

An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**Save the Dates**

Chapter Mtgs.

BOD Mtgs.

July 20, 2024

October 19, 2024

January 11, 2025

*June 1, 2024 -  
CANCELED in lieu  
of the picnic*

August 17, 2024

Nov 16, 2024

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

The mission of WNC-MOAA is stated in the bylaws and referenced in the newsletter and website.

**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**

**Information for the August 17th Chapter picnic is included in this newsletter.**

**Spouses and guests are welcomed to all chapter meetings!**



Dear Members of WNC-MOAA,

As we welcome the arrival of spring, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible dedication and support of each and every one of you. It is my pleasure to share some exciting news and updates with you all.

First and foremost, I want to highlight the remarkable efforts of our members in recruiting new individuals to join our Chapter. One of most outstanding recruiters recently has been Rod Honeycutt – great job Rod! The majority of our newest members were recruited through personal contacts, demonstrating the power of interpersonal connections in expanding our community. I am convinced that personal contact, even by chance, is the most effective way of finding fellow officers in our area.

For those of you who may meet fellow officers, I encourage you to share our selling points, which showcase the many benefits of joining our Chapter.

- We typically meet socially, a minimum of once a quarter, usually for lunch.
- We help protect your benefits while shaping NC & National legislation.
- We maintain a connection & network with fellow officers & surviving spouses.
- We support needy local veterans through our Outreach Programs, such as monthly involvement with the VRQ (a veteran’s homeless shelter in Asheville).
- We support the 18 JROTC programs in WNC with a Leadership Award for outstanding rising senior students.

From our social gatherings and legislative advocacy to our support for local veterans and JROTC programs, we offer a range of meaningful opportunities for involvement. And with membership priced at just \$30/year for members and \$15/year for surviving spouses, it is not only affordable but incredibly impactful.

The 2024 Advocacy in Action Campaign (AiA) took place 15-18 April on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The North Carolina delegation, which included a member from our Chapter (Dr. Vivianne Wersel), was successful in their face-to-face meetings with North Carolina lawmakers when they addressed the critical topics on MOAA’s legislative agenda. See Vivianne’s article about the AiA campaign in the newsletter. Wherever you are, please remain engaged by staying in tune via MOAA’s Legislative Action Center.

**President’s Remarks Cont. on Page 2**

**President's Remarks Cont. from page 1.**

I am thrilled to announce that our Chapter has been recognized again by the National MOAA office with three prestigious awards: the 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award and two 5-Star Harris Communications Awards. These accolades underscore our outstanding efforts in serving our members and the broader WNC communities.

Congratulations are in order for Donna Culp, our past Chapter President and newsletter editor, whose leadership has been instrumental in our success. I'd also like to commend John Culp for his work as one of our co-webmasters during 2023.

Furthermore, I want to express my gratitude to Michael Padgett, Ed Couser, and Michael Pomponio for their dedicated service as board members over the past few years. Michael Pomponio was our Chapter treasurer, Michael Padgett was our State Legislative Affairs lead and Ed was our primary VA Liaison Representative. A Chapter such as ours can only continue if there are members willing to step up and give a little extra beyond attendance at meetings. These three members did just that and we thank you! Your contributions have made a significant impact on our Chapter and the veteran community in Western North Carolina.

As we move forward, there are many opportunities for Chapter member volunteer involvement, including with Wreaths Across America, our August Picnic committee, the We Honor Veterans pinning ceremonies, and a 2024 WNC-MOAA fall 1-day workshop focusing on Family Preparation for when the Veteran Passes Away that we are planning. If you're interested in volunteering your time for one of these, please reach out to me directly.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all members who actively engage in our Chapter's efforts and support our mission. Your dedication is truly invaluable, and I encourage you to continue supporting WNC-MOAA's initiatives.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, thank you for your trust, support, and encouragement. I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming summer informal events and our Chapter picnic on August 17th!

***Save the Date! See the picnic flyer - the last page of the newsletter.***

***'Never Stop Serving'***

**Steve Watkins  
President, WNC-MOAA Chapter**



## **Unlock the Benefits of Dual Life Secondary Membership with MOAA**

Are you and your spouse both veterans who have served our country with honor? Did you know that you each have the opportunity to enjoy individual memberships with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)?

MOAA recognizes the unique circumstances of households where both partners have completed uniformed service. They have a special program for those households called Dual Life Secondary Membership program. Here's how it works:

- One member joins and pays (or has paid) for a life membership with MOAA.
- The second member can join as a Dual Life Secondary Member for just \$100.

With Dual Life Secondary Membership, both you and your spouse can access the full range of benefits and resources offered with a MOAA membership. From advocacy efforts to educational resources and networking opportunities, your membership ensures that you have the support you need to thrive in your post-service life.

**Ready to take advantage of this special program? Call (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 to learn more and enroll in MOAA's Dual Life Secondary Membership today.**

Thank you for your continued support of WNC-MOAA and MOAA, and we look forward to serving you and your family for years to come.

**Submitted by: Steve Watkins**



# 2024

On April 17, 2024, an impressive dynamic group of 200 members and MOAA staff converged in the Congress hallways. We united in our MOAA advocacy mission, reaffirming their commitment to enhancing the well-being of Active-Duty personnel, veterans, families, and survivors. Equipped with data and a resolute call to action, we aimed to connect with each office, leaving no doubt about our presence and purpose. This event was a big deal because MOAA members nationwide came together to speak up and support MOAA's legislative priorities.

MOAA carefully approves its legislative priorities every year through its Board of Directors. These priorities mirror MOAA's mission, which is to improve the lives of service members and their families. This dedication has been at the core of MOAA advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., for over ninety years.

