

An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**Save the Dates**

**2022**

Board of Directors and Chapter Meetings will be held on Saturdays. Spouses and guests are welcomed to all chapter meetings!

<u>BOD Mtgs.</u>	<u>Chapter Mtgs.</u>
January 15	February 19
April 16	May 21
July 16	August 20
October 15	November 19

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], meetings will be conducted virtually or in-person in accordance with COVID precautions.

WNC MOAA is an affiliate chapter of National MOAA, is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan.



**President's Remarks**

Not long after I was first introduced to MOAA, they had me at the motto, "NEVER STOP SERVING." I have seen wonderful examples of true service to others, and I believe that veterans serving veterans do this best. Acknowledging the service and sacrifice of men and women serving now, and those who have served our country in peacetime and war, is what lies at the heart of Veterans Day. Service to something greater than ourselves, while on active duty and beyond, is beautifully demonstrated throughout our WNC MOAA community.

In this newsletter you will learn a little more about what serving our Veteran brothers and sisters in hospice care has meant to those involved in the "We Honor Veterans" program since the beginning. Another service group dedicated to honoring Veterans is "Quilts of Valor." Some of our chapter members are creators and givers of these beautiful quilts, and some have been recipients.

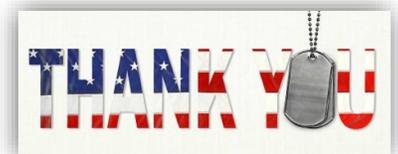
If during the pandemic you have found yourself looking forward to getting out and about, and connecting with other service minded folks, then look no more. The list of service opportunities is abundant, seasonally, and throughout the year as always listed in the newsletter on the page titled, "NEVER STOP SERVING...CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES."

*"The best way to find yourself is lose yourself in the service of others."* - Mahatma Gandhi

On Veterans Day, and every day, thank you for your personal sacrifices, service, and NEVER STOP SERVING!



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





### **Federal Legislative Update - Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel**

What is happening in Congress? I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the National MOAA Conference in Arlington VA. While there, I met with Dan Merry, Vice President of Government Relations for MOAA. We discussed the results and impact of Advocacy in Action. A reoccurring problem is funding. Presently the House and the Senate cannot agree on how or how much to fund our government. This leads to a possible shutdown of government as well as a default due to the debt ceiling. Currently a Continuing Resolution has been approved until 3 December 2021.

What is next? Infrastructure bills, real appropriations, and passing the NDAA.

### **Healthcare Legislation: MOAA is on the “lookout” for these upcoming issues**

Billet reductions- DoD services reducing their planned cuts down to 13,000 and concerns how this would impact beneficiaries.

VA legislation supporting focusing on women and minority veterans, IT

upgrades, mental health and suicide prevention, Caregiver Programs, Toxic exposure and more...

Concurrent Receipt- S 344/HR. 1282 Richard Star Act has gained support in the Senate (53 co-sponsors) and the House (127 cosponsors) however it did not make it into the House version of the NDAA. This will likely as not carry over until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional session.

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act (S. 437) and the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act (S. 927). Essential provisions from these bills are included in the Senate's omnibus bill, The Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021, which MOAA also encourages you to support.

### **Retirees/Surviving Spouses**

HR 2214: A bill to amend Title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

### **Toxic Exposure**

TAKE ACTION TODAY! Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation [CLICK HERE](#)

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act from Senators Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) stipulates that if a veteran served in a location at a time when burn pits were used, then they were exposed to toxic chemicals and other airborne hazards. This common-

sense approach removes the burden of proof from those who served at said locations. Additionally, the bill supports those filing a claim by requiring the VA to offer a medical exam to prove any links between their conditions and service.

The TEAM Act, introduced by Senators Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), provides much-needed presumptive toxic exposure reform for our nation's servicemembers, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. The TEAM Act supports servicemembers and veterans who fought in the Global War on Terror by expanding their health care access and waives copays for all veterans who have conditions stemming from exposures. This bill not only helps veterans today, particularly those who fought in Southwest Asia, it also changes how we respond to toxic exposures for previous generations and for those to come. The TEAM Act makes vital improvements to the process to identify, study, and determine association for toxic exposures related to service.

