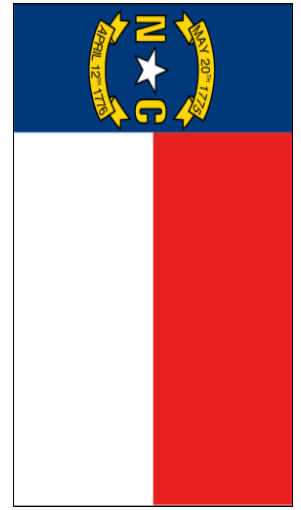




WNC MOAA MOUNTAIN NEWS



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc. Summer 2012/May

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Dog Days of Summer" have arrived, with record heat, fires and drought. How fortunate we are to live in Western North Carolina. We could do without the record highs. Cooler weather cannot arrive soon enough!

On a brighter side, our Chapter plays host to the North Carolina Council of Chapters in Hendersonville on August 17th and 18th. This meeting coincides with our quarterly meeting scheduled for Friday evening August 17th at the Hendersonville Country Club. The meeting menu will be a cookout featuring Barbecued Ribs, Chicken, Burgers and Hot Dogs with all the fixings. Social hour begins at 4:00 PM and Dinner set for 5:00 PM. Our program, by Col Joe Clemons, will present both the Korean (Real) and the Movie (Hollywood) version of "Pork Chop Hill". Make plans to attend this informal cookout and meeting. Dress is casual!

The NC Council of Chapters will hold their meeting the next morning in the Conference Room of the Mountain Lodge & Conference Center beginning at 8:30 AM. A tour of the Carl Sandburg Home is scheduled at 9:00 for visiting spouses. It has been 6 years since our Chapter

has hosted a COC meeting and we are both honored and excited to show our visitors the best of Western North Carolina.

Meanwhile our Chapter business and functions continue as planned. We host breakfast at the VA Community Living Center on Wednesday August 8. If you are interested in helping with this chapter outreach program, please call John Knapp at 702-3317.

Last week I provided information about our chapter involvement with the CLC to a MOAA Magazine writer. I am told an article featuring our chapters work with the CLC will appear in the MOAA magazine this fall.

(Continued next page)



LTC Don Jackman USA-Ret.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND DINNER FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB RSVP NLT MONDAY, AUGUST 13!

President's Corner (Continued)

Please continue to respond to MOAA's request for cards , emails and letters to be sent to our Representatives and Senators concerning the forthcoming cuts to our healthcare benefits. We know MOAA works diligently on our behalf to fight for the benefits we enjoy today. We know significant reductions in retiree healthcare benefits are forecast. MOAA needs the support of all members more now than ever!

Enjoy the summer...stay cool and we will see you at the cook-out on August 17th.

God bless you all!

Don Jackman



Affordable Health Care Act Effect on Tricare

CPT Micky Parnell USA-Ret.

With the recent news that the Supreme Court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Act), I am sure questions have arisen in the minds of our members how it impacts Tricare beneficiaries. The good news is that the only impact is actually good for members. The Act includes a special enrollment window for Medicare Part B enrollees which waives the late enrollment penalty for military retirees, their dependent children, and surviving spouses enrolled in Tricare for Life (this will be implemented as the Act is implemented). We are not affected by the Act because of the Tricare Affirmation Act (TAA) passed in 2010, which specifically excludes Tricare beneficiaries from the Act. The TAA does protect us from the tax penalty for not having private insurance as the TAA is minimal insurance as required by the Act. In addition, the Tricare Dependent Extension Coverage Act basically extends to Tricare the same dependent children provisions as are in the Act. Programs were created that extend health benefits for adult children of Tricare beneficiaries.

The Tricare Young Adult program and premium based plans are available to dependent children up to the age of 26, just as in the Act.

Finally, the Act also accepts VA care as fulfilling the minimal insurance requirement of the Act, which therefore exempts VA patients from the penalties.

There is a lot of information floating in cyberspace about the Administration's war on military benefits and retirement. This is simply not the case after reading all the literature, the Acts involved, and public comments made by officials. Our benefits are not being compromised or reduced by anything in the Affordable Care Act.

McDowell County Veterans Memorial

MAJ Bob Smith USA-Ret.

When the McDowell County Salute to Veterans Committee raised funds to bring the American Veterans Traveling Tribute with the Vietnam Wall Replica to Marion in May of 2011, it was decided to sell veteran bricks and sponsor bricks. Our chapter donated \$200 toward this effort and is recognized on a bronze plaque. The original plan was to place the bricks around a flag pole at the YMCA soccer field where the event was held. The committee felt that something on a more appropriate scale was in order. A landscape architect sketched out a design based on our thoughts and a contractor offered to build it at his cost. Not knowing how much money would be available we decided to build it ourselves and redesign it to hold more bricks for less money. Support from the community and granite suppliers from Elberton, GA allowed the pictured monument to be erected for under \$64,000. Excess funds were given to American Legion Post 56 to support their transportation and other assistance to needy county veterans. To date \$15,000 has been presented and the blank bricks included in the wall for future sale should net them approximately another \$32,000 eventually.

Most of the final design and construction was by a team of Vietnam Veterans and I served as project manager. Ground was broken and the team was given the go ahead on Aug 31, 2011 and the dedication was May 27, 2012. A crowd of over 300 attended the dedication that was held in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. At that time over 700 bricks had been sold and installed, honoring veterans from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War/War on Terror. The wall holds a total of 1248 bricks with an area that will accommodate another 200 later. A bronze plaque honors the almost 140 from the county that gave their lives for their country.