MOAA's legislative agenda for the year was not just a list of issues but a roadmap to improving the lives of service members and their families. It focused on three crucial issues:

- Major Richard Star Act,**
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Reform,**
- Protect Tricare for Life.**

On April 16, 2024, before our scheduled meetings with Congress, members of MOAA gathered in Crystal City, Virginia, for a briefing on Advocacy in Action. This session was essential for preparing members

to convey MOAA priorities when meeting congressional representatives and their staff.

The North Carolina Advocacy in Action Team, led by Colonel Dana Tucker, and including Vivianne Wersel, Au.D., Herb Segal, Ph.D., Dana Tucker, Ph.D., Jeri Graham, and Stephanie Dawson, embarked on a campaign that resonated throughout the halls of Congress. Our efforts were not in vain. We successfully engaged with all 14 North Carolina Representatives and state Senators, ensuring that MOAA's message was heard, understood, and acknowledged.

During these visits, I had the opportunity to meet with staff members from Senator Tillis's and Senator Budd's offices, Representative Virginia Foxx's office, Chuck Edwards from the district, and Representative Manning's. These discussions were productive in raising awareness among North Carolina elected officials and their teams.

**The Richard Star Act (S344 and HR1282)** aims to support 52,000 combat-injured veterans by enabling them to receive both their retired pay from the Department of Defense and their VA Disability pay. Despite reservations from the Senators and Representative Foxx's staff, they were thankful that I provided information specific to NC that the Richard Star Act impacted 92,554 North Carolina veterans, perhaps signaling a step towards garnering future support.

Regarding **Basic Allowance for Housing Reform (S1823 and HR 2537)**, there was a shared agreement to adjust the allowance to cover housing expenses fully. The reduction in BAH since 2015 has burdened families with out-of-pocket costs due to escalating housing prices. The proposed legislation seeks to recalibrate the calculation to encompass 100% of housing

expenditures, reflecting the nation's expectation of unwavering dedication from its service members.

**Lastly, safeguarding TRICARE for Life (TFL)** is deemed crucial in the absence of legislation. While the Congressional Budget Offices report recommended cost-saving measures through TFL fees, discussions indicate a strong commitment to defend TFL vigilantly should the need arise.



**Dr. Vivianne C. Wersel, Au.D., WNC MOAA Legislative Team (Federal) attending MOAA Advocacy in Action 2024.**

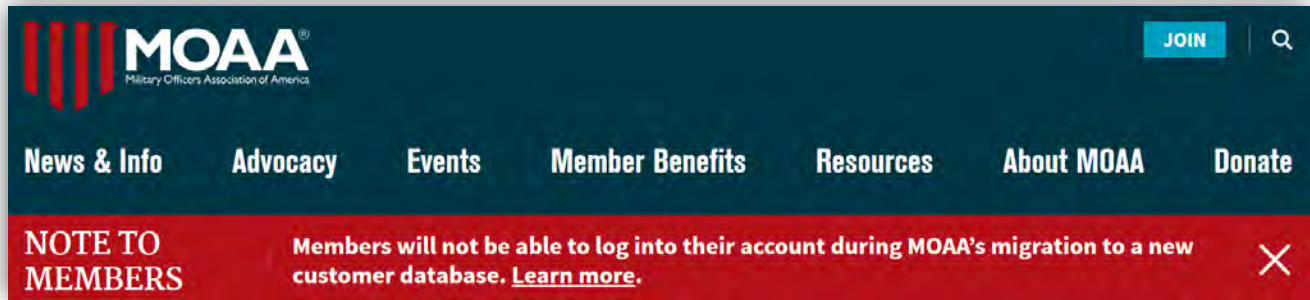


**Members of NC Advocacy in Action 2024 Team, (L-R) Herb Segal, Dana Tucker, Dr. Vivianne Wersel.**

**Submitted by**

**Dr. Vivianne C. Wersel, Au.D., WNC-MOAA Legislative Team (Federal)**

## MOAA Customer Database Under Construction— Standby for Updates



### Important Notice Regarding MOAA's Customer Database

We're excited to announce that MOAA is currently enhancing our membership database. During this upgrade, our website's user portal and online services requiring a member login will be temporarily unavailable.

Please note that customer service may be disrupted during this period. Account changes or updates can be provided to our Member Service Center and will be reflected on your account shortly upon the completion of this system upgrade.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work to improve our services.

### Telephone

Call (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 for help with **any** question or to make any suggestions: MOAA membership support (join, renew, upgrade), change of address, legislative action, benefits information, magazine subscriptions, or for general assistance. You also may contact any staff member through those phone numbers. Our Member Service Center representatives are ready to assist you Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.

### E-mail

E-mail [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org) for assistance with **any** question or issue, as listed above. Use this e-mail address also to contact any MOAA staff member or board director. Additionally, our Member Service Center representatives can provide a wide range of assistance with personal concerns.

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

Call our Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 or e-mail [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org).

<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/contact-moaa/>

### Secretary Grier Martin Appointed to Lead North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Secretary Grier Martin was appointed to lead the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) by Governor Roy Cooper on April 1, 2024. Most recently, Secretary Martin performed the duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. In this capacity he was the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on all matters related to civilian and military personnel policies, reserve integration, military, community, and family policy, total force manpower and resources. He also oversaw the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Defense Commissary Agency.

For full BIO <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/secretary-grier-martin>



## WNC-MOAA Earns Three MOAA Awards for 2023

WNC MOAA has been selected by the National MOAA office for three prestigious awards: the 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award, and two 5-Star Harris Communications Awards.

**WNC-MOAA - 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence**

**WNC-MOAA - 2023 Newsletter - 5-Star Harris Communications Award**

**WNC-MOAA - 2023 Website - 5-Star Harris Communications Award**



Out of almost 400 MOAA affiliates, 168 councils and chapters earned LOE award recognition this year. These councils and chapters excel at supporting and fostering programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities.

The annual Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards recognize councils and chapters that achieve excellence in communicating with their members and communities. MOAA affiliates nominated themselves in two categories: newsletters (print or electronic) and websites. Submissions were judged on design and content.

