

An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**Save the Dates**

**2021**

Quarterly Board and Chapter meeting locations continue to be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions. Until we are able to resume normal gatherings at the Hendersonville Country Club [1860 Hebron Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739 (828) 692-2261], both meetings will be conducted by means of a virtual platform.

**Meeting dates are currently set as follows:**

<u>Board</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
	May 22
July 14	August 21
October 13	November 20

**The Western North Carolina Military Officers Association (WNC MOAA) is an affiliate chapter of National MOAA, is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan.**

**President’s Remarks**

As we pause to commemorate Memorial Day this year it is fitting to think about military life and what it means to serve.

On call 24/7, the job of the military member can be as demanding as it is rewarding. The personal sacrifices are many as even their loved ones can attest. Living conditions can be brutal and the loneliness heartbreaking. For the ones in the field and the ones at home.

Missed birthdays, anniversaries, sports events, recitals, births and even funerals mark time away from family and friends that can never be regained.

Therefore, it is also fitting to remember the families and friends of the fallen. They know too well the pain and heartbreak of their loss. Not a holiday goes by without thinking about their missing loved one, for they too have paid a personal price for their loss.

“Why would anyone commit to this kind of work – at all?”

For some it’s a calling. For others it’s an opportunity. Opportunities for self-discovery, self-improvement, travel, adventure, education. A warming place between high school and the rest of their life. Whatever the reason – personal and professional, the decision to join the military is made.

With their own sense of character, integrity, moral compass and ethical standards as their foundation, these men and women, raise their hands and profess an oath that forever changes them. Then upon becoming members of the U.S. Military, they submit themselves to training and testing that shapes and molds them into the Nation’s finest. Steel sharpens steel. When put to the *ultimate* test many pay the *ultimate* price. They give up their mortal souls to save their fellow brothers and sisters in arms. To free the oppressed. Restore peace and dignity to war-torn lands. And protect the precious freedoms we enjoy so freely in our own Country. No. Freedom isn’t free.

May the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us never be in vain.

Thank you for your personal sacrifices, service and NEVER STOP SERVING!

**Donna Culp, Capt (USAF-Frm)  
President, WNC MOAA**





## Join MOAA's Advocacy in Action Event. Help Us Make a Difference

This May, our annual advocacy event on Capitol Hill will once again take place almost entirely virtually. But as this past year has proven, our membership's unified voice is as strong and impactful as ever.

This year, we are calling our event Advocacy in Action, and we're hoping you will join us and act on behalf of tens of thousands of servicemembers, veterans, military families, and survivors.

[LEARN MORE: [MOAA's Advocacy in Action](#)]

Here are our three Advocacy in Action topics:  
**Comprehensive toxic exposure reform.** Our country is still grappling to recognize and treat the long-term effects of Agent Orange on our Vietnam veterans, while service-connected illnesses from the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan become ever more apparent. ([Read More](#) | [Contact Your Lawmakers](#))

**TRICARE Young Adult coverage parity.** Military kids are not transitioning to adulthood with the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans — a situation worsened in the state of a pandemic. ([Read More](#) | [Contact Your Lawmakers](#))

**Basic Needs Allowance.** This would establish a subsistence allowance for servicemembers and their families living near the poverty line. This is even more important in the pandemic environment when many military spouses are out of work. ([Read More](#) | [Contact Your Lawmakers](#))

Our board, chapter leaders, and staff have already begun the work to conduct virtual engagements with every congressional office on the Hill. But we need your engagement on these topics, which are described in detail at [MOAA.org/AiA](https://www.moaa.org/AiA).

Stay up to date and visit the site throughout our advocacy drive, which runs through May. Please remember our entire Government Relations staff, along with [The Military Coalition](#) and other partners, continues to work MOAA's other legislative priorities throughout the year.

You can track developments through The MOAA Newsletter via email. This will keep you informed of the latest news and let you know when it's critical to take action. Please keep an eye on your inbox for updates. If you are not yet receiving the weekly newsletter, please visit [MOAA.org/newsletter](https://www.moaa.org/newsletter) to sign up.

Your actions alongside ours at MOAA headquarters will help bring positive changes for all those serving and those who have served.

Please join us for Advocacy in Action — you make a difference.

