

The Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

# MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

FALL 2007

**NOVEMBER 17, 2007 MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB  
A VERY SPECIAL PRESENTATION:  
THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD  
AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM**

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**SOCIAL HOUR 11:00 AM BUFFET AT 12:00 NOON  
OUTSTANDING BUFFET LUNCHEON  
COST IS \$19 PER PERSON  
COMPLETE AND MAIL EVENT FORM ON PAGE 4**

## **FROM THE BRIDGE: NOW HEAR THIS**

**By CDR Clint Smoke, USCG-Ret**

August was quite a month. We lost one of our most active members, Vince Colan. He will be greatly missed. We had a wonderful luncheon with Congressman Heath Shuler. The gentleman gets high marks from MOAA. And our VA representative, Mike Dickenson, had to step down for personal reasons. We are looking for his replacement. If interested, please get in touch with me.

Over the past year I have written and spoken about preparing your family for your passing. Many of us may not want to address this issue, but my contact with this organization and several others made up of other "mature adults" has brought home the message that many do not take the initiative to deal with this during their life, and in their death, they leave their family with some serious challenges. When your time comes, will your survivor know how to file a death report, how to claim final retired pay, how to get the elected survivor annuity started, and how to claim other benefits such as VA entitlements, social security, ID cards, and a military funeral?

After a retiree passes, the family is faced with discovering and applying for benefits, often with little knowledge, in what can be a confusing process. All of this happens while dealing with overwhelming grief. There is help for you and your family in several MOAA publications. ( continued on page 7)

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
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CDR Clinton S. Smoke, USCG-Ret.  
687-8800

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669-1030

**BLACK MOUNTAIN REP**

COL William H. Creed, USA-Ret

**TAPS**

**CAPT Vincent J. Colan**, U.S. Navy-Ret., 93, of Hendersonville, died Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007, at Pardee Hospital. He was an active member of the WNC MOAA chapter.

Vince graduated from Georgetown University and retired from the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain after 40 years of service. He enlisted in the Navy on his 18th birthday, and served aboard the USS San Francisco, the flagship for Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, Commander Cruiser Division Seven. In Feb. 1943, he was promoted to ensign. On Jan. 5, 1945, while bombarding Chi Chi Jima (prior to the invasion of Iwo Jima), the ship struck a mine, flooding the forward compartments and storage holds. As damage control officer, he directed rescue and damage control measures which kept the ship afloat for a safe return to Saipan. For this, he earned the Silver Star. He was also awarded eight battle stars on his Asia-Pacific theatre ribbon.

A native of Astoria, Long Island, N.Y., he moved to Hendersonville in 1971. Vince was highly active in the Hendersonville community and was instrumental in the founding of the Pearl Harbor Day Commemorative Committee. He was a substitute teacher, former board member and president of Hendersonville Little Theatre and congregational chairman of Pinecrest Presbyterian Church for a number of years.

Vince, you are now "out of harm's way."

**FINANCIAL REPORT (As of October 11, 2007)**

**LTC Milton Thompson ,USMC-Ret.**

Checking Account.....\$7,37

Scholarship Fund .....\$1,39

**Meeting Hendersonville Country Club, August 18, 2007**

Income..... \$2,01

Expenses (Meals, Services, Entertainment)..... \$1,55

Profit / (Loss) .....\$41

**Dues Status**

**Total Members on Our Roster: 250 ( October 11, 2007**

**Members with Dues Paid Through 2007: 250 (100%**

**ID CARD INFORMATION**

**Call Chasedy Robinson at 828-271-5011 for appointment**

**Tuesday—Thursday 0830—1200 & 1300—1600 hrs**

**Army National Guard Armory, 75 Shelburne Road, Asheville**

**E-mail: chasedy.robinson@nc.ngb.army.mil**



SECRETARY'S REPORT  
By COL Bryan Aleksich, USAFR-Ret

Write i self abbreviation

Can you read this? It is not atypical of the writing I encounter in the mail that comes through our Chapter mailbox.

Everything this Chapter does begins with important comments from its members included with personal checks of various amounts for assorted purposes. When dealing with money, mistakes are not permitted. Yet mistakes are inevitable and in every case are reconciled. Must be reconciled. On occasion getting this done becomes a little messy. There are basically three reasons for messy: (1) Communication between members and the Chapter is not always clear (e.g. the scrawl above); (2) members do not read the Newsletter thoroughly or pay scant attention to its contents. (3) I have the only key to the mailbox, and I make mistakes.