For the 2023 program year, 11 councils and 134 geographic chapters and one virtual chapter, received 176 five-star awards and 47 four-star awards. Congratulations to all!

### DoD Expands Online ID Card Renewal Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) has expanded its pilot program for online renewal of Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards, opening up this convenient option to more cardholders. Announced on January 16, 2024, this expansion marks a significant step towards streamlining the renewal process for members of the military community.

Previously, the online renewal option was limited to individuals with sponsors holding a common access card (CAC). Now, the program has been extended to include CAC holders as well as USID cardholders with a DoD Self-Service Logon account. Cardholders can initiate the renewal process through the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online (IDCO) after creating a self-service account at the provided link.

Here are some key requirements to keep in mind, as outlined by a DoD information sheet:

- Renewals are applicable only to active cards; new cards will not be issued through this process, and expired cards will not be replaced.
- Both the sponsor and the cardholder must have email addresses registered in the Defense Enrollment Reporting Eligibility System (DEERS), and they must have authorized DoD to contact them through these addresses. Instructions on updating DEERS information can be found at the provided link.
- The cardholder must have a current photo on file with DEERS, taken within the last 12 years.
- The cardholder must have a mailing address listed in DEERS and must reside within the United States.

Once the renewal request is submitted, both the cardholder and their sponsor will receive an email confirmation regarding the status of the card. This email will either confirm that the card has been shipped or

provide instructions in case of any issues during the process. Sponsors can track the card's progress via the IDCO and will receive instructions on how to confirm receipt of the card online, a necessary step before the new card can be activated.

This expansion of the online ID card renewal program reflects the DoD's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance the efficiency and convenience of administrative processes for military personnel and their families. By providing a streamlined renewal option, the DoD aims to simplify the experience for cardholders while ensuring the security and integrity of the ID card issuance process.

For more information and to begin the renewal process, eligible cardholders are encouraged to visit <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>.

**Submitted by Steve Watkins-**



# ONLINE UNIFORMED SERVICES ID CARD (USID) RENEWAL

## USID CARDS

- Issued to retired and reserve uniformed Service members, dependent family members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy
- Used for access to benefits, privileges, and DoD facilities

## CURRENT RENEWAL PROCESS

- ❌ Must be done **in person** at a RAPIDS site
- ❌ Often requires an appointment scheduled in advance
- ❌ No opportunity to renew online



## WHAT'S CHANGING?

- ✅ Sponsors can request card renewals **online, from anywhere**
- ✅ Cards will be mailed to the cardholder via US mail
- ✅ No in-person requirement for most renewals



## REQUIREMENTS

- Sponsor must be a CAC holder or have a DoD Self-Service Logon username/password
- Must be requesting a renewal of an active USID card
- Sponsor and Cardholder must have email addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them
- Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days into the future
- Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years
- Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States
  - USID cards **cannot** be shipped to PO Boxes

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

See ID Card Office Online (IDCO): <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>



## Honoring Service: Free Entrance to National Parks for Military Personnel, Veterans, and Gold Star Families

The National Park Service, in collaboration with Operation Live Well, extends a heartfelt thank you to military personnel and their families for their dedication and sacrifice. As a token of appreciation, they are invited to explore the beauty and wonder of our national parks with the free Military Pass program.

This initiative is a gesture of gratitude to current US military members, veterans, and Gold Star Families, recognizing their invaluable support of our country. By providing free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests, the program aims to encourage them to embrace the recreational opportunities available on our public lands and waters.

Eligible individuals can receive either a free lifetime Military Pass for Gold Star Families and US military veterans or a free annual pass for current US military members and their dependents. These passes cover entrance or day use fees at national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other federal recreational lands, ensuring that beneficiaries can fully immerse themselves in the beauty of nature without any financial barrier.

For the purpose of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves. Obtaining the Military Lifetime Pass is simple; there's no application or form to fill out. Eligible individuals can simply present one of the following forms of identification when entering a national park:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued US driver's license or identification card

The benefits of the Gold Star voucher and Military Lifetime Pass extend beyond entrance fees. They also cover standard amenity fees (day use fees) at national forests and grasslands and on lands managed by the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

For those interested in obtaining their Military Pass locally, they are available at the following locations in Western North Carolina:

- Blue Ridge Parkway (Campgrounds Only), Asheville, NC
- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Flat Rock, NC
- Great Smoky Mountains NP - Smokemont Campground, Cherokee, NC
- Nantahala NF - Ranger District, Franklin, NC

For more information about the program and to learn about additional recreational opportunities, visit <https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes>.

**Submitted by Steve Watkins - Contact Steve for additional information about the source of this article.**



## Four Seasons Hosts 1000<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Pinning Ceremony

Four Seasons was honored to celebrate US Army Sgt. Bill Troutman through the We Honor Veterans program on Friday, February 9 at the American Legion Post 77 in Hendersonville.

Bill began his military service in 1964 at age 20 when he was drafted to serve in Vietnam. He was assigned a role in Germany to support the Vietnam conflict and was instrumental in his work with rockets known as "Honest Johns." Bill attended warhead school in Oberammergau and earned the title of Senior Rocket Assembly Specialist and received his E5 stripes, an unusual accomplishment after only 18 months of service. Bill was offered the opportunity to serve in the military for life, but he was ready to return home to the love of his life, Elaine, and begin their life together.

Since launching the We Honor Veterans program in 2014, Four Seasons has been recognizing veterans in hospice care through a pinning ceremony. Bill's pinning marked the 1,000th veteran recognized through this program at Four Seasons.

