

An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**Save the Dates**  
**2022—2023**

BOD Mtgs.

Chapter Mtgs.

2023

**November 19, 2022**

January 21

2023

April 15

February 18

July 15

May 13

October 21

August 19

November 18

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

Board of Directors and Chapter Meetings will be held on Saturdays.

Kenmure Country Club  
100 Clubhouse Drive  
Flat Rock, NC 28731

Dress Code: Country Club Casual

Registration information for the November 19th chapter meeting on [page 16 of this newsletter](#).

Spouses and guests are welcomed to all chapter meetings!



**President's Remarks**

In November, as a nation we celebrate Veterans Day honoring all who have served. Throughout the country plans are being made to remember, honor, and celebrate America's Veterans.

Parades, picnics, family and friends gathering in parks and back yards. Western North Carolina is no exception. Therefore, it is my honor and privilege to share with you information about the Veteran's Day **LIVE** ceremony.

**When:** Friday, November 11th, 2022

**Where:** Charles George VA Medical Center

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Keynote Speaker:** Jeff Miller, Co-Founder Blue Ridge Honor Flight Network

**Readings:** Brothers and Sisters Like These

The event will be streamed, and shown at 2:00 PM on Veterans Day on City of Asheville You Tube Channel.

Sacrifices that have been made for our freedom deserve gratitude, honor, and remembering what goes in to keeping the flag of our country flying freely. For that we will never forget.

Thank you for your service, and NEVER STOP SERVING!



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



## Success of the Pact Act!

The Pact Act is a new law expanding Veteran Affairs Health Care Benefits to Veterans who were exposed to burn pits and to other toxic substances. This benefit includes Veterans as well as their [survivors](#). For further information on the Pact Act call 800-698-2411 (TYY :711) or [VA.gov](#) for frequently asked questions (Va.org 2022).



### The Military Coalition

(TMC) consists of 35 Veteran Service Organizations. *“The philosophy of The Coalition is that, by working together on issues of mutual agreement, the participating organizations can harness the grassroots support of more than 5.5 million members plus their families and accomplish far more than by working on these initiatives separately (militarycoalition.org).”*

### Legislation 2023- A new 218<sup>th</sup> United States Congressional Year

Every Congressional year consists of two annual sessions, made of United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives. At the start of the new Congressional year, bills are introduced. If the legislative bill is not passed by the end of the two years (2 sessions), then it “dies” and will have to be re-introduced in the next term. Therefore, a bill has a two-year shelf life for obtaining congressional co-sponsors and to pass the legislative issue.



Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel  
WNC MOAA Federal Legislative Affairs  
National MOAA Surviving Spouses Advisory Board  
NC Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison



Legislative Action Center — <https://moaa.quorum.us/>



**To Get started:**

- 1) Click on “Action Center Tutorial.” - Takes 11.25 Min
- 2) After completing the tutorial, now Click on **Sign Up**. Even if you have used the previous Take Action, that dashboard is no longer supported. **You need to Sign Up to use the new dashboard.**



Resources & Links



## January 2023 What to Expect?

### The SBP-DIC Offset Final Phase Elimination:



This change affects those eligible for both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments, and who were previously subject to a full or partial SBP-DIC Offset. Phase three of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination - This ends the SB/ DIC Offset. This does NOT affect Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to DFAS. Please see DFAS report below explaining the final third phase of the offset.

**Those who chose the Child Option SBP:** Beginning in 2023, the law also affects the surviving spouses and children of service members who died while on active duty or inactive duty, in the line of duty, who are currently receiving SBP payments because the surviving spouse chose the optional child annuity (see the [Active Duty/Line of Duty Survivors Spotlight](#) article in this issue for an explanation). Surviving spouses that meet the criteria above, should contact DFAS.Gov if you have not received information regarding this change.