Article by: Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)  
President and CEO, MOAA



Ref: MOAA Article and About the Author

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/join-moaas-advocacy-in-action-event.-help-us-make-a-difference/>



# WNC MOAA Engages in MOAA's 2021 Advocacy In Action



Advocacy in Action



Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel  
Western North Carolina MOAA  
May 18, 2021



Representing MOAA during the May 2021 virtual Advocacy In Action event (Pg. 2), WNC MOAA Legislative Affairs Chair and Federal Issues Chair, Dr. Vivianne Wersel, is requesting virtual meetings with elected officials in our districts to discuss MOAA's top three legislative priorities.

Results of these meetings will be presented in the next newsletter.

Article by: **Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel, Au.D.**  
**WNC MOAA Legislative Affairs Chair and Federal Issues Chair**



## Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform To amend title 38

### Issue

- ▶ Toxic exposure in American Military (TEAM) S 927 Sen Tillis HR 2127 Rep Bost (R-IL) 26 Cosponsors
- ▶ S-437 Sen Dan Sullivan (E-AK)
- ▶ HR 2436 Rep Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) 1 co-sponsor



### Remarks

- ▶ Concede exposure
- ▶ Improve provisions of healthcare
- ▶ Expanded health care for those exposed all wars and conflicts
- ▶ Creation of an advisory council, and to reauthorize the Agent Orange authorities (expired in 2015)
- ▶ Est Advisory Commission
- ▶ Require VA establish if illness linked to toxic exposure
- ▶ Add to Presumptive list
- ▶ Issue hits more than the servicemembers – it is a direct impact to the families who are or will be the caregivers.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>

**Take Action  
Now!**



May 6, 2021

Dear Senator Tillis,

I am requesting a virtual meeting (20 minutes) with you and/or your staffer to discuss the Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) top 3 legislative priorities for 2021.

MOAA is engaged in a virtual Advocacy-in-Action event during May coordinating our respective efforts with lawmakers. As the legislative chair for the Western North Carolina's MOAA Chapters, I represent your district's MOAA members, their families, and surviving spouses. I would like to discuss with you the following issues affecting our military and veterans:

**Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform (S. 437/H.R. 2436 and S. 927/H.R. 2127):** Service Members are experiencing illnesses and cancers resulting from their exposure to toxins while performing their missions - DoD and the VA have acknowledged this. However, when the servicemembers seek healthcare or benefits, the burden of proof is put on the member or their survivors. The process of determining these illnesses is based on service member's records and science - and when a claim is supported by these facts the VA Secretary should act on those findings.

**TRICARE Young Adult Parity (H.R. 475):** TRICARE has a coverage gap for young adults. Commercial plans cover child dependents up to age 26 while military kids lose TRICARE coverage at age 21 (or 23 if a full-time college student.) Military kids face extraordinary challenges throughout their childhoods - as they transition to adulthood, we must ensure they have the same health care protections as their civilian peers.

**Basic Needs Allowance (H.R. 2339):** Many junior enlisted military families with two or more dependents face food insecurity and must rely on food pantries and charity. Compounding this, many fear the stigma of seeking help. HR. 2339, the Military Hunger Prevention Act, will solve this unsettling situation by establishing a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) based on family income and the poverty line, proving much-needed support to over 10,000 servicemembers.

I would very much appreciate an opportunity to discuss these issues with you and get your perspectives and support on how best to deliver on our commitment to those who are serving now or have ever served.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon; you can reach me at (252)646-2678. I will provide position papers, however if additional information is needed prior to the meeting please let me know. Attached please find my legislative bio.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel  
Western North Carolina MOAA Chapter Legislation Chair  
(252) 646-2678  
15 Blair Street, Asheville, NC 28801

## MOAA'S TOP 3 Legislative Priorities

**Toxic Exposure  
And Team Act  
HR 2127, 2436  
S 927, 437**

- Expand health care
- Create advisory council
- Affects not only servicemembers – direct impact to families and caregivers

**Basic Needs  
Allowance  
HR 2339**

- Provide \$\$\$ supplement to those service members meeting financial criteria below 130% of the federal poverty line

**Tricare  
Young Adult  
Hr 475**

- Disparity between commercial health care plans that cover adult children to age 26 TRICARE
- Making Tricare healthcare affordable

## Basic Needs Allowance HR 2339 Rep. Panetta (D-CA)

### Issue

- ▶ To amend title 37, USC to est basic needs allowance for low-income (military)
- ▶ Servicemembers and their families
- ▶ Vulnerable to food insecurity
- ▶ Difficult to make ends meet