Article by Four Seasons—Photos by Donna Culp

### WLOS Coverage of the Ceremony:

<https://wlos.com/news/local/veteran-bill-troutman-receives-special-honor-1000th-pin-recipient-henderson-county-four-seasons-hospice-american-legion-post>

### More About We Honor Veterans:

<https://fourseasonscare.org/four-seasons-level-4-we-honor-veterans/>

**Hendersonville Lightening—Published April 21, 2024—**  
**Insights by Four Seasons Chaplain Michael Wermuth, a U.S. Navy veteran:**

<https://www.hendersonvillelightning.com/news/13855-four-seasons-earns-we-honor-veterans-recognition.html>



To donate to Four Seasons Foundation:

<https://fourseasonsfdn.org/>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A2t0kfGd2w>



Remembering Bill Troutman's early days in the U.S. Army.



Among many other honors received, Bill received pinnings from WNC MOAA Presidents (L-R) Spence Campbell (Past Pres.), Donna Culp (Immediate Past Pres.) and Steve Watkins (Current Pres.) and Wife, Elaine.

## Western North Carolina and Virginia Host Ukrainian Delegation

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, three Ukrainian citizens, Juliy Morozov, Anna Iemelianova, and Yevhenia Zhuravel, arrived in Waynesville, sponsored by WNC-MOAA members John & Donna Culp. They were later joined by volunteer linguists Alex McFarland and Valeria Kolesnyk. The Ukrainians are in the midst of setting up a rehabilitation center in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, for Veterans and their families affected by the war, that will be known as HART. Donna and John met them in Ukraine and decided to invite them to the Waynesville area.

The next ten days were busy; the Culps had coordinated an educational curriculum supported by the Charles George Veterans Administration Medical Center in Asheville, NC, the Richmond VA Polytrauma Center in Richmond, Virginia, and a range of Western NC-based veteran-run support groups and activities organized in conjunction with

the Buncombe County Veterans Council. Still, there was time to enjoy the beauty and unique history of this part of America; visits to Cherokee, Clingman's Dome, and the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach were part of the experience. The visitors got a taste of Southern hospitality by dining with friends of the Culps and at selected local eateries as well as a little bit of home from a Ukrainian extended family in Asheville.

The group was also supported by Grace Church in the Mountains in Waynesville, and by the Moldova World Childrens Fund (in partnership with the Culps). The team was formally invited by the Buncombe County Veterans Council, the NC Council of Chapters of MOAA, and Congressman Chuck Edwards. First Methodist Church in Waynesville provided a van to transport the group around.

Article: John Culp

**Buncombe County Veterans Council hosts WNC Veterans Service Organizations panel discussion workshop at American Legion Post 70.**



**Richmond Polytrauma VA Medical Center— More new friends and resources.**



**HART Rehabilitation Center in Kryvyi Rih — building purchased and under renovation for out-patient care of war veterans and their families.**



**HART Delegation, hosts, and linguists.**



**Charles George VA MC—New Friends and New Resources.**



**Dr. Vivianne Wersel talks about Surviving Spouse Advocacy.**



**Veterans Healing Farm shares mission of healing through agritherapy. <https://wlos.com/news/local/ukrainian-delegation-turns-to-hendersonville-nonprofit-for-insights-on-healing-war-vets-veterans-healing-farm-hart-rehabilitation-center-yuliy-morozov-of-hart-rehabilitation-center-of-kryvyi-rih>**



## **Spring 2024 State Legislature Update**

The state legislature is back in short session, as this is an election year. As mentioned in the last newsletter, limited veteran bills made their rules for consideration during the short session; none will significantly impact our community. We will highlight any of those bills if there is movement. Therefore, our primary focus is the short-notice 1 February closure of the Fayetteville State Veteran's 150-bed Home which meets the emergency budget rules for the short session. Decisions need to be made on what will be done with the now-closed home, the impact of the reduced number of beds available throughout the state, and how funding and decisions will be determined and prioritized. These questions and their answers will eventually impact all State Veteran Homes, including the one at Black Mountain. Please know we are working in concert with the MOAA NC Council of Chapters (NCCOC) and other Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) across the state.

I am happy to report that MOAA has made a difference already. MOAA NCCOC produced a briefing and provided it to the state legislators with a request for support and involvement. From that interaction, enough questions were generated that a joint committee team was sent to the Fayetteville home for an onsite review before its closure. That team reported back to the Joint Legislature Overview Committee on General Government. The state home closure has been a topic of two subsequent committee meetings (30 January and 27 February), with a third meeting scheduled for 26 March.

No decisions have been finalized, but there seem to be many questions generated and some confusion about where various authorities lie. Did the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA) have sole authority to close the home? What justifications were used and were all the proper agencies notified? The legislature has specific responsibilities, as well as the Department

of Health and Human Services and Department of Administration (contracting and state building construction oversight) as well as the Governor's Veterans Commission with such a decision. Was the facility unsafe, and was requiring the rehoming of 85 veterans with only 60 days' notice appropriate? Were there unheeded warning signs that could have mitigated the closure, and was maintenance deferred to the point that a closure was necessary? Since there were no requests for capital budget projects for the Fayetteville home in recent budget cycles, was a minor issue allowed to fester? Should the home be renovated, or is the ground unstable, and will that be throwing good money after bad? The answers at this point are unknown, but the correct questions are being asked. There was a facility structure inspection on 6 February due to the inquiry that has given insights and a dollar value that includes repairs and upgrades (totaling over \$17M), with a couple of critical underground tests still to be scheduled. There is confusion overall about who has the authority to decide on the home, but at this point, the general assembly has a significant role due to the budget needs and multiple departments involved. Initially, it looked like the DMVA thought they had sole authority, but now seem to concur that there it should be a collaborative decision. So, what will happen in Fayetteville is unknown, but procedures will be improved, and the issue has gained visibility, focusing on supporting the veteran population. We are also asking that a follow-up survey, separate from the DMVA, be conducted to be sure that the rehomed veterans or their designated representatives can comment on the situation, their choices to include costs and eventual location determination when rooms become available (i.e., close to family, etc.). Several veterans have expressed concerns that a negative survey could impact future placement or decision-making and prefer anonymity. We continue to be involved and will keep you posted on future developments.



