flags Museum); Jul 8, Oct 14 (HCC)

VRQ Lunch Servings (Contact Jeff Snyder)

Each fourth Wednesday 9:30-12:30 (see article page5)

Black Mountain Satellite

Every odd numbered month on second Wed at 11:30
Givens Highland Farms in Black Mountain, for info contact
Gaye or Len Baker

Smoky Mountains Satellite

Every odd numbered month on fourth Thursday at Noon,
Location

TBA Contact Brent Ramsey @ shrblr@bellsouth.net or
phone 828-452-4783

VA Hospital CLC Ice Cream Social (under development)

Feb 7, 1:30-3:30 (See below) Spence Campbell 243-9067

AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES: Nancy McCarthy

I am pleased and honored to have been asked to represent the auxiliary members of our MOAA Chapter on our board. This is all very new to me. Our membership list has 33 auxiliary members. I welcome suggestions, ideas, and concerns that members may have. I hope, in the future, to have a luncheon where we can exchange ideas. I can be contacted at 828-274-6671 or revnancy1002@att.net.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN SATELLITE

The Satellite was formed in 2014 and met three times with an average attendance of 17. Over 40 have expressed interest in participation in this additional venue for MOAA members to get together and further MOAA values. The mission is: to assist, advocate for, and represent all veterans, their dependents and survivors, in obtaining all appropriate, earned and needed benefits and services working with and through the VA and other support agencies and organizations; to support the legislative and other objectives of the Military Officers Association of America including support to the WNC Chapter's activities. The goal is for the satellite to be more than just a social group. We want to develop a program where members can provide needed support to veterans in the area. Contact Brent Ramsey at: shrblr@bellsouth.net or phone 828-452-4783

WNC MOAA AT THE VA HOSPITAL:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT THE CLC

On Saturday, February 7, from 1:30-3pm, WNC MOAA will host residents of the CLC facility at the Asheville VA Hospital for an ice cream social. WNC MOAA volunteers will be serving up ice cream, root beer and coke floats and banana splits. Volunteers should arrive at the hospital around 12:45 to help get things organized. Our past visits at the CLC were much appreciated by residents and volunteers alike. Anyone wishing to help should contact Spence Campbell at cell 243-9067 by February 4th.

YOUR CHAPTER AT WORK

JROTC UPDATE: Jeff Snyder Col USAF-Ret

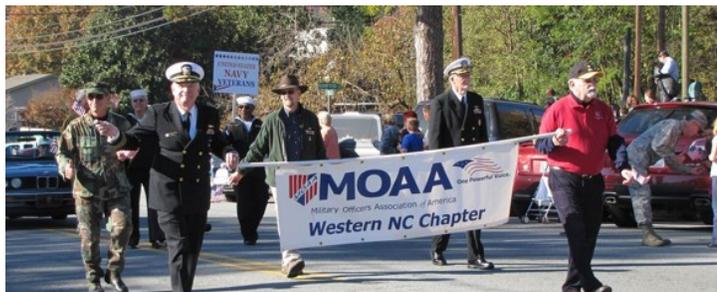
The NC Council of Chapters has established an Instructor of the Year Program to recognize outstanding officer and senior NCO JROTC instructors at NC high schools, starting with this school year. Our chapter enthusiastically endorses this new program and has informed the 17 JROTC units in western NC of the program and encouraged them to participate. The nomination packages, including a letter of endorsement from the school's principal, will be forwarded to the chapter. A selection board will then select the winning officer and senior NCO packages and then forward them to the Council of Chapters for consideration for their award. The western NC Chapter winners will be recognized at their school during the spring JROTC awards event. In the event one of our chapter winners is selected by the Council of Chapters as the NC winner, we will endeavor to have the winner(s) recognized at a subsequent chapter luncheon. Please join me and the chapter leadership in recognizing our area's JROTC instructors for the superb job they do developing future military leaders! Stop by their table at a chapter luncheon and meet the JROTC officer/senior NCO as well as