### Remarks

- ▶ Subsistence allowance provided automatically to servicemembers whose gross household income (not including their Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH) is below 130% of the federal poverty line
- Amends Title 37 - ref to HASC

## Top 3 Tricare Young Adult HR 475 Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act 2021 (HASC) Rep. Luria (D-VA)



### Issue

- ▶ Disparity between commercial health care plans that cover adult children to age 26 and TRICARE,
- ▶ Requires a separate premium for young adult coverage
- ▶ Overall decrease in enrollees
- ▶ Majority of enrollees-sig medical issues
- ▶ Monthly fees are \$257 and \$459 (standard and Prime respectively) up 22% or 160% since 2012

### Remarks

- ▶ Ensuring health care access and affordability is particularly important during the current pandemic
- ▶ Remove separate premiums and continue with Tricare
- ▶ COVID-19 impacts higher education
- ▶ Ensure military families who have sacrificed so much in support of our nation have the same health care protections for their young adult children as their civilian counterparts covered by commercial plans.

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



Western North Carolina Chapter

## 2021 State MOAA Legislative Report

Since our last report in 2020, the NC Council of Chapters (NCCOC) Legislative Affairs committee has been attempting to clarify the critical times required for contacts with our 10 State Representatives and 4 State Senators from Western NC.

As far as timing, the critical thing is to get our WNC MOAA state legislative priorities to our respective state Representatives and Senators before their yearly duties begin in January of each new year, especially following an election year. The second year, the nonelection year, all we need to do is to update the legislators of the progress for the previous year and inform the legislators of what our new priorities are in light of whatever progress was made the previous year.

Prior to that, though, we need to determine what our WNC MOAA priorities *are*. WNC MOAA President, Donna Culp sent out an email describing how we did this last year, stating that Michael Padgett, as our chapter lead for State Legislative matters, determined those priorities. That is only part of the process. A more detailed discussion follows:

First, in coordination with the NCCOC Legislative Affairs committee, Michael, Donna, and WNC MOAA Federal Legislative Affairs chair Vivianne Wersel reviewed the national priorities. Next, we reviewed recommendations provided to us by the State MOAA Legislative folks, led by Iggi Husar. Then, Michael recommended we focus our priorities on three areas, two of which matched the State and National priorities. The third priority, exemption from NC State income tax on retired military pay, was initially advocated by our State MOAA and many of our state MOAA Chapters, but for some reason, the State MOAA Legislative folks dropped it from the State priorities. Several NC MOAA Chapters voiced strong objection to the omission, which resulted in the State MOAA President, Jim Brumit, declaring that each State MOAA Chapter would decide whether to include the taxation issue as a priority for itself. Thirty-three other States already have passed similar legislation. Michael consolidated all of the information into a briefing, with the three priorities for our Chapter, and sent it to Vivianne and Donna for review and approval. Both approved, and the packages for our priorities were sent to all State Legislators representing WNC in March 2021. Due to our earlier efforts to establish personal meetings with each of the 14 Legislators over the summer (with around 8 of the 14 meetings accomplished), 6 of the 14 responded with positive notes indicating their intent to support our priorities in this year's Legislature. We believe the rest took note as well, but just did not respond directly to us.

Follow ups are planned for the rest of this year.

Donna then decided on a second action that we hope will help us achieve the MOAA priorities for WNC Veterans. She requested Michael draft a letter that she could send to all of our Chapter members so that they could use it as a format for their own State Representative and Senator. This was done in March and April. The belief is the more of our membership to encourage making NC a military-friendly state the better.

For the remainder of the year, we will continue to try to reach all 14 State Legislators to discuss the priorities and progress toward the same. The virus stopped us in our tracks with face-to-face meetings and most other direct contacts other than email, but we are getting back to normal now for the remainder of the year!