**Patricia Ann Vinson, LTC USA (Ret)**  
**State Legislative Affairs Team**

## Smoky Mountain Satellite Happenings

The most recent meeting of the SMS was held on 21 March 2024 at Bearwaters Brewing in Maggie Valley. The guest speaker was Russ Conner, a member of Warrior Clan. This organization helps veterans in distress cope with PTSD. About seven members attended the meeting including a potential member, Haywood County Sheriff Bill Wilke.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 15 June at 0800 outside of Crepe & Custard Restaurant at Lake Junaluska. This restaurant serves breakfast and more importantly COFFEE. We will have a quick breakfast meeting followed by a walk around Lake Junaluska. Bring your walking shoes!

On 22 June 2024, SMS MOAA is partnering with other Haywood County veteran's service organizations in hosting "Haywood Veterans Community Gathering." This free event will be held at the American Legion grounds at 171 Legion Drive in Waynesville and will run from 1200-1800. There will be live music (3 different bands), food trucks, events for kids (bounce house and dunk tank included), corn hole and we working on an SF static display and fire and police vehicles. MOAA and the other veterans organizations will have booths at the event. The goal of the event is to increase interactions between the community and those who have served and to reach out to younger veterans.

**John O'Donnell**  
Chair, Smoky Mountain Satellite



Fond of military trivia, John O'Donnell likes to include a little something to use as an ice breaker. Can you spot the error in this message?

**Feel free to print and share this information about the upcoming Haywood Veterans Community Gathering.**

**Date: Jun 22nd 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**Location:**  
The American Legion  
171 Legion Dr  
Waynesville, NC 28786

*Haywood Veterans  
Community Gathering*

**Our Mission is first and foremost to support Veterans, Active Duty Military and their families!  
We invite the OUR Community to come spend a day with "Your Community of Veterans" for Fun, Music, Food and Fellowship.**

**When Veterans are out in the community we are often "Thanked for Our Service"**

**Please allow us the opportunity to thank our community.**

Donation QR code



**Event Produced by the Follow Local Veteran's Organizations**  
Warrior Clan  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association  
Piked Antlers Survival Training  
Disabled Veterans of American  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
AARP -VMF  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5202  
American Legion Post 47

**Event Description:**  
Free Admission Open to the Public  
Live Music  
Food Trucks  
Bounce House and Dunk Tank  
Games for Children  
Corn Hole  
50/50 Drawing  
Vendors  
A wide Variety of Veteran Support Organizations

## Celebrating Service: Vet Tix and Their Mission to Support the Military Community

In a world where gratitude often feels fleeting, there's an organization committed to showing appreciation in a tangible and impactful way: Vet Tix. Founded on the principle of giving back to those who have served, Vet Tix, or the Veteran Tickets Foundation, stands as a beacon of support for the military community across the United States.

Vet Tix operates on a simple yet profound premise: providing free event tickets to active-duty service members, veterans, and the immediate families of troops Killed in Action (KIA). Through partnerships with a vast array of teams, organizations, and venues, Vet Tix offers access to a diverse range of events, from sporting spectacles to concerts, performing arts, and family activities. Whether it's catching a game at a major league ballpark, attending a live concert, or enjoying a night at the theater, Vet Tix ensures that

members of the military community have the opportunity to partake in memorable experiences.

The impact of Vet Tix extends far beyond the walls of stadiums and arenas. Attending these events serves as more than just entertainment; it's a chance to boost morale, strengthen familial bonds, and foster a sense of connection with local communities and American life. For service members transitioning to civilian life, these events play a vital role in the reintegration process, offering moments of joy and normalcy amid the challenges of adjustment. In 2023, Vet Tix distributed over 4.9 million tickets to active-duty service members, veterans, and the immediate families of troops Killed in Action (KIA).

Jen and I have attended many concerts and other events through Vet Tix over the years and

enjoyed ourselves each time. While the event tickets are free, a nominal ticket handling fee, usually less than \$15 for up to four tickets, is a small price to pay for the invaluable experiences and memories created.

At its core, Vet Tix is more than just a ticketing platform; it's a symbol of appreciation and support for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military community. By giving back to those who have given so much, Vet Tix embodies the spirit of gratitude and solidarity that defines our nation.

To sign up or learn more about Vet Tix visit their website at [www.VetTix.org](http://www.VetTix.org).

Submitted by Steve Watkins



## Possible MOAA Activities



Our WNC MOAA Chapter would like to start having get togethers with 6 or more of our members. We are open to anything and want to start the conversation. Activities can be during the week or weekends. Would you be interested in:

Flyfishing at Maggie Valley Fly Fishing Shop  
Glass making - hot or flame shop at NC Glass Center, new location in Black Mountain  
Chocolate tour at French Broad Chocolates in Asheville  
Asheville Tourist Games  
Tour and then meal at Sierra Nevada Tap Room in Fletcher, NC  
Meet up at Rye Knot Restaurant in Asheville  
Brevard Music Center- Parker Concert Hall  
Wreaths Across America- 14 December  
German Dinner Evening at Guidon Brewing  
Going to the Hendersonville Symphony Theater  
Attending a Honey Crisp College Basketball game in HVL  
Simple meet ups at Breweries  
Battlefield Tours  
Museum Tours  
Attending local shows like the Asheville Quilt Guild in Sept



Any other ideas? Please let Stacie know ASAP if interested so we can start planning a few activities this year. I will get all the information out once we have a starting point. Many thanks!!

[litsmtnlife@earthlink.net](mailto:litsmtnlife@earthlink.net)  
Stacie Litsenberger  
108 Hickory Forest Road  
Fairview, NC 28730



## Community Announcements from Charles George VA Medical Center—Cont.



FRANKLIN VA CLINIC VETERAN TOWN HALL MAY 16, 2024, at 5 P.M.