Additionally, the act creates an advisory committee to allow input and representation from veterans and veterans service organizations to communicate which toxic exposure issues are most critical and emerging among the population of exposed veterans.

Please support this legislation to provide comprehensive toxic exposure reform. Thank you for your consideration. **[WNC MOAA Federal Legislative Update Cont. on Page 3]**



## The Cost of War Act of 2021 – Tester Bill to Provide the Largest Expansion of Health Care Eligibility in VA History

### This is a standalone Bill- Senator Tester-Montana

“The Cost of War Act -recognizes that since veterans bear the true cost of war, we must provide them with health care and disability compensation as they now fight the ongoing effects of toxic exposure from their service. This sweeping, historic legislation would provide one of the largest expansions of health care eligibility in

### The Caring for Survivor Act 2021- To improve the VA benefit for eligible surviving spouses.

S-976 Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (MT) and Senator John Boozman (AR) introduced S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021,

H.R. 3402, House by Representatives Jahana Hayes (CT) and Lois Frankel (FL).

This is a bipartisan bill that would change the criteria of eligibility of the VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) as well as increase the monthly amount to match other Federal survivor programs from 43% to 55% of the rate of the totally disabled Veteran.

The current rule states that a veteran must be considered totally disabled for 10 years, and if veteran dies of a non-service-connected disability, for the survivor to be eligible. If he/she dies less than 10 years (totally disabled) the survivors would not be eligible for DIC. This bill would change it from a 10-year to a 5-year rule with a graduated scale.

To learn more about this legislation pertaining to military

VA history, allowing—for the first time—all of those placed at risk of toxic exposure, including Burn Pit veterans, to obtain immediate and lifelong access to VA health care.” [CLICK HERE](#) for full article.

### POSITIVE NEWS! COLA increase of 5.9% for 2022 is the largest increase in nearly 40 years.

On October 8, 2021, the President signed into law the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021 (S.189). The recently announced 5.9% COLA will increase the amount paid to veterans and their survivors effective December 2021 and will be reflected in January 2022 compensation payments. This authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, clothing allowance, and survivors receiving dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) payments. This also applies to Social Security and SSI payments. [Click Here](#) to see rates.



surviving spouses and to ask your elected official to support [click here.](#)

**Expand eligibility for DIC by replacing the 10-year rule with a graduated scale of benefits that begins at five years for initial eligibility at 50% and gradually reaches the full benefit at 10 years after determination of disability. For example, if a veteran is rated as totally disabled for five years and dies of a non-service-connected cause, their survivor would be entitled to 50% of the DIC benefit.**



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



## WNC MOAA Waits for Outcome of Quest for Tax Exemption on Military Retirement Pay

Since the last newsletter, State Legislative Affairs has continued to focus on achieving the WNC MOAA top priority: passage of House Bill (HB) 83 that would exempt most military retired pay, including Gold Star pensions, from NC taxation.

Already passed by the House, HB 83 has been moved for action by the Senate, and incorporated into to the Senate Appropriations bill, SB 105. To have HB 83 within the Senate appropriations bill is a huge positive for us thus far. We have two of our WNC Senators as members of the Appropriations Committee within the Senate; Senator Chuck Edwards legislates for Buncombe, Henderson & Transylvania counties, and Senator Ralph Hise who legislates for several counties in the Eastern part of the WNC MOAA area. Senator Hise is the Senate Deputy President Pro Tempore and therefore has senate seniority. As we work with the state MOAA team, they requested we contact those two Senators. Tricia Vinson, one of our two WNC MOAA State Legislative leads, did so, receiving a supportive note back from Senator Edwards' office.