Article by : COL Michael Padgett, USA (Ret)

WNC MOAA State Legislative Affairs Chair

## NC Legislators Respond to WNC MOAA Outreach Efforts

"Marleen,

Thank you for taking the time to advocate for the community. Rep. Turner will take this into consideration as we move forward in the session. "

Sincerely,

Austin

**Austen E. High**

**Legislative Assistant**

**Office of Rep. Brian Turner**

**The North Carolina General Assembly**

"Thank you for emailing me about these issues. I will look for them as they move through the legislative process and keep your comments in mind. "

Julie

**Senator Julie Mayfield**

**NC Senate District 49**

**North Carolina General Assembly**

Thank you to all our WNC MOAA members who have contributed to MOAA, NCCOC, and WNC MOAA legislative advocacy outreach efforts to our Federal and State legislators on behalf of our Active Duty, Veterans, Retirees, Surviving Spouses and families.

**NEVER STOP SERVING!**



**WNC MOAA Receives MOAA's Five-Star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award  
for  
Newsletter and Website for 2020**



Each year, MOAA recognizes affiliates that achieve excellence in communications with four – or five-star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards. Councils and chapters may submit entries in up to two categories: newsletters (print or electronic) and websites. MOAA is pleased to announce 210 five-star awards and seven four-star awards to 139 affiliates for 2020. WNC MOAA is among the chapters who has received the Five-Star award for 2020.

**About the Award**

MOAA renamed the award in 2011 after Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), Director of Public Relations from 1996 until 2011. Colonel Harris delivered effective communications to both military and civilian audiences. Each year, national MOAA holds a communications award contest to identify those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community.

***Thank you to all our chapter members, board, and committees for your contributions and energy that have made WNC MOAA's newsletter and website MOAA Five-star winners!***

Ref: MOAA's article <file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/2020-comm-award-winners.pdf>



**Donna Culp, Capt. (USAF-Frm)  
Newsletter Editor**

**John Culp, LTC (USA-Ret)  
Webmaster**



**Herb Mensch, CAPT (USN-Ret)  
Facebook Manager**

**North Carolina Council of Chapters and Statewide Chapters receive Five-star MOAA's  
Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award for 2020**



**Western North Carolina Chapter**

- North Carolina State Council of Chapters (website)
- Cape Fear Chapter (e-newsletter and website)
- Catawba Valley Chapter (print newsletter and website)
- Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (print newsletter and website)
- Coastal Carolina Chapter (print newsletter and website)

- New River Chapter (website)
- Sandhills Chapter (website)
- Southeastern NC Chapter (print and website)
- Western NC Chapter (print newsletter and website)

**WNC MOAA Is One of 33 MOAA Affiliates to Receive Community Outreach Grants**

Helping to fund and acknowledge high-impact community programs, MOAA has awarded \$87,485 in grants to 33 MOAA affiliates through its Community Outreach Grant program. WNC MOAA has been awarded \$2,500 that will be used to sponsor high risk veterans in need of dental care not covered by the VA.

Providing WNC veterans the opportunity to receive dental care and find a dental home, WNC MOAA will be sponsoring the ECU Smiles for Veterans Event in partnership with the Veteran Smiles Foundation this November. The event will be held at the ECU Dental School of Medicine at the Sylva Community Service Learning Center (CSLC).

Combined with the MOAA grant, WNC MOAA is contributing an additional \$1,000 in support of more smiles for WNC veterans.

For more about the article from MOAA go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/33-moaa-affiliates-receive-community-outreach-grants/>

Submitted by: Donna Culp

## WNC MOAA Updates Chapter Personal Affairs Support

Back in March WNC MOAA chapter members received an email with an attachment called ***“What to do when your Veteran Dies.”*** This effort was initiated in response to the question raised at the Fall Haywood County Veterans Council meeting, “Is there a comprehensive list for families to reference when a veteran dies?” Followed with shrugs and blank stares, a definite answer was not apparent. After some research, it was evident that something comprehensive was needed. There are plenty of resources available pertaining to being prepared for when we pass, but life happens and these recommended preparations get lost in the shuffle of life catching survivors off guard. Families of veterans have extra layers of details to learn on the fly and address.

WNC MOAA President, Donna Culp formed an ad-hoc Personal Affairs committee that began with asking surviving spouses, Vivianne Wersel, Nancy McCarthy, and Katherine Knight about their respective experiences when their spouses passed. What was done right? What could have been done better? Each experience was unique, but the outcome was the same. There was much to navigate when laying their veteran to rest.

Including NC Department of Military Veteran Affairs Regional Officer Jeremy Hughes experience and perspective, especially with the increase of WNC veteran deaths due to COVID-19, he agreed that a comprehensive list for families was indicated.