#### According to DoD/DFAS.gov Phase Three: Starting January 1, 2023

In the third and final phase that begins January 1, 2023, there will be **NO offset** deducted from SBP payments. DIC payments will **not be affected**. The SBP benefit will be **paid in full** (no offset). SSIA will **NOT be paid**.

#### **VA will pay:**

**100% of the DIC payment**

#### **DoD/DFAS will pay:**

The **full amount of the SBP benefit.**

The effective date of Phase Three is January 1, 2023. January 2023 benefits will be paid on **February 1, 2023**. If you previously received a refund of SBP premiums paid due to the SBPDIC offset, you will **not** need to pay back that refund because of this change in the law.

[Please see this special webpage for news and information on the Survivor Benefit Plan 2023 Active Duty/Line of Duty Optional Annuity for Dependent Children Elimination/Reversion of SBP Annuity to Surviving Spouses.](#)

#####

From the [MOAA WEB: Surviving Spouse Resources and Links](#)

This page is designed to provide resources to surviving spouses and answer some of the more frequent asked questions of MOAA regarding survivor issues. Access more MOAA resources by visiting [MOAA.org](#) or [MOAA's Surviving Spouse page](#) - learn more about joining MOAA [here](#).

(Jump directly to [Suggested Reading](#) or information about [Survivor Organizations](#).)

#### **Q. How do I reach out to MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council?**

**A.** Email the council at [sscomm@moaa.org](mailto:sscomm@moaa.org). Meet the members [here](#).

**(Surviving Spouses Resource Links - Continued on Page 4)**

**(Surviving Spouses Resource Links Continued )**

**Q. How do I reach out to, or join, MOAA's Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter?**

A. Email the virtual chapter at [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com). You can also [join the chapter's Facebook group](#) to find details on membership, upcoming meetings, and other resources. Apply using [this form](#).

**Q. What publications does MOAA provide to surviving spouses?**

A. Click [here](#) for a list of survivor publications. You may also be interested in some [spouse and family publications](#), or [financial publications](#). Resources beyond publications, including advocacy news and monthly updates to MOAA's Surviving Spouse Corner, are available [here](#).

MOAA's Minnesota Chapter has compiled [The Day After Calls](#), an online publication to help families with steps to take when a military member passes.

Not finding what you are looking for? You can reach out to MOAA's Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622 or at [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org).

Resources:

Jonathan Tullis, Robert Goldstone, Why Does Peer Instruction Benefit Student Learning. 9 August 2020.

<https://cognitiveresearchjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41235-020-00218-5>

**NDAA retrieved from: [https://www.investopedia.com/national-defense-authorization-act-](https://www.investopedia.com/national-defense-authorization-act-5113289#:~:text=The%20NDAA%20is%20an%20annual%20bill%20that%20lets,guidance%20on%2)**

**5113289#:~:text=The%20NDAA%20is%20an%20annual%20bill%20that%20lets,guidance%20on%2**

"The Cost of War Act" retrieved from: <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/media/rvqaqzca/the-cost-of-war-and-pact-acts.pdf>



Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel  
National MOAA Surviving Spouses Advisory Board  
NC Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison  
WNC MOAA Federal Legislative Affairs



**WNC MOAA Quarterly Spouses Activity Group**



Lunch at the Charlotte Street Pub followed by the viewing of the National Gingerbread House Competition at the Omni Grove Park Inn. Bring your spouse or a friend to share the comradery!

Date in December: TBA Time: 11:30

Charlotte Street Pub. 157 Charlotte St , Asheville 28801

We will take the ART Bus at 1:05 PM to Omni Grove Park Inn, 290 Macon Ave, Asheville NC 28801. We will leave our cars at the Pub.

A flyer will be sent out next month!

For more information please contact Dr. Vivianne Wersel (252) 646- 2678  
[viwersel@yahoo.com](mailto:viwersel@yahoo.com)





## WNC MOAA State Legislative Team Weighs in on Top Three Advocacy

The WNC MOAA State Legislative team selected the following advocacy issues for engagement with our

10 State Representatives and 4 State Senators. The issues include: (1) supporting full funding of the NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) and working with the NC Military Affairs office on Military Spouse Licensure Portability, (2) various state compacts to allow licensing across state lines and in-state tuition continuity issues and (3) to extend the statute of limitations for combat injured Veteran's tax fairness so that it conforms to federal tax treatment.