Key members of the Senate, including Senator Hise, are holding budget meetings with the Governor to ensure the appropriations bill will be signed. Unfortunately, there are members of the "4<sup>th</sup> Estate" that are attempting to expand the tax-free status beyond just retired military. The expansion is targeted to include all Federal Government and State retirees (SB04). Such an initiative is seen as unaffordable at this time and veto fodder. Both bills include the military pension exemption but are seen as competing against each other. Your state legislative team is advocating an incremental approach, starting with HB83's passage. We see this path as our best possibility of the military pension exemption becoming law. Our goal is to become the 32<sup>nd</sup> state that recognizes the sacrifices by our military with a pension exemption.

The state legislative session is still actively working the appropriations bill.

This is the closest NC has been in decades to supporting a military tax exemption; with an active WNC advocacy that enabled the House to vote 100-5 for HB83's passage. Nine out of 10 State WNC Representatives supported the bill, a truly bipartisan effort!



Transitioning to other news, Michael Padgett has reached out and received an update of DOD's recommended list of veteran priority issues. This list has historically formed the basis for the State MOAA folks to form their priorities for State MOAA Chapters. Experience has shown us that advocating for too many issues ensures achievement of little to none. The NC state legislature works in a 2-year cycle; the non-election year is where it does its heavy legislative work. The election year is a short session focused on budget or current law tweaks. Our team has developed an internal plan to mimic their 2-year focus, prioritizing three advocacy issues and keeping those issues in front of our 14 WNC Representatives and Senators. We believe that approach has helped our success this year with HB83.

We will continue to support WNC MOAA State priorities, putting those priorities in front of our WNC legislative members. Once we hear of HB 83's outcome, we will pass on the results!



**Submitted by: Michael Padgett, COL USA (Ret.)**

**WNC MOAA State Legislative Affairs**



## WNC MOAA Honoring Veterans Who Have Served



WE HONOR VETERANS



When a Veteran enters hospice care, through the Four Seasons Hospice and Palliative care at Elizabeth House or wherever they reside, WNC MOAA is there to honor their military service through the “We Honor Veterans” program.

Looking for ways to link the chapter to local veteran projects, John Knapp and Spence Campbell identified the WHV program as something that would be a perfect fit with Four Seasons Hospice. The idea took off and since November 2014, with Don Jackman doing the first pinning ceremony, WNC MOAA members have participated in over **736 pinning ceremonies** for men and women who have served in the U.S. Military as far back as WWII. It sometimes happens that this is the first time family members get to hear about their Veteran’s military service. John Knapp says, “it’s that special connection veterans have with each other that enables them to talk about military life the way only veterans can.”

Four Seasons Chaplains organize the pinning ceremonies where the WHV volunteer is given a brief description about the veteran’s military service before being introduced to the veteran and their attending family members. At the appropriate time during the visit, the WHV volunteer facilitates the conversation about the veteran’s military experience. Sometimes funny, and sometimes poignant, there’s a connection, and then the pinning ceremony begins. A pin from the service the veteran served, a pin from the VA, and a blanket are presented to the veteran. Then a solemn salute to the veteran being honored.

Here’s what some of our WHV volunteers have said about what being involved in the program has meant to them.

“While the ceremony is very emotional for everyone, the grace and dignity of the moment is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices of the family and their veteran. Sharing this moment with the veteran and his family is a great honor, made all the more so with the veteran will on occasion say that this the first time anyone thanked him for his service.” - **Spence Campbell**

“I’ve been doing pinning ceremonies since 2015. Regardless of how long they served, or where they served, it’s an honor to take care of our vets at the end of life. For the veterans in hospice care, and their families, they appreciate that someone cared to honor their service to our country.” - **Mike Covell**

“I have been a pinner from the start. I did the first and number 500. Been a hospice volunteer for 15 years. Awesome program. I don’t know how many I pinned. Probably around 50.” - **Don Jackman**

“The pinning ceremonies are most often very emotional with patient and family members there as well as our Four Season/MOAA representatives present. My take-away is often sad, but so soothing—most often, everyone in the room wants to dearly thank and/or hug our Hospice/ MOAA reps. I always leave with deep heartfelt satisfaction. I would say to anyone to anyone interested in becoming a WHV volunteer, **Go for it!!!** —**Henry Johnson**