Vivianne Wersel referencing her experience and recent notes when her father, a retired USMC Colonel, passed away Fall 2020; and Jeremy’s VSO references, the heavy lifting began. Nancy, Katherine, and John Culp frequently provided fresh eyes and feedback until the final draft was ready for WNC MOAA Chaplain Jerry Beschta to proof.

Passing final inspection, the document was ready for release and shared with Veteran Service Officers throughout WNC and the MOAA NC Council of Chapters President, Jim Brumit. Like ripples on the water, the document has made it’s way to NC MOAA Affiliate chapters and other WNC Veteran Service Organizations, and more recently to MOAA. More importantly, the intent is to get this document in to the hands of veterans and their families everywhere, especially where military bases aren’t available for assistance.

As members of WNC MOAA, the personal affairs committee has determined that ***when one of our members passes away to first contact WNC MOAA President, Donna Culp and she will assist the spouse/ family as appropriate. (252) 548-2265***

[president@wnc-moaa.org](mailto:president@wnc-moaa.org)

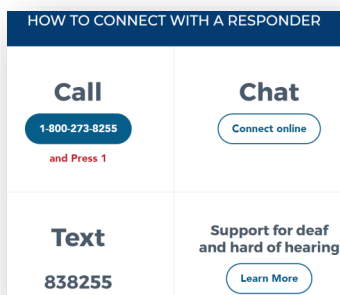
***“What to do when your Veteran Dies”*** is available on the WNC MOAA website <https://www.wnc-moaa.org/personalaffairs/>

**Article by: Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Frm)**  
**WNC MOAA President**

## Additional Resources Available for Veterans and Families



<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>



<https://www.taps.org/mission>

[TAPS 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline](https://www.taps.org/mission) is always available toll-free with loving support and resources at 800-959-TAPS (8277)

## WNC MOAA Heroes Roll Up Their Sleeves AND Pitch In At COVID-19 Vaccination Centers

Answering the call to serve in support of vaccination clinics, WNC MOAA has volunteered an estimated 600 hours (to date), supporting different clinics in a variety of medical and non-medical roles. Drawing-up vaccination syringes, traffic safety, checking patients in, administering the vaccinations, logging in completed patient vaccination information, and monitoring patients as they wait to leave the clinics. NEVER STOP SERVING couldn't be more relevant and evermore appreciated. Thank you!



Rick Devereaux, Maj Gen USAF (Ret) - Screening arrivals and queuing them for vaccinations at the Buncombe Co. A-B Tech Clinic



(L-R) Kathie Johnson, RN, drawing and administering vaccines; and Col Patrick Johnson, USAF (Ret.) administering vaccines; and Donna Culp volunteering as a scribe. Patrick gave the 10,000th vaccination at the WCU clinic in Cullowhee!



Craig Love, CAPT USN (Ret) and wife, Terri, providing traffic safety at Haywood Co. vaccination site.

### Other WNC MOAA COVID-19 Vaccination Site Volunteers Not Pictured

**Bonnie Hartel, LTC USA (Ret)** - Assisting Pharmacists drawing up vaccines at Charles George VA Medical Center, Asheville

**Jacky Pomponio, ARNP**, wife of Michael Pomponio, LTC USA (Ret) - provided vaccinations at Pardee clinic run at Hendersonville Community College

## We Honor Veterans Update

"Unfortunately, due to the pandemic over these past 15 months in-person—except in a few rare cases—pinning's have been impossible. We have been able to cobble together a few virtual pinning's...but probably less than a dozen. For all other veterans we have "pinned" with certificates, pins, and blankets through the care teams (doctors, nurses, music therapists, and staff). As of the end of last month (April) we have done 672 pinning's since the first one in November of 2014. Our goal is to reach at least 700 by the end of the year...a very reachable goal. We look forward to the time when we can get back to our "normal" pinning ceremonies to honor our vets.

Also, the dedication of the Frank and Nancy Barber Veteran's Memorial Garden, originally scheduled for 27 May, has been re-scheduled for 12 September. This is due primarily to the attendance restrictions due to COVID. We anticipate that by September we will be able to have many more folks in attendance. The individual flag memorial plaques have all been ordered and should be installed by the end of May."