These issues were referred to our state Military Affairs, so we will be adding our advocacy voice to the other NC MOAA Chapters and veterans across the state.

The WNC MOAA State Legislative team is refining these issues and building talking points, justification etc. Working with the DMVA, they have a technical verbiage issue within the state budget that is currently disallowing approved fundings from being used for the designated veteran benefit. We are helping to correct that language and enable the already-approved funds to be used for veteran cemeteries. The second issue we are refining is working towards military spouse occupational licensure portability and licensing compacts.

To better support veteran issues, the WNC MOAA State Legislative Team is combining its efforts with other NC MOAA chapters and veteran organizations. Longer term veteran issues are also being reviewed and worked that will be prioritized for the 2023 legislative long session.

The next step was to send the WNC MOAA top three priorities, along with justification/brief of all three, to the WNC MOAA 14 legislators; the 4 State Senators and 10 State Representatives that comprise the WNC MOAA area. This was accomplished just as the short 2022 session convened.

The WNC legislators supported the WNC MOAA updated top priority, (HB 791) an interstate compact for health care professionals focused on the practice of professional counselling. The State House, in the 2021 long session, voted 108 for and zero against with 13 excused absences. The Senate voted 47 for, zero against and 3 excused and the general assembly passed the bill on 2 July. A definite bi-non-partisan effort to support WNC MOAA military and

their families! The Governor signed the bill into law on 7 July. This makes a total of six state occupational licensure interstate compacts NC has joined other states for. The WNC MOAA state legislative team continues to work with the Defense State Liaison Office as well as the NC Department of Veteran Affairs to better support these efforts both within NC and across state-lines. Due to the national licensing variation (between states and for different professional specialties) interstate compacts are considered the best choice to enable professional licensing portability. These compacts help both veterans as well as active-duty military and their families as professional careers take families across state lines.

### Editorial by Michael Padgett:

At the last chapter meeting, Tricia asked for anyone's opinion on issues we should be including and she got one additional item to add to our 2022 issues. The issue concerns state property taxes, which is or has been a consideration here in NC. The issue is linked to disability rating, currently veterans must be 100% disabled and unemployed before any tax break, and that is only on the first \$45K. The way military disabilities are calculated, there are overlapping disabilities so many actually have greater percentages than provided as the final number. The example given is 155% is dropped to 80%. Most are not considered unemployed, so an issue is how that is considered when the individual is retired.



Submitted by: Michael Padgett, COL USA (Ret.), and Tricia Vinson, LTC USA (Ret.)

WNC MOAA State Legislative Affairs Team



## Join/Renew Your Local Chapter

Thank you for visiting MOAA's online chapter membership dues site. Whether you are considering chapter membership or renewing, now is the time to add your voice to the thousands of other MOAA members making a difference on the legislative front and in their communities.

MOAA's chapters are critical in helping us do this by building grass roots support for MOAA's legislative goals in their congressional districts. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team here in Washington.

Learn more about reasons to join a chapter.

NOTE: National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. Submitting your dues payment through this online application is for chapter dues (joins/renewals) only. If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join).

Please use the Chapter Locator to verify your chapter name.

### Getting Started

Do you want to join, renew, or make a donation? *	Donate Only	▼
State: *	North Carolina	▼
Chapter: *	Western North Carolina Chapter, MOAA	▼

NEXT

## MOAA Website Offers

### Way to Join A Chapter - Pay Chapter Dues Make Donations

If you like paying for things electronically and don't like writing checks, you can now pay for your WNC-MOAA Chapter items online.

You can do the following all online: make a DONATION to the Chapter's Operating Expenses; you can PAY your Annual Membership Dues; and you can even PAY for Chapter Activities (i.e. Quarterly General Membership Meetings).