“I’ve done probably 40 pinnings and find it rewarding. I’m happy to do it and meet the veteran and their families. Sometimes the pinnings are done at the Elizabeth House, and sometimes in the veteran’s home. Every one is touching and unique.” - **Jerry Beschta**

Article submitted by: Donna Culp in collaboration with John Knapp, Spence Campbell, Henry Johnson, Jerry Beschta, and Mike Covell - For more information about becoming a Four Seasons/ WNC MOAA volunteer, contact John Knapp, 828-702-3317 [j.knapp4@att.net](mailto:j.knapp4@att.net)



## Quilts of Valor Has Our Veterans Covered



Quilts of Valor is a program you may already know about, or have personal experience with, or are just hearing about and would like to know more. Here's what I learned from the person who all fingers have pointed me to, Didi Salvatierra.



QOV group presentation

*The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003, the brain-child of founder Catherine Roberts of Seaford, DE, as her son was deploying to Iraq. She wanted to honor and comfort returning service members with tangible reminders of the gratitude; to honor and comfort those touched by war. Ours is an international organization with over 600 member chapters in the US alone. To date over 280,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded. This is the highest civilian honor we can bestow on a Veteran.*



Dr. P.J. Moore with wife & daughter.



*Over the years since that time, the mission has expanded to cover ALL honorably discharged, not just combat veterans. We award Quilts of Valor to current service members as well.*

*Our group, The Blue Ridge Chapter, is sponsored by the Western NC Quilters Guild and was formed in 2017. We have over 50 volunteer members making quilts which to date has passed the 200 mark. The quilts are awarded in group and individual ceremonies and include a certificate of appreciation from the Foundation.*



Duke Woodhull with wife & daughter

*For more information and to nominate a Veteran or active duty service member please visit: [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org)*



WNCQG and WNC MOAA member, Bonnie Hartel



Article Submitted By: Donna Culp in Collaboration with Didi Salvatierra



Duke Woodhull & Bryce Gilmer



Quilter, Bonnie Hartel (second from left) & nominator with recipient and his wife.





**WNC MOAA Conducts Second Annual  
Holiday Drive-Thru  
In support of our Veterans at Charles George  
VA Hospital**



**When: Saturday, December 4th, 2021**

**Time: 10:00 AM—1:00 PM**

**Where: Hendersonville Country Club  
1860 Hebron Rd.  
Hendersonville, NC 28739**

**What to bring:**

**Snacks**

- Chewy Granola Bars
- Crackers (peanut butter, cheese, etc.)
- Trail Mix
- Chips
- Individual Juice cans/ box
- Peanuts, Little Debbie Cakes
- Individual cookies - Fig Newton's, Oreos, Chips Ahoy, etc.
- Coffee—ground, w/ caffeine!
- Bottled Water
- A&W Root Beer
- Sodas—2 liter bottles, cans
- Diet Soda

**Fun Stuff:**

- Puzzles—500 to 750 pieces
- Board Games
- Art Supplies— Acrylic and Water Paints, sketch pads (no wire binding), colored markers, colored pencils, crayons, models (cars & ships), paint by number or sticker, 3-D puzzle kits
- Activity Books—word search, sudoku, crossword, adult coloring books
- Calendars, Journals, (no wire binding)
- Headphones (over the ear, no ear buds)

**Personal Care Items:**

- Women's Items—hairbrushes, nail clippers, emery boards, cuticle sticks
- Men's Items— travel-size shave cream, triple-blade razors, lip balm, (petroleum free)
- Dental— denture adhesive and cleaning tabs



**Submitted by Mike Pomponio— VA Liaison, WNC MOAA in Coordination with Vicki Eatmon, Asheville**



**Clothing Items:**

Sweatshirts & sweatpants (Large—2XX), slippers, t-shirts, and ??????