There are but a handful of officers that do all the work for the Chapter. The workload is heavy. Of course these officers would like to have more members assume their duties in ensuing years. If you cannot or will not for whatever reason, assume a duty, then I beg you to take time to (1) write or print plainly all your correspondence with the Chapter; (2) keep track of your dues payments (\$20 annually, fee includes spouse); (3) do not pay later in the year. Cut off date is May 31st, after which your name is removed from the Roster. When you wake up to the fact say in July or August that you have yet to pay for the current year, you add unnecessary work for the Secretary and Treasurer.

This is my last report. Please give my successor every consideration. Tear out this page and retain it as a helpful reminder.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President: LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret**  
**First Vice President: MAJ Robert Smith, USA-Ret**  
**Second Vice President: MAJ Ronald A. Botsford, USAF-Ret**  
**Secretary: LTC Howard Lightfoot, USAF-Ret**  
**Treasurer: LTC Milton Thompson, USMC-Ret**

## MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

### LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret, President

Larry was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio on 26 March 1943. He graduated from Wilmington College in 1965 and was commissioned through Infantry Officers Candidate School. He served for a total of 31 months in the Republic of Vietnam in Airborne Infantry and aviation assignments. Following retirement in 1988 as a Lieutenant Colonel he worked for the Multinational Force and Observers verifying the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. Larry and his wife of 38 years, Gail Thomas Wilson, a native of North Carolina, have made our great state their permanent home. They have one daughter, Juliana Mary Wilson, who resides in Jakarta, Indonesia and contracts with the World Bank.

### MAJ Robert A. (Bob) Smith. USA-Ret, First Vice President

Bob retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years. His assignments included two tours in RVN (20th Transportation Co 68-69 and the 165th Trans 71-72); three tours at U.S. Army Signal Center; Electronics Research and Development Command Flight Test Activity; Headquarters U.S. Army Europe. He worked in aviation industry in Wichita, KS for 10 years after retirement. Bob and his wife Linda currently do home repair and remodeling. Married for over 40 years, they have two children, three granddaughters and one more grandchild on the way. Bob is active in St. Marks United Methodist Church as Chairman, Board of Trustees and is Presi-

### MAJ Ronald Botsford, USAF-Ret, Second Vice President

Ron spent his active duty, Reserve and Guard time as a pilot, a training officer, a Command Post operations officer in Vietnam and as a Social Actions officer. He came off active duty to go to Seminary. Upon graduation he served those churches that were ready to close or in real trouble. Since church retirement, he serves as a Chaplain Associate at the VA, as a volunteer at ABCCM and as a member of the Advisory Board of the Vet's Place in Asheville.

**Clip this form and mail today!!**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / EVENT SIGNUP**

WNC MOAA, P.O. Box 1028 Hendersonville, NC 28793

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Renewal Dues: year(s) and amount (\$20, AUX \$5 per year)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Event: November 17, 2007, Buffet Luncheon, \$19 per person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Changes (e-mail address, etc.) and Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 13, 2007!!**

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

By Robert E. Lair, Jr., Chaplain (Colonel), AUS-Ret

### "TAPS"

It is a haunting melody of twenty-three notes. There are numerous legends about the origin of the simple melody, and there are numerous versions of the lyrics. Twenty-three notes...twenty-three words. There are several variations and versions to the tune we know simply as "Taps." All the words were written after the tune was composed. It's a simple bugle call played to say "good night" to military personnel and even Boy Scouts.

And, it is a loving tribute played at graveside to conjure up memories of loved ones lost. It is a simple tune that can instill hope, bring comfort and peace to loved ones and friends.

History and legend blur as to the origin of "Taps." One story claims that the Dutch used a drumbeat at their military stations to warn tavern keepers to close their "taps" so that soldiers could return to their barracks. A 1701 British army drill book describes sergeants and corporals calling the roll at "Taptotimes."

The American Civil War/War Between the States is the most famous setting for stories of the haunting melody to honor the dead. A popular story tells of "Butterfield's Lullaby." It describes a hot night in July in 1862. 140,000 exhausted, demoralized Union soldiers in Southern Virginia slapped mosquitoes, sweated in heavy humidity and endured the stench of open latrines. Soldiers were dying or fighting dysentery or typhoid.

Brigadier General Daniel Adams Butterfield, Commander of the Third Brigade of the Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, was a man of compassion. The General summoned his bugler, and the thirty-one year old former law student turned general and a twenty-three year old private composed music to sound the end of the day and to say "goodbye" to fallen comrades. That was the beginning of our bugle tune "Taps."