Go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

Select "**Renew**" if you are renewing your dues or "**Donate**" if you would like to pay for Chapter Activities, such as our Quarterly Membership Meeting, or if you would like to donate to the Chapter's Operating Expenses.

For the State select "**North Carolina**".

For the Chapter select "**Western North Carolina Chapter, MOAA**".

Click "**Next**".

On the next page complete all of your information and then Click "**Next**".

If you are paying for Chapter Activities enter the cost of the activity in Donation Amount field.

Enter your Payment Information and Billing Information.

Click "**Finish**".

Submitted by **Steve Watkins**  
WNC MOAA Chair of Programs



## WNC MOAA Board of Directors and Officers

### 2021—2023

**President** Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Fmr)

**Immediate Past President** Deceased

**1st Vice President** Steve Watkins, COL, USANG (Ret)

**2nd Vice President** Kevin Ritter, CDR, USN (Ret)

**Secretary** Robert "Bob" Rebscher, Capt. USMC (Ret)

**Treasurer** Michael "Mike" Pomponio, LTC, USAR (Ret)

**US Army Rep.** Rodney "Rod" Honeycutt, COL USA (Ret)

**US Navy Rep.** George "Herb" Mensch, CAPT USN (Ret)

**USMC Rep.** Robert "Bob" Rebscher, Capt. USMC (Ret)

**USAF Rep.** Jeffrey "Jeff" Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

**Membership Chair** Kevin Ritter, CDR, USN (Ret)

**Programs Chair** Steve Watkins, COL, USANG (Ret)

**Chaplain** Jerry Beschta, CDR, USN (Ret)

**Senior Advisor** Rick Deveraux, Maj Gen, USAF, (Ret.)

**Newsletter Editor** Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Fmr)

**JROTC Liaison** Jeffrey "Jeff" Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

**Legislative Affairs - Federal** Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.

**Legislative Affairs - State** Michael Padgett, COL, USA (Ret)  
Patricia Vinson, LTC, USA (Ret)

**VA Liaisons** Ed Couser, LTCOL, USAFR (Ret)  
Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison** Ramona Ritter

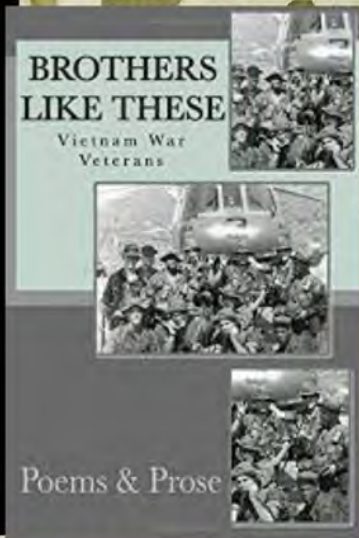
**Webmasters** John Culp, LTC, USA (Ret)

Steve Watkins, COL, USANG (Ret)

**Spouses Activity Group (SAG)** Ginny Cisneros

# A Staged Reading of Writings by Brothers and Sisters Like These

A Partnership Program between the Friends of the  
Weaverville Library & the North Carolina Veterans  
Writing Alliance Foundation



There will be a discussion following the readings about the healing journey from the psychological wounds of war through creative writing.

Copies of their book, *Brothers Like These; Vietnam War Veterans Poems and Prose* will be available for \$10.00.

**Tuesday, November 15th**

**6:00-7:30 PM**

**Weaverville Public Library  
41 N. Main Street Weaverville**

Brothers and Sisters Like These is a veteran's writing group, featuring members who share stories and poems with each other and the public around our state as a part of their healing. The group is part of the NC Veteran's Writing Alliance Foundation. Each of these groups has the goal of supporting veterans as they heal from their war experiences.