VETERANS' RESTORATION QUARTERS

Starting on January 28th, the chapter will begin a new effort in support of the Veteran's Restoration Quarters in East Asheville. Every 4th Wednesday of each month, a volunteer team from the chapter will help prepare and then serve the lunch meal at the VRQ. As discussed at the last chapter luncheon, the VRQ provides shelter and vocational training opportunities for the area's homeless veterans. Over 240 men reside nightly on the VRQ campus, a former 125 room motel. The veterans are provided housing, meals, case management services, counseling, laundry facilities, a computer lab, gym, chapel and transportation to VA Medical Center appointments. Several chapter members have already participated in this prep/serve effort and were extremely impressed with the VRQ staff's passion for their work and thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the residents during the meal service. Although volunteer teams have already been established for each month's effort, feel free to join us on any 4th Wednesday starting at 0930 and ending at 1230 when we are invited to join the VRQ residents for lunch (that we prepared!). If you are interested, please contact Jeff Snyder at: jsnyder243@aol.com.



COLUMBUS VETERANS' DAY PARADE



TAPS

CAPT USNR-Ret, Fielding Lucas Dec 27, Survived by wife Dot and two sons
COL USA-Ret, Thomas Galleher, Dec 10. Survived by wife Beth
Maj USAF-Ret, Jack Blue, Dec 6, Survived by Daughter and Son
VADM USCG-Ret, Clyde Lusk (former member), Oct 23, survived by wife Beverly

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

Please notify the chapter of any member deaths by e-mail to: HQ@wnc-moaa.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Felipe Casso, COL USA-Ret; Wife Cheryl; Waynesville
David Cook, LTC USA-Ret; Wife Becky; Hendersonville
Roy Goodwin, LtCol USAF-Ret; Wife Margo; Candler
James Grigsby, LtCol USAF-Ret; Wife Nancy; Travelers Rest
Fred Herres III, COL USAF-Ret; Wife Pam; Tryon
John Kummer, CDR USN-Ret; Wife Julie; Sylva
Sarah Myrphy, Auxiliary; Waynesville
John (Rod) Nunnelee, CDR USNR-Ret; Wife Sharon; Hendersonville
William Ross, COL USA-Ret; Wife Astrid; Waynesville
William Schmidt, RADM USN-Ret; Wife Becky; Hendersonville
Robert L Smith, LtCol USAF-Ret; Flat Rock
Stephen Tody, CDR USN-Ret; Wife Jean; Hendersonville

Welcome aboard and hope to see you at the Feb 21 gathering!

PERSONAL AFFAIRS INFORMATION: Ken Hadeen Col USAF-Ret INCOME TAX SEASON IS HERE

Military Retirees can download their 1099-R tax statements from MYPAY now instead of waiting for it to be mailed. While on-line you can check that all other information is correct including your beneficiaries. MYPAY has gotten easier to use! Password requirements have been reduced from 15 to 9 characters. Once you have established a password, it will remain current for up to 150 days. Update your account now so you have easy access in tax season.

For more information on creating a MYPAY password, check out <http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/password.html>. The link will offer you detailed instructions and video support. Having problems creating your password? Check out <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/mypayinfo/tipsandtricks.html> for additional help.

2015 DUES WERE DUE and PAYABLE JANUARY 1 and DELIQUENT MARCH 1

As of Jan 23 our chapter is now 219 strong. We do not mail out invoices or bills. Look at the line above your address and it will indicate your National MOAA membership # and a DUES PAID THRU year. Unless it is 2015 or higher, the dues were due Jan 1 and they can be paid in advance at any time. If you feel the date or member number shown is incorrect please contact our treasurer Mike Covell at 828-242-6816. We hate to lose members but it would be a lot easier on the Board to not have to repeatedly contact members reminding them they are in arrears. National offers incentives to chapters that retain members and this helps us serve our Veteran Community.

