



December 2015



Cape Fear Infogram®

A Five-Star Chapter

Publisher COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA † Editor LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA
A monthly newsletter for members of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)
Visit our homepage at www.cfmoaa.org

Annual membership meeting a big draw; Vietnam vets honored



MG Shachnow (left) accepts lapel pin



President Chavez adding MOAA 5-Star streamer



Maria Cory (left) and Carol Ivey embrace



Art Rodriguez (left) receives Vietnam pin



George Blanc (right), is a Vietnam veteran

Inside:

President's Report	2
Editorial	3
Membership Update	3
Membership Application	4
Chaplain's Thoughts	5
Legislative News	5
MOAA News	6
Calendar of Events	7
News Briefs	8



President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

Phone (910)797-5419, email: President@cfmoaa.org

Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

Our annual general membership meeting on the 21st of November was our last for 2015, and it will go down as one of the most memorable ones for me. Traditionally, our annual meetings have always been a notch above our regular bi-monthly general membership meetings, but this one was particularly special.

Earlier this year, we selected this occasion to be a 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative event to pay tribute to our Vietnam veterans and their families. Months of planning and excellent work by the Board of Directors, particularly by George Blanc and Don Gersh, paid off in a big way. We wanted everything to be special and go down well for the sake of our Vietnam veterans and their loved ones. Based on the overwhelming and complimentary feedback I received, I think we accomplished that mission.

The Missing Man Table Ceremony presented by Rolling Thunder in remembrance of our POWs and MIAs was most appropriate, and very well done. The posting and retirement of the colors by Jack Britt High School JROTC, the singing of our National Anthem and "*God Bless America*", and the excellent keynote address by MG (Ret) Sidney Shachnow, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran himself, were all first-class. Moreover, the singing of Vietnam War era tunes by pianist/vocalist Casey Benander during dinner, added a special touch to the evening's theme.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins to our Vietnam veterans, and surviving spouses. I asked Carol Ivey, our Auxiliary Liaison, and a

widow of a Vietnam veteran (MG Claude Ivey) herself, to assist me in presenting the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins to our surviving spouses, and she did the honors with the utmost grace and empathy. Thanks Carol, you were magnificent.

I then had the distinct privilege and honor to present lapel pins to all my fellow Vietnam veterans and to extend to them on behalf of a grateful nation its lasting gratitude for their service and sacrifices during the Vietnam War. I must say that it was somewhat an emotional moment for all of us. The only regret was that not all our Vietnam veterans were able to attend the meeting, however, we will present their well-deserved pins at subsequent chapter events.

Presentation of the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins reminded me of the Honorable Service Lapel Pin, colloquially called the "Ruptured Duck," presented to all who served honorably during World War II. With that in mind, let us not forget the 7th of December, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We need to take pause to honor those who gave their last measure of devotion on that infamous day in 1941.

Finally, keep our military men and women in your prayers, particularly those in harm's way in far-flung stations around the globe, many of whom will not be home with their loved ones during the holidays.

Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah to all of you, and best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Juan



Editorial

By LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA

Phone (910) 624-4597, email: secretary@cfmoaa.org

Membership renewal time again

The 2016 Membership renewal invoices will be in your mailboxes shortly. If you have already paid, please ignore the post. The official membership renewal period does not begin until January, so we do have time.

Once again, you have the opportunity to donate to the ROTC Scholarship Fund. I know many of you give during the annual golf tournament, but this is another avenue to use. Please consider adding a small or moderate amount to your check. Thank you and have a great holiday season!

Membership Update **by Juan Chavez**

RECRUITING

We added one new regular member to our rolls in November, and two honorary members, bringing our total to 32 and 2 year-to-date.

It is my privilege to welcome our newest members:

**Lt Col Heber "Bull" Toro, USAF
(Regular Member)**

Mr. Mac Healy (Honorary Member)

Mr. Steve LaHam (Honorary Member)

Honorary Membership was conferred upon Messrs. Healy and LaHam at our annual general membership meeting on 21 November 2015 in recognition of their loyal and substantial support to our annual ROTC Scholarship Awards Program fundraising golf tournament over a period of years. We are privileged to now consider them one of our own.