[https://  
brothersandsisterslikethese.com](https://brothersandsisterslikethese.com)

## WNC MOAA Smoky Mountain Satellite (SMS) Highlights

Smoky Mountain Satellite met Wednesday, October 12th at Juke Box Junction catching up with old and new friends alike.

Lonnie Pizza provided information about Wreaths Across America for Greenhill Cemetery.

Michael Padgett and Trisha Vinson were recognized for their work as representatives with NCCOC and WNC MOAA State Legislative Affairs.

John (EOD Bomb Tech) and Donna Culp (BTWOB Logistics) presented first hand accounts of their work in Ukraine with Bomb Techs Without Borders (BTWOB). Both will be returning to Ukraine to continue their respective jobs.

Craig Love, SMS Chair will announce the next SMS get together. To cover all of WNC MOAA territory, meetings will rotate between Waynesville and Franklin. Recommendations for good meeting spots are welcomed!



Craig Love, Chair of Smoky Mountain Satellite

# WNC MOAA Standing With Ukraine



As the war in Ukraine rages on, the needs of Ukraine and her people remain and expands. Meeting these needs are NGO's WNC MOAA is personally connected with. To learn more about the mission and work that is ongoing, take a minute to visit each of the websites and consider supporting the work that Ukrainians benefit from. Everything from refugee support, to making homes, and communities safe from remnants of war (unexploded ordnance).



## Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF)

Since the onset of the war, Moldova has received more Ukrainian refugees per capita than all the other neighboring country. MWCF has been there providing refugee centers meeting the needs of children from infancy to school age. Food, shelter, clothing, and remote on line classrooms. Mothers are grateful, and pitch in where needed. For more information go to <https://moldovawcf.org/>

## Bomb Techs Without Borders (BTWOB)



BTWOB is working with Ukrainian partners to eliminate casualties caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war by providing:

 <b>Risk Education</b> Localized outreach and awareness delivered online via social media and in person.	 <b>Technical Advisory</b> Embedded EOD advisors with mastery of safe operations support local bomb disposal teams.	 <b>EOD Training</b> Deliver training and expertise to expand local EOD capability to detect and eliminate hazards.	 <b>EOD Logistics</b> Procure and deliver needed supplies and equipment to enable local bomb disposal teams to do their jobs.
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Bomb Techs Without Borders is modular and flexible, able to deliver effective services based on needs and requirements. We work with our partners to determine their specific needs and deliver what is required to achieve success in the mission.

To learn more go to: <https://www.bt wob.org/updates/understanding-explosive-contamination-in-ukraine>

To mail donations: BTWOB Headquarters  
7933 27th Ave SW  
Seattle, WA 98126

## Blue/ Yellow for Ukraine



Specializing in providing front line support to Ukraine since the Russian invasion of 2014, Blue/Yellow's own team ensures every item of equipment makes it to the units most in need. Everything from vehicles, helmets, to body armor, and now winter gear, are ongoing. For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/FOBlueYellowUkraineUSAorg/>

MOAA NC Council of Chapters Invites All Chapters  
To Veterans Day Kickoff Cruise **2023**

Updated Form - Print this  
page to make reservations.



**November 11-16, 2023**

5 nights Aboard Carnival's "Sunshine of the Seas"  
Departing from Charleston, SC  
Destination- Nassau, Half Moon Cay (Little  
Salvador Island), Bahamas  
Open to all MOAA Members, Family and Friends

Prices:  
\$1245 Interior Cabin  
\$1370 Ocean View Cabin  
\$1680 Balcony Cabin

Prices are per couple including all taxes, fees, port charges, gratuities and food in Main Dining Room and the Lido Deck – No Surprises! Accessible Cabins at no additional charge. Single rates, Suite rates and rates for up to 5 in a cabin available - Contact POC below. Covered secure parking available at Port \$15 per day.

As an added educational program feature, RDML Ron Henderson, USN(Ret) is scheduled to present daily lectures with graphics on the Pacific Battles during WWII. The lectures will be open to all members and guests at no additional cost.