**Submitted by: CAPT John Knapp USNR (Ret)**

### WNC MOAA JROTC Coordinator Adapts and Overcomes In the Face of COVID-19



Adapting to COVID-19 restrictions, WNC MOAA Air Force Representative and JROTC Coordinator, Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret.) mailed the MOAA Leadership Awards to all 17 JROTC units last Spring and again this year. However, this year an additional hurdle was added to the effort. MOAA is in the process of changing contractors who print the certificates and provide the medals that accompany the awards leaving MOAA chapters to figure out the best work around. Working with MOAA, Jeff made it happen and this year's awards were mailed out for instructors to, again, award in the stead of chapter members doing the honors. Well done Jeff, and congratulations to all the deserving JROTC cadets receiving the MOAA Leadership Awards for 2021!

### North Buncombe High School NJROTC Student Receives MOAA Leadership Award



WNC MOAA congratulates Kaleb Clubb as he receives the MOAA Leadership award from Senior Naval Science Instructor, CAPT Jimmer Sullivan USN (Ret.) of North Buncombe High School NJROTC.

**Submitted by: Col. Jeff Snyder USASF (Ret)**

### Space Force JROTC to Get First Units Starting this Fall

10 JROTC units to convert their affiliation from the Air Force to the Space Force. All 10 schools converting volunteered. Space Force JROTC Aims to convert a total of up to 100 units over the next couple of years.

All 10 schools converting volunteered. Selections were based on proximity to Space Force or related government agencies, including Space Force bases, facilities, and centers of influence, such as U.S. Space Command Headquarters, or NASA, Missile Defense Agency, and other locations, or where the current instructor cadre had prior space operations experience.

**Article by: Tobias Naegele**

For details of the entire article go to: <https://www.airforcemag.com/space-force-jrotc-to-get-first-units-this-fall/>

**Submitted by Jeff Snyder, Col , USAF (Ret.), WNC MOAA Air Force Rep.**



The U.S. Space force (USSF) is the newest branch of the Armed Forces, established December 20, 2019 with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The USSF was established within the Department of the Air Force, meaning the Secretary of the Air Force has overall responsibility for the USSF, under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, a four-star general known as the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) serves as the senior military member of the USSF and is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

**Ref: <https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/>**



## Join, or Start, a MOAA Virtual Chapter

MOAA has three virtual chapters: the [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#), the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), and the [Public Health Service Virtual Chapter](#). MOAA's virtual chapters are growing, successfully executing their respective missions, and complementing the efforts and membership growth of geographic chapters. We would like to continue to establish new virtual chapters to promote camaraderie amongst affinity groups and reach even more potential members.

Virtual chapters are intended to increase awareness of the MOAA brand by accessing previously untapped networks. Because virtual chapter membership requires national membership, and because virtual chapters encourage their members to also join their local geographic chapter, the potential effect is increased membership at all levels. We are, in fact, seeing that effect from these three virtual chapters.

To learn more and read the whole article, go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/heres-why-you-should-join-or-start-a-moaa-virtual-chapter/>

Article by CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret.)  
MOAA Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs

## Indefinite ID Cards At Age 65 for Spouses of Retirees

Exciting news that directly impacts military retirees. Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) has approved the update to policy authorizing an indefinite expiration date for ID cards issued to eligible dependents of military retirees who are age 65 and older. Previously these family members had to wait until age 75 for the indefinite card. The policy change applies to all Department of Defense ID card offices as a result of continued growth in the military retiree population and recognizing the burden of the age 75 requirement placed on both dependents and ID card office resources. Although approved, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) must implement necessary system changes to issue the indefinite card. These changes are anticipated to occur sometime in May 2021.

Please be patient as your local ID card site awaits the capability. The Army Service Center is an entry point for military-related human resource inquiries. The center responds to Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, veterans, family members, DA civilians and government agencies. Contact the Army Service Center (0800-1800 EST, Monday thru Friday) at (888) ARMYHRC (276-9472). For general military HR and veteran issues email: [usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@mail.mil)

Ref: FEB – APR 2021 ARMY ECHOES PAGE 13 <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

Submitted by: Jim Brumit and Mike Covell

### Hails and Farewells

#### Hails

CDR John Ager USN (Ret)  
LTC Alan Young USA (Ret.)  
LT Bill Davis USN (Ret.)  
CDR Kevin Ritter USN (Ret.)