It is somewhat disappointing that the total number of regular members recruited this year is way below our numbers we achieved the past two years. However, we still have the month of December and it is still possible to turn that around. You can contribute to this "full court press" by recruiting **ONE** new member during

December 2015; we need everyone to do go out and beat the bushes with vigor from now until New Year's Eve.

To review, the *eligibility criteria* for membership are: *any commissioned or warrant officer – active duty, retired, former, Reserve or National Guard, in any of the seven uniformed services.*

RETENTION

The membership renewal campaign for 2016 is now underway – our goal of course is 100% renewal. Let's not drag this out for 10 months as we did last year, but rather let's try to close it out by the end of January 2016.

Renewal invoices were mailed immediately following our annual meeting on the 21st of November, but you do not have to wait, use the form on the back of the *Infogram* and remit today. The dues structure will remain unchanged for 2016. Those who prefer to renew online and pay by credit card may do so by going to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>.

If you have any questions please call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545.



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Initial Application ☐ Renewal ☐ Date _____

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Rank) (Branch of Service)

(Mailing Address: Number and Street) (Preferred Telephone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Email Address)

Birth Date _____ Spouse's name _____

Status: Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ Former Officer ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐

Cadet/Midshipman ☐ Auxiliary ☐ In this case fill in the above information but show your deceased spouse's rank and branch of service.

I am ☐ a member of National MOAA; my member # is _____. I am a Life Member ☐

I am not ☐ a member.

I would like to receive my chapter newsletter via: Email ☐ USPS ☐

In addition to my dues, I have included a donation of \$_____ for the Chapter's ROTC Scholarship Fund.

Your signature: _____

Annual Chapter membership dues are \$20.00 for Regular members; \$10.00 for Auxiliary.

Please mail this application with check (payable to CFC, MOAA) to: **CAPE FEAR CHAPTER-MOAA,
P.O. Box 53621 Fayetteville, NC 28305**



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chap (LTC) Timothy Atkinson, USA

Phone (910) 978-3541, email: chaplain@cfmoaa.org

A Special Gift

The Lord has given the military a special gift. I don't know about you, but sometimes it's good to know that someone really cares and is there to help military veterans. Well, the Lord told those shepherds and he tells us that we do not need to fear. As the Christmas season approaches, we do not need to fear. I think that is a special gift and promise. Courage is not the absence of fear, but is the ability to do what is necessary in spite of the fear and the opposing circumstances.

During the Christmas truce of 1914 peace broke out on the battle lines between the Allies and the Germans. The soldiers stopped shooting, left their trenches, and exchanged gifts, played games, and for a short while, there was peace. It took courage for that first soldier to venture out of the trench and make the peace gesture.

This Christmas, the message the angels gave to the shepherds about not needing to fear because of the news of a savior's birth also is a message of hope to us in the 21st Century. The Bible says that "in the last days dangerous times shall come" (2 Tim 3:1f). I'm thankful that our veterans have shown courage in times past in order for us to have a peaceful land; and I pray that we will support those causes that help us to remain free and strong.

MOAA is a force for good and we do not need to just stay on the sidelines, but be courageous and do our part this Christmas and in the coming New Year. We should vote and speak up for those things that are right. We must also reach out like God has done in Christ and show the initiative in loving others in active ways.

The Bible says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Isn't it interesting how the devil uses terror organizations to try to instill fear, but the Lord says we are not to fear but trust Him and do what is right? It was prophesied that Immanuel would be born. His name means God with us. Because the shepherd of shepherds and of we as his sheep is with us, we do not need to fear anything that man can do to us. All is secure in Jesus' love and grace.

So on this special time of the year know that the Lord is with us; and we can trust Him to help us to love others and to make a real difference. We can live life not controlled by fear, but faith. Please let me know what prayer concerns you may have. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed New Year from Peg and me.



MOAA News Release

Alexandria, Va. -The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) today announced its board of directors has unanimously selected retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, a distinguished military officer and seasoned private-sector business leader, as its new president and chief executive officer. The appointment is effective as of Jan. 4, 2016.