**Registration Form (Rev. 3)**

Full Names (as on passports)

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin Preference (circle) Interior Ocean View Balcony Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please email POC Jim Jackson: [jimjackson2224@gmail.com](mailto:jimjackson2224@gmail.com) for rates on Singles, Suites, 3-5 persons sharing a room, travel insurance or any other questions or issues.

Travel insurance is highly recommended for international trips. Coverage includes cancellation for medical reasons, medical and dental issues emergencies, medical evacuation. Most U.S. issued insurance is not recognized in foreign destinations. Contact POC Jim Jackson for a quote. **To confirm your reservation please send a \$50 deposit per person and the registration form by January 13, 2023 (or ASAP FOR CHOICE CABIN LOCATION or an ACCESSIBLE CABIN) to the address below. A second deposit of \$100 per person is required by July 14, 2023. Final payment is due by August 28, 2023. Make check out to NCCOC MOAA, then send to below.**

Ken Hillman Treasurer NCCOC  
4425 Arendell St. Unit 509  
Morehead City, NC 28557

## WNC MOAA Annual Holiday Drive-Thru 2022

Join forces with WNC MOAA and spread joy to our veterans in the care of Charles George VA Medical Center.

*Start collecting the items on this list and stand by for delivery information.*

**Be part of something special this holiday season!**

**Drop-off Location, Date, and Time**

**will be announced shortly**

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### 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

#### **Clothing Items:**

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

Winter Wear— coats, hats, gloves

#### **Miscellaneous**

VISA gift Cards

#### **New Start / Welcome Home Household Items:**

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



Charles George VA Medical Center Asheville, NC

*Thank you!*

# Mark Your Calendars for Action Item:

## December 17th, 2022

### WNC Cemeteries where we will be laying wreaths:

- \* Black Mountain Veterans Cemetery - Black Mountain, NC
- \* Forest Lawn Cemetery - Hendersonville, NC
- \* Greenhill Cemetery - Waynesville, NC
- \* Highlands Cemetery - Highlands, NC

### Stand by for more details!

### Purchasing Wreaths:

#### For Black Mountain Cemetery:

#### Bullington Gardens

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

Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

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

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
	Donation wreath for Veterans Cemetery (includes tax)	\$20	
	<b>Total Purchase</b>		

We accept cash, check, MasterCard and Visa.

Name on card:
Card No:
Expiration Date:
CVN#:

These wreaths will be laid at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, NC on **Saturday, December 17, 2022**. For more information call Bullington Gardens at 828-698-6104 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

**Orders accepted until 4 PM DEC 1, 2022**

Bullington Gardens, 95 Upper Red Oak Trail  
Hendersonville, NC 2879

Order on Line

<https://www.bullingtongardens.org/store/p/veterans-wreaths1>

Wreath to be placed on specific grave \_\_\_\_\_



## WREATHS *across* AMERICA

From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, our veterans are devoted sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers. They come from all backgrounds in life to place those lives on the line for our freedoms. There are millions of individual stories to tell. Get to know them by viewing the [4,760](#) recent posts made by our supporters or sponsor a wreath in honor of or in memory of an American hero.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

#### For Greenhill Cemetery:

Donate:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Fundraising Code: NC0081

Contact: Lonnie Pizza

321-262-8915

#### Why We Do It

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any one of the more than 3,400 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

## Blue Ridge Honor Flight - October 1st, 2022



Ever since my first opportunity to participate in the Blue Ridge Honor Flight, before COVID, I was awestruck. Remembering the state our country was in when my dad came home from Vietnam stays with me even all these years later. Eventually things began to change, and today, through the efforts of Jeff Miller and countless others across the US, that has changed through Honor Flight.

I wish we would have known about Honor Flight long before it was too difficult for my dad to participate. That's why I encourage everyone who knows of a WWII, Korean War, or Vietnam War veteran to do everything you can to get them on an Honor Flight wherever they may live.

