



October 2016



Cape Fear Infogram ©

A Five-Star Chapter

Publisher COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA † Editor LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA
An informative monthly newsletter for members of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)

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Golf tournament netted most ROTC scholarship funds yet

The annual golf tournament held at the Baywood Golf Course last month netted almost \$28,000 for the Chapter’s ROTC Scholarship Fund. Tournament Director Tammy Beshlin sends a “special thank you to donors and sponsors!”

See Juan’s article on page 2 and Tammy’s wrap-up on page 7 for the rest of the story.



Checking score card after 18 holes at Baywood Golf Club (CFC MOAA Photo service)

Nov. 18 annual membership meeting includes election of Chapter officers

The slate of candidates for election to Chapter President and five other Executive Board officers will be presented on Friday, Nov. 18 at the Annual Membership Meeting at the Fort Bragg Iron Mike Conference Center.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate to Chapter members for the 2-year term beginning Jan. 1.

The committee members are COL (Ret) Stan Dodson, Chairman, LTC (Ret) Steve Mannell, MAJ (Ret) Jerry Croll, MAJ (Ret) Ron O’Brien and Mrs. Argie Rodriguez.

They will accept nominations for President, 1st Vice President (Membership Chair), 2nd Vice President (Programs Chair), 3rd Vice President (ROTC Chair), Secretary and Treasurer until Oct. 17.

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President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

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

Another successful golf tournament

It's a tremendous feeling of relief and accomplishment to wrap up another annual golf tournament, and a successful one it was. As predicted, Tammy Beshlin, our Tournament Director, delivered yet another stellar performance. She set a goal of netting \$25,000 for our scholarship fund this year. While not all the numbers are in, Tammy just reported to me that we netted \$27,788.60. A new record!

Putting on an event of this magnitude involves a tremendous amount of work over a 3-month period. Tammy and her committee of volunteers, however, rose up to the challenge; our hats go off to: Tim Atkinson, Dave Beshlin, George Blanc, Steve Byrnes, Maria Chavez, Maureen Dadek, Dennis Franken, Bob and Nancy Garman, Don Gersh, Ralph Hinrichs, Steve Mannell, Art and Argie Rodriguez, Arlie Smith, Trina Tiffany, Claudie Wallen, Caitlin Wallen, and Marty Williams. It was their collective efforts under Tammy's leadership that made this event so successful and so enjoyable. The compliments we received were numerous and so well deserved.

The golf tournament itself, once we got off, progressed seamlessly -- we were blessed with ideal weather; great organization; a playing field of 112 golfers, half of them active duty soldiers; and, great camaraderie. Our active duty soldiers had a great time and were most appreciative.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of our chapter members, our commercial sponsors and donors, and the management at Baywood

Golf Club. The wrap-up article below recognizes all who played a part.

Our annual membership meeting on 18 November 2016 is our next event and the last for 2016. It will be a dinner held in the Iron Mike Conference Center starting at 1700 hours. The business part of the agenda will include presentation of a slate of candidates for election to chapter president and 5 other elective positions on the executive board for the 2-year term starting January 2017; a vote on some proposed amendments to our constitution and bylaws, and the dues structure for 2017; and, addition of another 5-star streamer to our colors.

Being that the nation is observing the 75th anniversary of the United Services Organization (USO) we are using the occasion as a platform to launch our USO Volunteer Initiative. Accordingly, John Falkenbury, President and COO of USO North Carolina, has accepted our invitation to be our featured speaker for the evening.

Finally, our annual trip to Myrtle Beach to attend a Christmas show followed by cocktails and dinner is scheduled for Friday the 2nd of December 2016. This is one of the most popular events of the year and a great way to get into the holiday spirit; I highly recommend it to our new members. Invite family members and friends, all are welcome.

Juan

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 Post Office Box 53621
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Editorial Policy

The Cape Fear Chapter is affiliated with MOAA. As such, the Cape Fear Chapter is nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Chapter's Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's.

Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Editor may be reached at (910) 624-4597 or Secretary@cfmoaa.org

Chapter website

<http://cfmoaa.org/>

Facebook

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

MOAA website

<http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action"

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

Membership

Commissioned and warrant officers (former, current, retired) of all uniformed services

Chapter Notes:

Membership

RECRUITING

One new member joined our ranks during September bringing our total to 22 new members for the year. It is a pleasure to introduce our newest member:

MAJ (Ret) Scott P. Vance, USA

Remember that our goal is to bring our membership up to 325 by the end of the year; we're still way short of that. Please keep beating the bushes and bring in at least one new member by the end of the year. MOAA National tells us there are over 3,800 MOAA members in our area that are not members of our chapter – we need to smoke them out and sign them up!

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

Hard to believe, but despite countless notices there are still dozens of members who have not renewed their 2016 membership, if you are one of them please remit now! Mail in your requests using the form on the back page of the *Infogram*, or renew online and pay by credit card by going to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapter-DuesPayment/>.

If you're not sure of your status or have any questions, please call Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545.

Visit the Chapter's homepage at www.cfmoaa.org



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chap (LTC) Timothy Atkinson, USA
 phone (910) 978-3541
 chaplain@cfmoaa.org

Putting first things first

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.- Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

The Army Chaplains Corps was established July 29, 1775 and for 241 years, approximately 26,000 Army Chaplains have served more than 25 million Soldiers and family Members, living up to the motto on its branch insignia, "Pro Deo et Patria," which means, "For God and Country." George Washington said, "We need chaplains." Washington was concerned about both the morale and morals of the Soldiers and believed the Army should provide paid religious leaders to meet Soldiers' spiritual needs. I believe our Founding Father, and at that time the leader of the Continental Army Commander in Chief, put the spiritual welfare of our troops first and knew the power of putting God's influence in the ranks of our military by establishing the Chaplain Corps.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15)." General George C. Marshall once said, "The Soldier's heart, the Soldier's spirit and the Soldier's soul are everything. Unless the Soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself, his commander (and) his country in the end." I know that the power of

spiritual fitness and the knowledge of His presence sustained me in the combat zone, and I have seen how it made the difference for so many of my comrades as well.