Winter Wear— coats, hats, gloves

**Miscellaneous**

VISA gift Cards

**New Start Household Items:**

Buddy Baskets—household cleaning supplies, broom, laundry basket, paper towels, toilet paper



**Come join in on the fun!**

**Volunteers needed to help on December 4th:**

**Receive drive-thru donations**

**Stage for loading**

**Loading sorted and boxed donations**

**Vehicles to take donations to the VA hospital**

**Volunteers RSVP to Donna Culp**

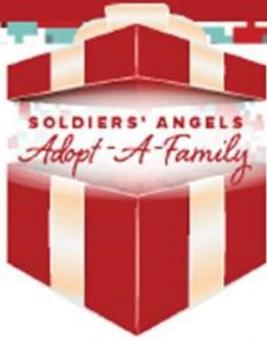
**cmomwow@yahoo.com**

**NLT December 1st COB**

**Volunteers need to arrive**

**NLT 9:30 AM**





## *Celebrating the Holidays with* SOLDIERS' ANGELS

Affording holiday gifts for your family can be hard. Doing so on deployment and on a military or veteran family budget is even harder. So once again, Soldiers' Angels is making this holiday season a little easier for our military and veteran families through the Adopt-A-Family program.

### **What is the Soldiers' Angels Adopt-A-Family Program?**

The Soldiers' Angels Holiday Adopt-A-Family program helps businesses, organizations, and individuals support qualified military and veteran families who could use some help providing the holiday celebration their families deserve. Together, we are helping America show its gratitude for the sacrifices our service members and their families are making to defend our great nation.

### **Program Impact**

Last year, our sponsoring Angels came out in full force to show their gratitude for our nation's service members, veterans, and their families. In the midst of a difficult year due to the global pandemic, volunteers across the country showed gratitude for our military-connected community in amazing ways.

- 1,484 military and veteran families supported
- 4,247 children supported
- 7,180 Christmas or holiday gifts sent to families
- \$603,411 in gifts provided to supported families

### **How it Works**

Veteran and military families in need of additional support this holiday season can visit [SoldiersAngels.org/Adopt-A-Family](https://SoldiersAngels.org/Adopt-A-Family) between September 20 - December 6, 2021 to learn more and apply.

Once applied, families are placed on a priority placement list. Families who have not participated in the Adopt-A-Family program in the past and those with the greatest need receive priority.

Once accepted, families are adopted by Soldiers' Angels sponsors. At minimum, sponsors who adopt a family provide gifts for the children and a grocery gift card to offset the purchase of a holiday dinner and its trimmings.

### **Program Eligibility**

In 2020, nearly 1,500 families were supported through the Adopt-A-Family program. However, additional sponsors were lined up to adopt even more families. This year, Soldiers' Angels is doubling down on its outreach efforts in order to connect all those who want to show their gratitude to military and veteran families.

The 2021 goal is to increase the number of families supported by at least 10%! Please help us reach 1,700 or more families and get them the support they deserve.

The following families are eligible based on financial need:

- Deployed service members who are registered with Soldiers' Angels and approved for Deployed Support, are an E1-E6, meet income requirements, AND will be deployed through December 25, 2021;
- Honorably discharged Post-911 wounded, ill, or injured service members or veterans; and
- HUD/VASH veteran families.

To be eligible, all military or veteran families must be a legal guardian to one or more children, aged 18 and under, living in the home and not yet graduated from high school.

## *Interested in participating in the Adopt-A-Family program?*



Visit [SoldiersAngels.org/Adopt-A-Family](https://SoldiersAngels.org/Adopt-A-Family) for more information and contact us at:

Laura Cooper, *Soldiers' Angels Family Support Program Manager*

Phone: 210-629-0020, Direct: 210-598-7333

Email: [lcooper@soldiersangels.org](mailto:lcooper@soldiersangels.org)

2895 NE Loop 410, Ste. 107 San Antonio, Texas 78218

Sign up now to receive emails regarding this year's Holiday Adopt-A-Family program: [soldiersangels.org/aaf\\_notifications](https://soldiersangels.org/aaf_notifications)



## It's Puppy Love for WNC MOAA Member and Veteran Service Dogs

If you had the pleasure of meeting the yellow lab, Jack, at the August meeting, on the other end of the leash was his trainer and handler, Stacie Litsenberger. Stacie and Jack are part of **Warrior Canine Connection**, training for the day Jack graduates to be the service dog for a lucky Veteran who needs Jack's special bond and skills.