Seeing the faces of the veterans returning home from their day of honor in Washington D.C. sold me. Hearing for the first time from family and fellow Americans, "Welcome Home and Thank you for your service!" is long overdue, and very much deserved. And the expressions of gratitude is absolutely unmistakable.

Guardians for veterans who need a little assistance to make their day enjoyable are much needed and much appreciated. Orientation is provided prior to each flight to ensure everyone knows when and how to carry out assistance as needed. You even get a supercool polo shirt!

The last BRHF for 2022 was October 1st. To learn more about what it's all about, please read the articles that covered the October 2022 flight, and become inspired to get involved if now as an honoree, or a guardian, then be there to welcome our NC veterans "home."

It is my goal that WNC MOAA will always be there.

**BRHF Part 1:** <https://www.blueridgenow.com/story/news/2022/10/03/blue-ridge-flight-fall-2022-part-i-god-wanted-us-to-be-there/69534423007/>

**BRHF Part 2:** <https://www.blueridgenow.com/story/news/military/2022/10/04/blue-ridge-honor-flight-fall-2022-part-ii-tell-your-stories-tell-your-stories/69537994007/>

**BRHF Part 3:** <https://www.blueridgenow.com/story/news/military/veterans/2022/10/05/blue-ridge-honor-flight-fall-2022-part-iii-welcome-home-words-long-overdue/69539026007/>

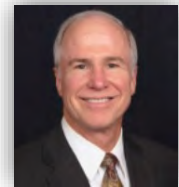
Submitted by: Donna Culp

Hyperlinks provided by Jeff Snyder



Learn more about  
Blue Ridge Honor  
Flight

[https://  
www.blueridgehonor  
flight.com/](https://www.blueridgehonorflight.com/)



Rick Devereaux, BRHF  
POC for WNC MOAA

**Veterans Coffee Shop  
American Legion Post 70  
103 Reddick Road  
Asheville, NC**



**Mission statement: Veterans Coffee Shop is a place of support, healing, and camaraderie for veterans who have served their Country. Vets helping vets!**

**Come on down, have a cup of free coffee. We are a listening post for veteran activities in Western North Carolina. Together then, together again.**

**Location: American Legion Post 70, 103 Reddick Road, Asheville, NC Below Charles George VA Medical Center on Tunnel Road, make a right (Animal Hospital Sign) on Reddick Road, go up the hill, take the second right.**

**Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**Contact Information. Please call 828-299-8463**



## Hails and Farewells

### Hails

Harold "Ted" Minnick, LTC USA (Ret)

John S. Wilson, CAPT, USNR (Ret)

Joan Covell, Surviving Spouse

Penny Creed, Surviving Spouse

### Farewells

None Reported

### TAPS

William Howard Creed, COL USA (Ret), Surviving Spouse  
Penny Creed

## Treasurer's Report submitted by Mike Pomponio:

### WNC MOAA—Cash Flow 2022 Monthly Receipts & Expenditures/Monthly Bank Statement

REVISED WNC MOAA CHAPTER BUDGET 10/15/ 2022	
	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership Dues	\$ 4,160
Miscellaneous Income & Donations	
May 21 Qterly Meeting	
August Chapter Meeting	
JROTC	
National MOAA Mixer Donation	
Badges	
Advertising	
Prior Years Surplus	\$ 6,000
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 10,160
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>NCCOC</b>	
NCCOC MOAA Dues	\$ 228
BCVC	\$ 50
Chapter President Travel	\$ 500
USAA Mixer Grant	\$ 300
Haywood Veterans Council	\$ 25
<b>Administration</b>	
Bank Fees	
Liability Insurance	\$ 350
Postage & Printing	\$ 200
Post Office Box	\$ 146
Web Hosting	\$ 160
Virtual Meetings - ZOOM	\$ 150
ROTC Awards	\$ 150
New WNCMOAA Portable Signs	\$ 150
Legislative Affairs Travel Exp	\$ 300
WNC Meeting Flag Portability	\$ 600
Speaker Gift 11/19/2022	\$ 200
<b>Contingency Funds</b>	\$ 651
<b>Donations</b>	
Frank Blazy	\$ 1,000
K9 Warriors	\$ 1,000
Liberty Project	\$ 1,000
Veterans Museum	\$ 1,000
VA	\$ 1,000
Vet Smiles	\$ 1,000
<b>Chapter Meetings</b>	
May 21 Qtrly Meeting	
August 21 Chapter Meeting	
Badges	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 10,160