Western North Carolina VA Health Care System Leadership will be on hand to offer remarks about the health care system. We will also have subject matter experts available to field questions and help Veterans with enrollment.

647 Wayah Street  
Franklin, NC 28734-3390  
Main phone: 828-369-1781

### VA announces new program to help more than 40,000 Veterans stay in their homes

**WASHINGTON** — On May 31, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs will launch a new program - the [Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase \(VASP\) program](#) - to help more than 40,000 Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes.

VASP is a new, last-resort tool in VA's [comprehensive suite](#) of home retention options for eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed home loans who are experiencing severe financial hardship. Through VASP, VA will purchase default-ed VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower VA to work directly with eligible Veterans to adjust their loans - and their monthly payments - so they can keep their homes. With VASP, these borrowers will have a fixed 2.5% interest rate, which will provide a consistent, affordable payment for the remainder of their loan.

VA and the Biden-Harris Administration are committed to doing everything possible to prevent foreclosures for Veterans and their families. Over the past several months, VA has strongly encouraged a [foreclosure moratorium through May 31, 2024](#), [extended its COVID-19 modification program through May 31, 2024](#), and [worked with Veterans directly](#) to help them retain their homes. In total, VA helped more than 145,000 Veterans and their families avoid foreclosure in 2023 alone.

"This new program will help more than 40,000 Veterans and their families stay in their homes, and there's nothing more important than that," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "We at VA are committed to doing everything in our power to help Veterans avoid foreclosure, and that's exactly why we're launching VASP - to help the Veterans who need it most."

"When a Veteran falls on hard times, we work with them and their loan servicers every step of the way to help prevent foreclosure - including offering repayment plans, loan modifications, and more," said **Under Secretary for Benefits Josh Jacobs**. "But some Veterans still need additional support after those steps, and that's what VASP is all about. This program will help ensure that when a Veteran goes into default, there is an additional affordable payment option that will work in a higher interest rate environment - so they can keep their homes." Veterans will not apply directly for VASP. Instead, beginning May 31, mortgage servicers will identify qualified borrowers and submit requests on behalf of Veterans based on a review of all home retention options available and qualifying criteria. Veterans facing financial hardship should work with their mortgage servicers to explore available [options](#).

VA anticipates that VASP will result in a government subsidy spending reduction of approximately \$1.5 billion from 2024 to 2033, making it beneficial for Veterans, taxpayers, servicers, and loan holders alike. This is because the savings associated with avoiding foreclosures outweighs the cost of purchasing these homes. VA has existing authority to establish and implement VASP under 38 U.S.C. § 3732 and § 3720. VA is proud to help Veterans get access to - and retain - the homes they deserve by guarantying home loans with no down payment requirements and competitively low interest rates. In total, VA has helped Veterans, service members, and survivors obtain more than [28 million homes](#). Currently, more than 3.7 million Veterans have active home loans guaranteed by VA, and VA guaranteed 400,695 home loans in 2023 alone. Veterans who are having difficulty reaching a resolution with their mortgage servicer can contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 4. [Learn more about the policy](#) and the VASP program. For more information on VA home loans, visit the [VA home loans](#) website

# HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN



**Stand Down date is Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

**9AM - 2PM**

**30 George Washington Carver Ave, Asheville, NC**

### Available Resources:

- Health Screenings
- Dental Assistance
- Mental Health Service

- Employment Assistance
- Housing /Shelter Assistance
- Peer Support
- Veterans' Benefits Assistance
- Gear Distribution
- Training Opportunities
- Haircuts
- Crisis & Recovery Services
- Breakfast & Lunch Provided!

**Veterans will need to present proof of Veteran status: DD-214, Veteran ID, or VA Verified on Site.**



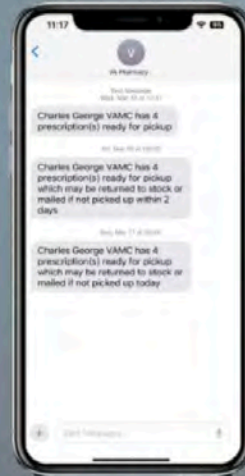
# MEMORIAL DAY

## A LIVE CEREMONY

Monday, May 27, 2024 at 10 a.m.  
Western North Carolina State  
Veterans Cemetery

962 W Old US Hwy 70,  
Black Mountain, N.C.

Can also be viewed on the City of Asheville You Tube Channel,  
[youtube.com/cityofasheville](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofasheville)



Veterans,  
To help keep you informed when your prescriptions are ready for pickup, starting on 5/1/24, the Charles George VAMC Pharmacy will begin notifying Veterans via text message.

All messages will be sent from 53941



The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System  
**Parking Options**

**Valet parking for Veterans and Visitors free of charge:**

Monday – Friday 7:00am – 6:00pm

**Parking Lot Shuttle service**

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Shuttle will pick up Veterans/Visitors at their car once parked.

If unable to secure a parking spot, please park across the street at the Mental Health campus (Riceville Road) and call the shuttle for pick up.

Shuttle Telephone number 828-337-5975



Keynote Speaker:  
**Harold (Ted) Minnick,**  
Lt. Col. (Ret.), US Army  
Field Artillery Battery Commander,  
Vietnam 1969-1970



*Join us as we hear a powerful story of a lifetime commitment to the military and veterans, duty, honor and Country.*

*There will also be readings from the Brothers and Sisters Like These, Veteran Writing Group*

Jointly Sponsored By



## Discover Healing Through Movement: Introducing Move to Heal Yoga for Veterans and Caregivers



In the heart of Asheville, North Carolina, amidst the rolling hills and tranquil beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a transformative journey of healing awaits veterans, their partners, and caregivers. MOVE TO HEAL, a specialized yoga class curated by the experienced and compassionate Deirdre Smith Gilmer, offers a sanctuary where participants can explore the profound connection between movement, breath, and healing.