Atkins will succeed retired Navy Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, who has led the association since 2002 and announced his retirement earlier in 2015.

In his new role at MOAA, Atkins will lead the more than 390,000 members of the nation's largest military service organization and fourth-largest veterans service organization in its advocacy mission on behalf of the entire uniformed services community.

Atkins has been the president of Chronicle Media, a large communications company

providing print and digital media products in the Augusta, Ga., metro area, since his 2012 retirement from the Air Force.

“We are delighted to have someone with Lieutenant General Atkins' stature, leadership ability and business experience to assume the president and CEO position,” said retired Air Force Gen. Tony Robertson, chairman of MOAA's board of directors. He continued, “A strong, top-quality career force requires compensation and a benefits package that is commensurate with the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed upon it. Dana brings a proven track record of strategic military and corporate leadership that makes him the absolute right choice to lead MOAA and our advocacy efforts into the future.”

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins, a Portland, Ore., native, served as the commander of Alaskan Command, Alaska NORAD Region, Joint Task Force Alaska and 11th Air Force at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

MOAA Legislative Update

November 6, 2015

TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) beneficiaries will see a steep rise in their premiums next year. TRICARE provides coverage for dependents of active duty service members and retirees up to age 21 (or 23 for full-time students). After that, TYA allows qualified adult children to purchase TRICARE coverage until age 26, consistent with other civilian health plans.

Beginning Jan. 1, premiums are increasing to \$306 monthly for TYA Prime and \$228 monthly for TYA Standard. Why are costs spiking 26 to 47 percent? The TYA program is required to charge its young adult beneficiaries premiums that cover the full government cost of coverage. DoD originally had to rely on estimates when establishing premium costs. Now that the program has been up and running, it has several years of actual costs to set premiums based on real health care usage. The cost of the TYA program is spread over a small beneficiary group of approximately 45,000 enrollees. This is the big difference between the military TYA program and other civilian insurance programs that cover young adults. Most civilian plans spread their young adult costs over their entire enrolled population, so every insured person, regardless of age, pays a small amount more.

MOAA questions the affordability of this benefit for military families, especially those with more than one child in this age range, and is looking into possible solutions to lower this cost.

Calendar of Events



- 1 Dec - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours
- 4 Dec - Trip to Myrtle Beach
- 7 Dec - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 31 Dec - New Year's Eve

- 1 Jan - New Year's Day
- 4 Jan - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours
- 18 Jan - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 Jan - CFC General Membership Meeting/Luncheon at The Mash House, 1130 hours

- 3 Feb - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours
- 12 Feb - Lincoln's Birthday
- 15 Feb - Washington's Birthday (Observed)

1

The advertisement features a large American flag on the left side. On the right, the AAFMAA logo is displayed above the text "WEALTH MANAGEMENT & TRUST" and the website "aafmaa.com/wealthmanagement". Below this, a box titled "FIND OUT HOW I CAN HELP YOU" lists "Financial Planning", "Investment Management", and "Trust Services". A photo of Carrie Clark, CTFA, is shown next to her contact information: "Contact me for more information", "910.723.0016", "cclark@aafmaa.com", and "639 Executive Place, Suite 200 Fayetteville, NC 28305". At the bottom, a small line of text states: "AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AAFMAA — the financial services provider that the military community has relied on since 1979."

AAFMAA
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
& TRUST
aafmaa.com/wealthmanagement

**FIND OUT HOW
I CAN HELP YOU**

- Financial Planning
- Investment Management
- Trust Services

Carrie Clark
CTFA
Contact me for more information
910.723.0016
cclark@aafmaa.com
639 Executive Place, Suite 200
Fayetteville, NC 28305

AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AAFMAA — the financial services provider that the military community has relied on since 1979

**Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA
Post Office Box 53621
Fayetteville, NC 28305**



***We are a powerful voice speaking
for a strong national defense, and
representing the interests of military
officers and their families at every
stage of their career.”***



Our Vietnam veterans receive commemorative pins