Revisions approved by the WNCMOAA Board on 10/15/2022

## NEVER STOP SERVING ... CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**We Honor Veterans** - Since November 2014, WNC MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored **over 853** 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." Returning to the skies after 2 1/2 years of being grounded due to the pandemic, BRF is back in full swing. 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 regarding 2023 flights. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a guardian on one of the upcoming flights, go to [www.blueridgehonorflight.com](http://www.blueridgehonorflight.com).**



**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)** is 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) **Next Smiles for Vets at ECU Sylva Clinic 18 November 2022**



**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/>



## New number. Same support. Dial 988 then Press 1

Please Share The New Phone Option For The  
Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 & Press 1

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

### TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS



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

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

### 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 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 the web <https://www.wnc-moaa.org/>

### The Latest on COVID In WNC



Stay up to date regarding COVID, vaccines, boosters, and how we're doing in WNC .

**Dr. Mark Jaben, Medical Director for Haywood County** provides weekly updates, which are found on the WNC MOAA website.

<https://www.wnc-moaa.org/covid-19information/>

*Thank you Dr. Jaben!*



# Join us for a Luncheon!



**Saturday, November 19, 2022**

**Location: Kenmure Country Club  
100 Clubhouse Dr.  
Flat Rock, NC 28731**

**Meeting / Lunch Registration: 11:00 AM Check-in / Social - 12:00 PM Lunch / Program  
RSVP DEADLINE: to Steve Watkins, [vp1@wnc-moaa.org](mailto:vp1@wnc-moaa.org) NLT Thursday, November 10, 2022**

***Payment must be received NLT Wednesday, November 16, 2022***

**Pay Online using Donation to the North Carolina - Western North Carolina Chapter at  
<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>**

or

**Mail Checks and registration to:**

**WNC MOAA  
P.O. Box 1984  
Hendersonville, NC 28793**

**Make checks payable to:** WNC MOAA; Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ meal (s) at \$30 per person.

I / we plan on attending the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on Saturday, November 19, 2022

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dress code:** Country Club Casual – *Relaxed attire. Collared shirts required for gentlemen but not jackets. Men in collared shirts, polo tops, and slacks and women in simple blouses, fitted trousers, skirts, and dresses.*

**PARKING INSTRUCTIONS:** Once through the gate, follow signs to Clubhouse, turn right at the Welcome sign to park in either of the parking lots, a shuttle will take you to the Clubhouse. **If passenger drop off is required, DO NOT turn at the Welcome sign, proceed to the next right to cross the bridge, and proceed to the front of the Clubhouse. You may drop passenger at the ramp or proceed to the portico and drop them at the main entrance.**



**Guest Speaker: CDR Carl Burkhart, USCG (Ret)**

- 35 years of service - assignments as deck watch officer  
engineer watch officer and civil engineer at various shore  
commands and headquarters

**Topics**

***The History of the Coast Guard from its origins in 1790***

***Mission of the USCG***

***Notable Achievements of the USCG***

# 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.**



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

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.

### Chapter membership and dues information:

#### Check the one that applies:

\_\_\_\_\_ **New member**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Renewing membership**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Change in contact information.**

#### Annual Chapter Dues Valid:

**1 Jan - 1 Mar**

Name Badge Application  
Included in new membership. Badge: Magnet Type Only

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

**Renew:** \$30

**Surviving Spouse**

**New Member:** \$20

**Renew:** \$10

**Spouse Name:**

**Email:**

**Cell**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_