Deirdre's journey to yoga began against the backdrop of a rich and diverse background in movement-based healing modalities. With a BFA in Dance from the University of NC School of the Arts and a successful career as a professional dancer and choreographer in New York, Deirdre's path eventually led her to the practice of yoga. Over the past three decades, she has dedicated herself to sharing the transformative power of yoga with various populations, earning certifications as an E-RYT 500 Yoga Alliance instructor and teaching at studios across the United States.

At the core of Deirdre's teaching philosophy lies a deep commitment to alignment, physical and emotional safety, and the integration of mindfulness techniques to assist in healing from trauma. With Move to Heal, Deirdre channels her passion for creative therapeutic techniques into a weekly exploration tailored specifically for veterans and their caregivers.

Move to Heal isn't just a yoga class; it's a holistic journey into self-discovery and healing. Through connection and breathing techniques, mindful movement, and guided introspection, participants have the opportunity to release long-held tension, gain insight into the mind-body connection, and cultivate a sense of community and support.

Each Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:00 PM, participants gather at 227 Eliada Home Road, Asheville, NC, to embark on this empowering journey together. Whether you're a veteran seeking relief from physical ailments or a caregiver in need of a moment of respite and rejuvenation, 'Move to Heal' welcomes you with open arms.

In Deirdre's words, "healing happens together," and Move to Heal is a testament to the power of community in the journey towards wellness. It's more than just a yoga class; it's a lifeline, a source of strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

For those interested in joining this transformative experience or learning more about Move to Heal, please reach out to Deirdre at [smdeirdre@hotmail.com](mailto:smdeirdre@hotmail.com). Together, let's embrace the healing power of movement and cultivate a space where veterans, caregivers, and partners can find solace, support, and renewal on their path to wellness.

**Submitted by Steve Watkins— Contact Steve for additional information about the source of this article.**

### Upcoming Events - Everyone Is Welcome

25 May - Veterans Healing Farm Annual Veterans Resource Fair - WNC-MOAA will be represented there.

**1 June - Quarterly WNC-MOAA chapter meeting is canceled at Kenmure Country Club in lieu of the Chapter picnic.**

22 June - Waynesville Haywood Veterans Community Gathering - See article and Flyer on page 11 of this newsletter.

17 August - Chapter picnic at Fletcher Park - see flyer on last page of newsletter with additional information to follow.



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

The purposes of the Chapter shall be to promote the purposes of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); foster fraternal relations among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve the community and the nation.

**Ref: WNC-MOAA bylaws updated, amended, and approved**

**November 20th, 2021 can be found on our website at**

<https://wnc-moaa.org/chapterbylaws/>



**Treasurer's Report submitted by Doug Abbotts:**

FY 24 WNC MOAA CASH FLOW REPORT							
4/19/24							
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD	Budget	Diff
Membership Dues	1,810.00				1,810.00	4,200.00	2,390.00
Miscellaneous Income	16.32				16.32	0.00	16.32
Donations	211.00	25.00			236.00	0.00	236.00
VA Donations					0.00	0.00	0.00
Chapter Meetings	1,320.00				1,320.00	0.00	1,320.00
Badges	75.00				75.00	0.00	75.00
Surviving Spouse Dues	90.00				90.00	200.00	110.00
NCCOC					0.00	0.00	0.00
MOAA HQ	60.00				60.00	0.00	60.00
Meeting Rentals	65.00				65.00	0.00	65.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,647.32</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,672.32</b>	<b>4,400.00</b>	
EXPENSES							
NCCOC Dues	193.50				193.50	228.00	34.50
BCVC	50.00				50.00	50.00	0.00
Recruiting & Retention					0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Web/Digital Services	160.00				160.00	350.00	0.00
Liability Insurance						350.00	0.00
IRS tax filing	50.00				50.00	50.00	0.00
USPS/Shipping	224.20				224.20	350.00	125.80
Administrative Supplies	63.35				63.35	300.00	236.65
JROTC Awards	131.27	37.98			169.25	150.00	19.25
Speaker Gifts	78.01				78.01	200.00	200.00
Badges	140.32				140.32	250.00	109.68
Donations					0.00	1,306.00	1,306.00
Chapter Meetings Expenses	1,869.93	100.00			1,969.93		1,969.93
Smoky Mtn Satellite Support					0.00		
Woodfin Satellite Support					0.00		
President's Travel	30.00				30.00	500.00	470.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,990.58</b>	<b>137.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,128.56</b>	<b>5,084.00</b>	<b>1,493.45</b>
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>					<b>543.76</b>		
<b>(RESERVE) BANK BALANCE</b>				4/16/2024	12,201.45		



**Doug Abbotts  
WNC-MOAA Treasurer  
2023—2025**

**Hails and Farewells**

**Hails**

None Reported

**Farewells**

None Reported

**TAPS**

Harry Boyd, Col. USAF (Ret)

## NEVER STOP SERVING ... CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**We Honor Veterans** - Since November 2014, WNC-MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored **over 1,025** veterans with special pinning ceremonies to salute veterans in hospice care and thank them for their service.

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 Tuesday & 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 to honor their service and the sacrifices of themselves and their friends." There are opportunities to do-nate, 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) **Next flight: September 28, 2024.**



JROTC is active in 18 high schools throughout WNC. Our chapter provides support to these units in a number of ways, to include presentation of the annual MOAA Leadership awards for a rising Senior in each unit. Chapter members present the awards on behalf of the chapter at unit award ceremonies held in the spring. For more information about supporting the award presentations, and other information about supporting JROTC, contact Jeff Snyder at 828-684-2359 [jsnyder243@aol.com](mailto:jsnyder243@aol.com)



**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). Because of the success of the Sylva program Vet Smiles programs are now partnering 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. For more information, contact, **David McCracken**, 984-233-3350, <https://vetsmiles.org/>



Established in 2013, the Veterans Healing Farm's mission is "To enhance the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our nation's Veterans and their families." This is accomplished through the creation of a safe, peaceful environment that fosters healing and camaraderie. Programs focus on brain health and includes agritherapy (organic farming, beekeeping, medicinal herbs) as well as a variety of other therapies/ therapeutic activities, workshops, and live events. Everything grown on the farm is donated back to our Veteran community. **To learn more:** <https://www.veteranshealingfarm.org/about>



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/>



# CAMARADERIE WITH A PURPOSE



## 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: \*

Chapter: \*

## WNC-MOAA Offers Two Way to Join the Chapter - Pay Chapter Dues or 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://wnc-moaa-annual-dues.cheddarup.com>

- Select your '**Annual Dues Renewing**' option.
- Select if you need an optional '**Replacement Name Badge**'
- Select if you want to make an optional '**Donation**' if you would like to donate to the Chapter's Operating Expenses.