Legislative Affairs Information Sources in Light of Ongoing Continuous Change

Given the current level of interest by WNC-MOAA members in the ever-changing scenario regarding legislative activity in Congress, and the impossibility of printing current information in your newsletter, the following alternative sources are suggested:

- Online at MOAA.org or other military-related websites
- The monthly MOAA magazine
- The MOAA legislative update line at 1-800-234-6622, extension 251 for a recorded review of current issues

An Extract from the 2011 Veterans Day Speech to the Hendersonville Rotary Club

Col Spence Campbell US Army-Ret.

As the movie *Saving Private Ryan* approached its final scene, Captain Miller, who was mortally wounded, gave PVT Ryan his ticket home and said "Earn It!" As I watched that scene I was reminded that every generation of Americans has accepted the challenge of every preceding generation to "Earn It."

While serving our Nation has been a mark of pride and humility for many throughout America's history, that service is also a source of heartbreak and anguish for far too many, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, their friends and families. Each of us who have marched in that long parade has been forever changed. We have seen first hand the horrors of war. Like PVT Ryan, what many of us saw in our younger days is as vivid in us today as the day we saw it. That is why, for many of us, the warriors of the past and present, the monuments in every American city and town, on the Mall and around the world are so important.

While some may think they glorify war, they do not, for in war there is no glory. Rather, they speak for America's veterans by their mere presence when the terrible memories of war make it too difficult for us to speak; they remind us of the price that we Americans have paid for freedom over the centuries; they stand in eternal vigilance over Americans whose final resting place is far from home; they include the many new headstones at Arlington. They are an eternal testimony that each generation of Americans has already met the challenge of the Founding Fathers and CPT Miller to "Earn it!"

We Americans have fought and died and sacrificed since 1776 so that the children of the next generation could learn what we already know: America is the greatest Nation in history. This is why we serve. This is why they too will "Earn it." There is no greater honor.

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Black Mountain Satellite Chapter-VACANT

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Highlights of the July 2012 WNCMOAA Board Meeting

- Don Jackman informed the board of plans for the visit by the NCMOAA Council of Chapters
- Bob Smith advised the board that the Black Mountain Satellite Chapter is now defunct
- Don mentioned the Council of Chapters cruise from Charleston to the Caribbean on February 13, 2013. Cost is \$1900 per couple and reservations must be made by August 13, 2012
- Upcoming WNC MOAA activities were outlined as they are in the President's Corner on page 1.

Financial Report: Mike Covell, Treasurer

As of 6/2012

Bank Balance \$7,660.27

A Morning at the VA Community Living Center (CLC)

LTC Don Jackman USA-Ret.

Every quarter our Chapter hosts a breakfast at the CLC located adjacent to the VA hospital in Asheville. It is an early wake up as we try to depart from Hendersonville at 0615. We arrive at the CLC at 0700 where we are greeted by the staff. We serve the breakfast on two floors and we need a total of 8 to 10 Chapter volunteers to make this a successful breakfast event.

Twenty nine days a month their breakfast is served via an auto mat with pre-filled trays. On this one day with our chapter volunteers, they can select their breakfast from an omelet station, fresh fruit, pastries, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits, grits, cereal, juice and coffee. Needless to say they look forward to this special treat.

When the residents enter the dining room, they are seated and we serve them their breakfast. I have seen as many as 3 omelets eaten by one individual at one seating. For residents who are physically unable to come to the dining areas we carry breakfast trays to their rooms.

After serving breakfast we have an opportunity to visit with the veterans and in some cases swap "War Stories". It is an honor to help make the lives of these veteran patients a little more like home even for just a brief moment in time. If you would like to help and join our CLC team, please contact our 1st VP John Knapp at 890-3544.



August 17 2012 General Membership Meeting Information

Place: Hendersonville Country Club, Hendersonville NC

Time: Social Hour 4pm; dinner and program 5pm

Cost: \$20 per person for buffet (including tax and gratuity)

CASUAL DRESS (No denim); BBQ and All the Fixin's

Speaker: Colonel, US Army-Ret Joe Clemons and the Battle of Pork Chop Hill

Special Guests: NC MOAA Council of Chapters Members

Menu FOR 8/17 WNCMOAA Meeting

BBQ Pork Ribs	Watermelon & Fresh Fruit
Grilled Chicken Breasts	Oven Brown Potatoes, Baked Beans
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs	Corn on the Cob
Chef's Choice Salad Bar Plus Garden Salad Bowl	Fresh Veggie Medley
Condiments & Dressing	Hot Fruit Cobbler, Ice Cream
Cole Slaw, Four Bean Salad	Cookies and Brownies
German Potato Salad	Coffee & Tea

Dues Renewal

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Service: _____ Spouse: _____ National MOAA # _____

Member and Spouse \$25, Auxiliary (surviving Spouse) \$5 Check payable to: **WNC MOAA**

I would also like to contribute \$ _____ to the program below:

_____ ABCCM Veteran's Restoration Quarters

_____ JROTC Miscellaneous

_____ Cyrus E. Anderson JROTC Scholarship

_____ General operating fund

_____ Quarterly VA Hospital Community Living Center Breakfast in Honor of Col Kat Spencer

_____ Other _____

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER
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OF
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c/o WNC MOAA

P. O. Box 1984

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MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

General Chapter Meeting Registration Form

Clip or Copy and Mail To:

WNC MOAA

P. O. Box 1984

Hendersonville, NC 28793

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: *Monday, August 13, 2012*

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA

I/We plan on attending the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on August 17, 2012

NAME: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for ____ meal (s) At ***\$20 per person.***

I plan on bringing a guest: Y/N: If Yes: Name: _____

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