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.

WNC-MOAA Treasurer's Summary

Bank Balance \$9205.44 2015 Proposed Budget \$8580 (Charitable giving/JROTC \$3300)

QUARTERLY MEETING
Hendersonville Country Club
Saturday February 21, 11AM Check-in and Social Hour
 See more program info on page one in President's message

MENU

Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Sweet Peppers, Alfredo Sauce Flounder Almandine
 Wild Rice and Almond Pilaf Lemon Butter Broccoli
 Sautéed Yellow Squash and Onions Spinach and Mushroom Salad
 Garden Salad Bowl and Dressings Tomato and Artichoke Assorted Deserts

GUEST SPEAKER

Chris Hartley is the author of *Stoneman's Raid, 1865*. The book won the 2011 Willie Parker Peace Prize from the N.C. Society of Historians and was named a finalist for the Ben Franklin Award in History from the Independent Book Publishers Association. Hartley is also the author of *Stuart's Tarheels: James B. Gordon and his North Carolina Cavalry*, which received the UDC's Jefferson Davis Award. Hartley is currently completing a book about a World War II family from Kings Mountain and is beginning a new study of Gen. D.H. Hill. He works as Vice President of Marketing for Blue Rhino and lives with his wife and two daughters in Pfafftown, NC.

BIENNIAL NC MOAA STATE CONVENTION, 11-14 JUNE

This year we are fortunate to have the statewide convention right here in our own backyard at the High Hampton Inn and Country Club in Cashiers. I'm strongly encouraging chapter members to join me in attending this 3-day/night of fun and fellowship. Our special guest will be VADM Norb Ryan, President and CEO of MOAA. The application form can be found on our chapter website (www.wnc-moaa.org) under the **Current Events** tab on the homepage. And if you live close enough and don't want to stay at the Inn, special meal-only **packages** are available (\$14/breakfast, \$18/lunch, and \$34/dinner). To reserve a room your \$100 deposit is due NLT 15 February. Let's have a good showing from the Western NC Chapter at this special event. See you there! Best Regards; John

NOVEMBER MEETING

President Knapp introduced our speaker of the day, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), MOAA's Director of Governmental Affairs. He reminded us that Congress just came back to the lame duck session with tons of work to do. Our team has been recognized for its advocacy efforts by the Hill magazine for the past eight straight years. It is our chapter network that makes this possible through our "one powerful voice". Legislators listen to voting constituents much more than lobbyists. No bigger example of that success came early this year with the COLA Debate when MOAA members generated over 300,000 messages to their legislators. He reminded us that attacks on military pay and benefits are far from over. He reviewed the various cost savings proposals that have been on the table and their current status. The Senate Armed Services Committee has reluctantly accepted the one percent pay cap for military pay, an allowance change resulting in paying five percent out of pocket for housing costs and a consolidation of the TRICARE network with increased fees for drugs and enrollment. Work is still being done to counter these changes. Still looming is the prospect of sequestration and the work of the Military Compensation and retirement Modernization Commission. He closed with remarks about the VA Health Care issue and MOAA's urgent plea for a comprehensive review of the system, last done nearly 20 years ago. Following an extensive question and answer period, meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm. Ninety-six members and guests attended. Complete minutes of the meeting are available on the chapter website: wnc-moaa.org.



Col Hayden and Pres. Knapp



New Members and First Timers



North Henderson High Color Guard

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc.
WWW.WNC-MOAA.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WNC MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

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EditorMountainNews@WNC-MOAA.org



General Chapter Meeting Registration and Renewal Form

Chapter Meeting/Luncheon REGISTRATION February 21, 2015 11AM Check-in/Social Hour

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

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: *Wednesday, Feb 18, 2015*

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 Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

NAME: _____ **Guest:** _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

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

2015 Dues are Due and Payable Jan 1, 2015, 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 : _____