Every military officer has heard "Taps" sounded many times. Before a military burial "Taps" is preceded by three rifle volleys. The custom of three volleys dates back to a time when armies called a cease-fire to remove the dead from the battlefield. After the fallen soldiers were removed from the battlefield, three volleys were fired to signal that combat could resume.

Every American, at some time or the other, is touched when "Taps" is played. We who have worn the uniform are particularly touched whenever we hear it played. There is power in these simple twenty-three notes.

*Day is done,  
Gone the sun,  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky,  
All is well,  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.*



**BLACK MOUNTAIN SATELLITE CHAPTER**  
**By COL William H. Creed, USA-Ret**

Black Mountain Satellite Chapter held its meeting on Wednesday, September 19th, 2007 at The Monte Vista Hotel at 11 :30 AM. Our speaker was the President of The North Carolina Council of Chapters, Col. Joe Cansler. In his presentation he gave an update of events that are happening in the state of North Carolina and the financial impact of the monies that are coming in to the state treasury. We were honored to have the President of The WNCC Chapter of MOM attend our meeting.

**Our next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 14th, 11 :30 AM at the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain.** Our speaker will be Bill Stanley, retired military officer. His subject will be "Hypnotism" - a general discussion on the use of "Hypnotism".

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES FOR 2008**  
**FEBRUARY 16**  
**MAY 10**

(Note: We will host the meeting of the  
North Carolina Council of Chapters on this date)

**AUGUST 16**  
**NOVEMBER 15**  
**MARK YOUR NEW CALENDAR NOW.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION**

I (We) \_\_\_\_\_ would like to make a donation to the WNC Chapter of MOAA funds:

Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please record my (our) name in the next issue of "Mountain MOAA News."

( ) Please accept this donation in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I (We) prefer to remain anonymous.

( ) Check enclosed payable to "WNC MOAA."

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail to:

Secretary, WNC MOAA, P.O. Box 1028, Hendersonville, NC 28793  
(This donation may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.)

(FROM THE BRIDGE continue)

*Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead* One of the most important gifts you can give your family is a well-thought-out plan to take care of them after you're gone. This 80-page book guides you through, ensuring your hard-earned military benefits are available to your survivors. With charts, contact information, and sample forms, this comprehensive guide also includes a *Personal Affairs Workbook* to help you keep your affairs in order.

MOAA's *Personal Affairs Workbook* (*Appendix A of A Guide....*) is also available on interactive computer-based worksheets that can be completed and stored on your personal computer to allow you to make changes as necessary as you update your workbook yearly and save the new data. But you should print a current copy to retain with your records, and destroy obsolete editions.

The following two publications are for your survivors, but you should order them now as they may remind you and others of some information or action that is needed now:

*Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On* Keep this checklist on hand to refer to when dealing with the death in the family. While not exhaustive, this list is intended as reminder for surviving spouses about the many subjects that need attention at the time of death of an MOAA member.

*Turning the Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Loved One* This 24-page booklet can help anyone navigate the passage from grief to peace. Be guided by the voices of those who have been there and learn how to find helping hands and take care of yourself when you need to.

All of these are available from MOAA. Go to their website or call 1-800-234-MOAA.

If I am remembered for anything during these two years, let it be that I prompted you to do this for your family.

Thanks for your support these past two years. Thanks for the help of an able board of directors, especially the several elected officers: first vice-president Larry Wilson, second vice-president Robert Smith, secretary Bryan Aleksich, and treasurer Milton Thompson. Several others have been especially helpful: newsletter editor Chuck Luce, satellite chapter president Bill Creed, and our personal affairs officer, Dick Swift. I am grateful to all of them and to all who have helped. The best to those who are continuing and to those who are joining them.

### **Air Force Discontinues Use of Base Decals**

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Air Force officials are working with the other services to allow its people to enter military installations without requiring them to display a base decal on their vehicles. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley recently ended use of the sticker, officially called a DD Form 2220, on Air Force installations because of cost, a lack of utility and long-term threats facing bases.

The decal was developed in the 1970s as part of a vehicle registration and traffic management system, not to bolster security. Many people incorrectly viewed the decal as being designed to bolster security. In actuality, the decal lessens it by identifying vehicles of military personnel and civilian workers as potential terror targets and may lure gate guards into complacency.

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPTER of the  
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WNC MOAA Chapter President Clint Smoke, right, thanks Rep. Heath Shuler, 11th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives, for his dedication to assisting service members, both active and retired, in many aspects of their lives. Rep. Shuler spoke at the August 18 membership meeting at the Hendersonville Country Club