#### Farewells

None Reported

#### TAPS

CAPT Thomas Head USN (Ret)

#### Treasurer's Report submitted by Mike Covell

Balance 1/1/2021     \$14,165.37

#### Income

Name Badges	\$30.00
Charitable Donations	\$1,505.00
Member Dues	\$4,040.00
MOAA Awards	\$455.00

#### Expenses

Administration	\$347.47
Name Badges	\$45.07
JROTC	\$16.91
NCCOC Dues	\$244.50

Balance 5/20/2021     \$19,541.42

Member Renewal Deficit     \$450.00

## NEVER STOP SERVING ... CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT



**We Honor Veterans** - Since November 2014, WNC MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored **over 672** veterans with special pinning ceremonies to salute veterans in hospice care and thank them for their service. Although the pinning ceremonies have been modified so as to be conducted remotely, the program continues. To learn more and get involved, contact **John Knapp**, 828-702-3317 [j.knapp4@att.net](mailto:j.knapp4@att.net)



### Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ)

**VRQ** - Meal Prep Teams provided by WNC MOAA have been slicing, dicing, and serving lunch to homeless veterans the fourth Wednesday of each month for well over five years. With strict precautions and protocols in place, prep/serve teams are continuing this service. Teams are limited to 5 or less. Volunteers are screened with a questionnaire and touchless thermometer. All volunteers are required to wear a face mask and gloves while working in the kitchen and to practice social distancing – being mindful of personal space and refraining from physical touch including handshakes, fist bumps, etc. For more information about volunteering or making donations, contact **Jeff Snyder**, 828-684-2359 [jsnyder243@aol.com](mailto:jsnyder243@aol.com)



**Blue Ridge Honor Flight** transports American veterans to Washington, DC 2-3 times each year to “visit memorials dedicated honor their service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends.” Although all flights scheduled for 2020 have been suspended, there are opportunities to donate, as well as learn more about applying as an honoree, guardian, or volunteer. For more information, contact **Rick Devereaux**, 828-772-6023 [rickdevereaux1@gmail.com](mailto:rickdevereaux1@gmail.com) or [www.blueridgehonorflight.com](http://www.blueridgehonorflight.com)

**UPDATE (2.0)** Depending on COVID-19, the 2021 flight schedule, is tentatively set for 9/18, and 10/16 out of Asheville Airport.



**JROTC** – Active in 17 high schools throughout WNC, JROTC is supported by WNC MOAA with annual MOAA Leadership awards for rising Seniors. When group gatherings can resume, volunteers will be needed to present the awards. Until then, stand-by-to-stand-by. For more information, contact **Jeff Snyder**, 828-684-2359

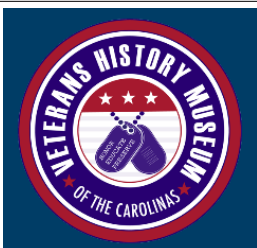


**Veteran Smiles Foundation (VSF)** dedicated to helping veterans find their dental home all across North Carolina. Continuing the relationship with ECU Dental School of Medicine as established in Sylva, the plan is to systematically establish Vet Smiles programs with the other CSLCs in Brunswick County, Robeson County, Lillington, Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Davidson County, and Spruce Pine.

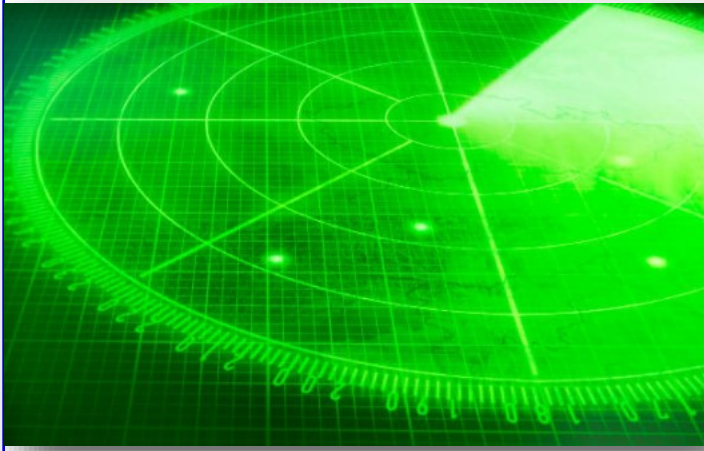
WNC MOAA will continue its partnership with the Sylva clinic and coordinate efforts with VSF and NC Serves to continue to help identify veterans in need of dental care and a dental home for continuity of care. The Chapter will continue to contribute to the financial sponsorship of veterans enrolled in the program. For more information, contact, **David McCracken**, 984-233-3350, [davide@vetsmiles.org](mailto:davide@vetsmiles.org)