Stacie and Jack will be the guest speakers at the February 19th meeting, which is all you will get to know for now so as not to spoil the event. However, in the meantime, Stacie and Jack are rooting for one of WCC's newest, and upcoming new service dog trainees, Warren.

**Take a moment to make a donation, or participate in the silent auction as noted on the flyer.**



**Warrior Canine Connection**

# VETERANS DAY FUNDRAISER

## Help sponsor WCC's Warren

*(Named for : United States Navy PO2 Warren Fluharty Jr.)*



- **Silent Auction**  
<https://app.galabid.com/wccwarren>
- **Make a donation**  
<https://tinyurl.com/52pjact9>



Warrior Canine Connection enlists Service Members and Veterans with combat stress in the critical mission of training service dogs for fellow Wounded Warriors. WCC's program not only creates valuable service dogs, it harnesses the healing power of the Warrior ethos and the human-animal bond.

Warrior Canine Connection is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.  
[www.WarriorCanineConnection.org](http://www.WarriorCanineConnection.org)

Submitted by: Stacie Litsenberger and Jack

## Additional Resources Available for Veterans and Families



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

### TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS



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

TAPS 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline is always available toll-free with loving support and resources at 800-959-TAPS (8277)

Interested in supporting our veterans at Charles George VA Medical Center during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Check out their Amazon Wish List: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/CP5T06EXM20F?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_wl\\_dp\\_MijFgBbu55aC6](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/CP5T06EXM20F?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_MijFgBbu55aC6)



## WNC MOAA Supports Wreaths for Veterans at Black Mountain Cemetery

Last year WNC MOAA members broke our own record in wreath purchases, and we plan to do so again for the December 18th event at Black Mountain Cemetery.

To purchase wreaths, complete the order form and send it in to Bullington Gardens NLT November 24th. If you want to dedicate a wreath to a specific Veteran, you can do so at the bottom of the form. Each personalized wreath will be placed on the specified grave site.

**WNC MOAA volunteers interested in laying wreaths, stand by for additional information via Email blasts.**

Submitted by: Joyce Jolly, WNC MOAA



**VETERAN'S WREATHS**  
Honoring Their Sacrifice

Bullington Gardens is a proud supporter of our veterans and believes all service members should be honored for their sacrifice. In partnership with local veterans and volunteers, Bullington Gardens is offering Veteran's Wreaths for an \$18 donation. Honor a fallen veteran with a 12-inch wreath, decorated with a hand tied red bow, and placed by a volunteer on a gravesite at the State Veteran's Cemetery in Black Mountain.

Order online at [Bullingtongardens.org](http://Bullingtongardens.org) or fill out the form below and return with payment to:

Bullington Gardens  
95 Upper Red Oak Trail  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grave placement or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOAA Take Action Website:** <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?0>

- ⇒ Key bills are listed.
- ⇒ Letter templates are already there with your personal contact information.
- ⇒ Your legislators are automatically addressed.
- ⇒ Just click on the submit button.
- ⇒ Click on "Back to Main Page," click on the next Action Item, where it will take you back to Key Bills Listed... Repeat...
- ⇒ **Take action to protect your pay and benefits!**





**Get Your 2021 Veterans Day Discounts**

**As seen on the MOAA Website**

**Go To:**

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/get-your-2021-veterans-day-discounts/>

**Food and Dining**

**Shopping, Products and Services**

**Attractions and Lodging**



**Hails and Farewells**

**Hails**

COL Rodney "Rod" Honeycutt, USA (Ret.) & Spouse, Lisa-Joy

**Farewells**

None Reported

**TAPS**

BG James "Jim" Carper, USA (Ret.)