## or you use the MOAA website

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

- Select '**Join**' to join the Chapter, '**Renew**' if you are renewing your dues, or '**Donate**' 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 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors and Officers

President - Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

1st Vice President / Programs - Stacie Litsenberger, MAJ, USA (Ret)

2nd Vice President / Membership - Kevin Ritter, CDR, USN (Ret)

Secretary - Joe Neubert, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Treasurer - Doug Abbotts, Maj. USAF (Ret)

Immediate Past President - Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Fmr)

US Army Rep. - Rod Honeycutt, COL USA (Ret)

US Navy Rep. - Herb Mensch, CAPT USN (Ret)

USMC Rep. - VACANT

USAF Rep. - Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

At Large Rep. - Jim Steinbaugh, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Black Mountain Satellite - Kevin Ritter, CDR, USN (Ret)

Chaplain - VACANT

Smoky Mountain Satellite Chair - John O'Donnell, CDR, USN (Ret)

Woodfin Satellite Chair - Rod Honeycutt, COL, USA (Ret)

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

Newsletter Editors - Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Fmr) / Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

JROTC Liaison - Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

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

Legislative Affairs - State Patricia Vinson, LTC, USA (Ret)

VA Liaisons - John Shawkins, LTC, USA (Ret) / Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.

Surviving Spouse Liaison - Sharon Woodcock, Donna Culp (Support)

Webmasters - John Culp, LTC, USA (Ret) / Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

Spouses Activity Group (SAG) - VACANT



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/mission>

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

**The Latest on COVID in WNC**

Stay up to date regarding COVID, vaccines, boosters, and how we're doing in WNC, throughout the state, and the nation. **Dr. Mark Jaben, Medical Director for Haywood County** provides regular updates, which are found on the WNC-MOAA website.

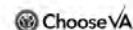
<https://www.wnc-moaa.org/covid-19information/>

*Thank you  
Dr. Jaben!*



**Federal Benefits**

for Veterans, Dependents,  
Survivors, and Caregivers  
2023 Edition



To download your copy go to:

[https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/2023\\_Federal\\_Benefits\\_for\\_Veterans\\_Dependents\\_and\\_Survivors.pdf](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/2023_Federal_Benefits_for_Veterans_Dependents_and_Survivors.pdf)

**Moved?**

**New Email address?**

**New phone number?**

**Need to upgrade membership?**

**Electronic Newsletters?**

**MOAA:**

Call the **Member Service Center** at:  
(800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311

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

**WNC MOAA:**

Use the Join Form included in this newsletter to change address, update contact information, join, or renew.

Mail Join Form/Checks to  
**PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793**  
or go to

<https://www.wnc-moaa.org/>

For an electronic version of this newsletter go to the wnc-moaa website.

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why WNC-MOAA chapter membership matters.



## WNC-MOAA CHAPTER & MOAA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Are you a MOAA member? Yes No Unknown

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

### Spouse's information

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's email \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's phone \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse a MOAA member or eligible to be a MOAA member? Yes No

Your Chapter interest: Attending Social Events Board of Directors Member Recruiting

Legislative Affairs Newsletter Editing Public Affairs Spouse's Programs

**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.

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** on your computer and email it to [membership@wnc-moaa.org](mailto:membership@wnc-moaa.org) as an attachment **or**

• **Print it** and fill it and mail it to:

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

Scan it and e-mail it to [membership@wnc-moaa.org](mailto:membership@wnc-moaa.org)

• 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.

### Western North Carolina Chapter membership of MOAA

Chapter Dues are due  
January 1  
(No Later Than March 1)

#### Member

\$45 - New Member  
(includes Spouse)

\$30 - Renew

#### Surviving Spouse

\$25 - New

\$10 - Renew

#### Name Badges

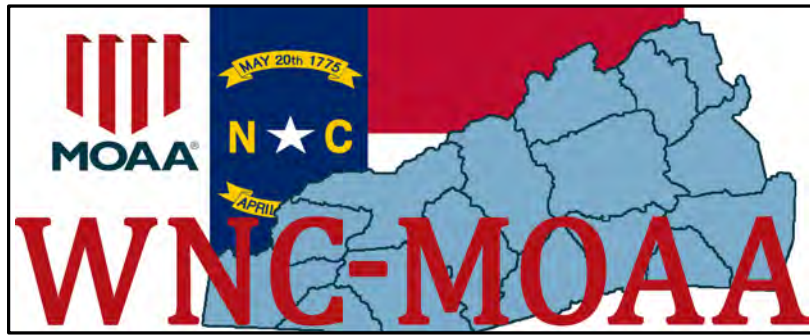
(Badges are Magnet type only)

One name badge (for member)  
is included with new  
memberships

5XX[h]cbU`#FYd`UW`a Ybh  
Badges!`%` each

Badge Bameftk

If you have any questions,  
please contact Steve Watkins  
at: [membership@wnc-moaa.org](mailto:membership@wnc-moaa.org)  
or call/text 608-225-0594



# CELEBRATE WNC-MOAA

AUGUST 17

SATURDAY

11:30 TO 1:30

85 Howard Gap, Fletcher, NC