**Helping with State Level Legislative Affairs** - is an opportunity to reconnect with your civic side and connect with North Carolina law makers on issues that are key talking points by MOAA NC Council of Chapters. If you already have a relationship established with individual legislators or the 4 Senators and 10 Representatives, please contact WNC MOAA State Legislative Affairs Chair, **Michael Padgett** at [sopadgett@aol.com](mailto:sopadgett@aol.com)



The mission of the **Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas** is to honor our nation’s veterans, to educate the public about our country’s military history and the contribution of our service men and women, and to preserve important and unique historic artifacts. The Museum reflects a love of country and gratitude to those who serve it by remembering and celebrating their service. A world class museum and great destination for visitors. For more information: **WNC MOAA Museum POC: Duke Woodhull** [dukewhull@gmail.com](mailto:dukewhull@gmail.com) Or go to: <https://theveteransmuseum.org/>



**Don't let yourself  
fall off our radar!**



**MOAA:**

Change address, update contact information, join, renew, or upgrade membership

Call the **Member Service Center** at:

(800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311

**OR**

e-mail [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org)

**OR**

[update your membership information online](#) AND pay your chapter dues by credit card while your at it.

**WNC MOAA:**

Use the Join Form included in this newsletter to change address, update contact information, join, renew. If **paying by check** and mail to:

**PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793**

**OR**

“contact us” via our website <https://www.wnc-moaa.org/>

**Join us for our General Chapter Meeting 22 May 2021**



**Dr. Mark Jaben, Medical  
Director for Haywood  
County**

To follow Dr. Jaben's weekly updates go to:  
<https://www.wnc-moaa.org/covid-19information/>

Joining us for an **“All Hands — Town Hall”** chapter meeting,

Dr. Mark Jaben will discuss the current status of the pandemic, vaccinations, and answer our most burning questions about how we move forward.

**“Let's Talk About This Pandemic: Are We There Yet?”**

Hopefully this will be our last ZOOM chapter meeting where together we will explore the issues and gain enough information to determine a majority consensus about resuming in person gatherings.

***So you don't have to dig around in your email to find it, a ZOOM meeting invitation will go out the afternoon of Friday, May 21, 2021.***

**Meeting Time: 11:00 am to NLT 2:00 pm**

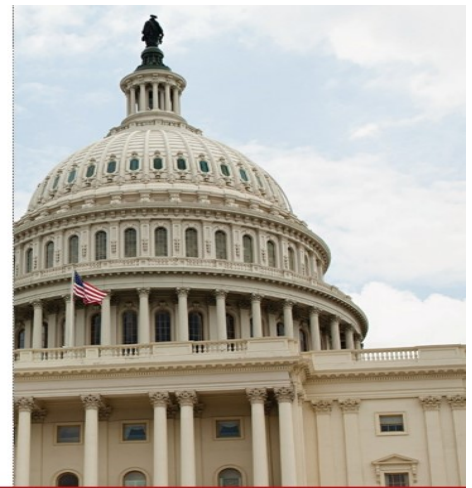
***Bring your favorite cupa and a snack if you wish!***

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



Western North Carolina Chapter



## MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Active    Retired    Former    Reserve    National Guard    Surviving Spouse

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA?    Yes    No    Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here  
to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.**

**BASIC**

And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. **Visit [moaa.org/join](http://moaa.org/join) to learn more or call 800-234-6622**

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)?    Yes    No

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

### To complete enrollment:

• **Fill in this form**

• **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to **WNC MOAA**

**Mail to WNC MOAA PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793**

• Go to **[wnc-moaa.org](http://wnc-moaa.org)** for more information about our chapter

Chapter membership  
and dues information:

Please use this form as new  
member/ renewing  
membership/ change in  
contact information.

Valid: 1 Jan – 1 Mar

**New Member:** \$40 (Includes  
spouse)

**Renew:** \$30

Surviving Spouse

**New Member:** \$20

**Renew:** \$10

**Name Badge Application**  
(included in new  
membership):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Ret: \_\_\_\_ Fmr: \_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge: Magnet Type Only

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.