CAPT Gary Beck, USN (Ret.)



**Treasurer's Report submitted by Mike Covell :**

WNC MOAA

Cash Flow 2021

Balance 1/1/2021	14,165.37
<b>Income</b>	
Name Badges	60.00
Charitable Donations	1,690.00
Meal Income	585.00
Membership Dues	4,125.00
MOAA Award	3,055.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	765.06
Name Badges	338.47
Charity	3,200.47
Dining	400.00
JROTC	16.91
NCCOC 2	44.50
Balance 10/31/2021	18,714.90



Standing with you at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

## NEVER STOP SERVING ... CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**We Honor Veterans** - Since November 2014, WNC MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored **over 736** 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** - The chapter continues to serve our area's homeless veterans by providing a lunch prep/serve crew on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ). We also provide the 5th Wednesday lunch crew in applicable months. The VRQ is a converted motel that provides shelter, counseling, and vocational training for the area's homeless veterans. Chapter members arrive at 9:30 to prepare for the lunch meal then, at 12:00, serve the meal to the residents of the Veteran's Restoration Quarters. The VRQ staff has been very diligent in implementing COVID safety protocols to ensure all volunteers work in a safe environment. The chapter is very proud to have been serving our area's veterans with this effort since 2015. If you would be interested in joining our crew, please contact the chapter's VRQ volunteer coordinator, Jeff Snyder, at [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)

**STAND BY FOR INFORMATION ON 2022 FLIGHTS**



**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 with the Sylva Community Service Learning Center (CSLC), 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.

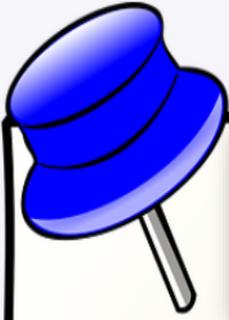
WNC MOAA will continue its partnership with the Sylva clinic and coordinate efforts with VSF and NC Serves to continue to help identify veterans in need of dental care and a dental home for continuity of care. The Chapter will continue to contribute to the financial sponsorship of veterans enrolled in 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 lawmakers 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 servicemen 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** [dukewoodhull@gmail.com](mailto:dukewoodhull@gmail.com) Or go to: <https://theveteransmuseum.org/>



**WNC MOAA Chapter Dues**

**Renewal**

**1 January — 1 March**

**Or**

**Today!**

**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 you're at it.

**WNC MOAA:**

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

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

**OR**

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

**General Chapter Meeting**

**November 20th, 2021**

**Where: Burntshirt Winery & Vineyard**

**10:30 AM Check-in/ Social**



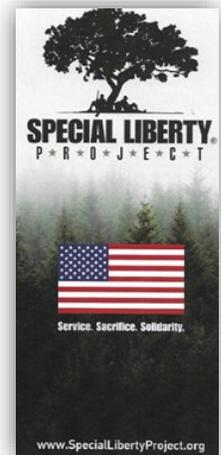
2695 Sugarloaf Rd.  
Hendersonville, NC 28792  
(828) 685-2402

Guest Speaker: Jessica Merritt and Program Participant of

**Special Liberty Project**



(Front L) Jessica featured with program participants. ( Center) Cory and Jessica Merritt

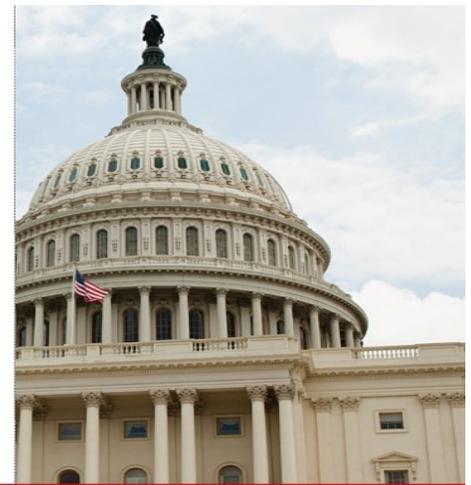


# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

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.