Today as a retired chaplain with more options how to spend my day, and therefore must remind myself to put God first. Our scripture tells us if we will do this that the Lord will take care of everything else. Let's remember to do this and enjoy His presence and power more in our lives. When we put Him and His righteousness first then everything else will fall into place. I fear the Lord and encourage you to put Him first in your life and with your family and friends. He will sustain and help us now and in every situation.

I so enjoyed the MOAA Golf Tournament fund raiser and thank all of you who helped to make it such a success. The funds will make such a difference for scholarship for young men and women who may one day lead in our military as they continue to defend our freedoms. Since George Washington encouraged congress to establish the Chaplain Corps, Army chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars with six chaplains receiving the Medal of Honor and 27 receiving the Distinguished Service Cross. As I seek to put God first as your MOAA Cape Fear Chapter Chaplain let me know how I can help you. Peggy and I consider it an honor and a top priority to serve you and your family.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CFC CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The chapter’s constitution and bylaws, last amended 3 years ago underwent a complete review by the board of directors during the past two months. The recommended changes to bring them up to date with current policies and practices will be voted upon by the general membership present at the 18 November 2016 annual meeting. The primary change necessary is to change the term “auxiliary” to “surviving spouse” throughout the document to conform with MOAA policy. The proposed amendments are explained below for the perusal of the general membership in advance of the annual meeting. It is requested that all voting members review the recommended changes below, and be prepared to vote on them at the annual meeting.

Article VI – Dues

Current:

“**Section 3.** Members who fail to pay their dues within 60 days from the time they become due will be notified by the Secretary and if payment is not received within the next 30 days will, without further notice and without hearing, be dropped from the rolls.”

Proposed:

“**Section 3.** Members who fail to pay their dues within 60 days from the time they become due will be notified by the Secretary and if payment is not received within the next 30 days will receive a written notice from the Secretary requesting confirmation of membership renewal, or a request to be dropped from the rolls.”

***Rationale:** To bring policy in line with current practices. Despite repeated notices to renew within the grace period, over 1/3 of the membership is taking the full year and beyond to renew, most common reason given -- forgetfulness. In the interest of retaining members, the automatic “drop from rolls” provision is not being enforced. The proposed change will require members to pay delinquent dues or submit a written request to be dropped from the rolls.*

Article VIII – Board of Directors

Current:

“**Section 1.** * * * The appointed positions of newsletter editor, auxiliary liaison, personal affairs officer, TOPS, chaplain, and legal advisor, plus other positions as determined necessary by the board of directors will likewise serve on the board as special staff at the pleasure of the president. * * * interest.”

Proposed:

“**Section 1.** * * * The appointed positions of newsletter editor, webmaster, surviving spouse liaison, personal affairs officer, TOPS, chaplain, and legal advisor, plus other positions as determined necessary by the board of directors will likewise serve on the board as special staff at the pleasure of the president. * * * interest.”

Rationale: *Add “webmaster” to list of appointed positions to reflect the importance of this position in the real world of electronic media communications. Change “auxiliary” to “surviving spouse”.*

Article IX – Officers

Current:

“**Section 9.** The treasurer shall maintain a record of all monetary sums received and expended by the Chapter, collect the members’ annual dues, make such disbursements as are authorized by the Chapter or the board of directors, deposit all funds received in a financial institution approved by the board of directors and make a financial report at all board of director meetings, at the January general membership meeting, or when called upon by the president. Funds may be drawn from the account in the financial institution only upon the signature of the treasurer or the president. The funds, books, and vouchers in the custody of the treasurer shall at all times be subject to inspection and verification by the board of directors.”

Proposed:

“**Section 9.** The treasurer shall maintain a record of all monetary sums received and expended by the Chapter, collect the members’ annual dues, make such disbursements as are authorized by the Chapter or the board of directors, deposit all funds received in a financial institution approved by the board of directors and make a financial report at all board of director meetings, at the January general membership meeting, or when called upon by the president. Funds may be drawn from the account in the financial institution only upon the signature of the treasurer or the president. The funds, books, and vouchers in the custody of the treasurer shall at all times be subject to inspection and verification by the board of directors. A complete review of the financial records will be conducted annually and upon change of treasurer.”

Rationale: *Adding the last sentence is considered essential to codify a prudent administrative necessity.*

Meinhardt Scholarship Recipient

The second annual presentation of the Meinhardt Scholarship was presented to Army ROTC Cadet Joshua L. Freeman from Methodist University.

Cadet Freeman received a plaque from 3rd Vice President Marty Williams. The Meinhardt Scholarship is the Chapter’s top ROTC scholarship and is \$1,500.

The memorial scholarship is named in honor of COL(Ret) Harry P. and Mrs. Mary Meinhardt for their “extraordinary patronage of the Chapter’s ROTC Scholarship Program.”



Marty Williams presents the Meinhardt Scholarship to Cadet Joshua L. Freeman from Methodist University. (CFC MOAA Photo Service)

2016 ROTC Scholarship Program Fund Raising Golf Tournament Wrap-Up by *Tammy Beshlin*

This year's golf tournament played at Baywood Golf Club on Sept. 17 was a smashing success. Our heartfelt thanks to all our commercial sponsors for their continued loyalty and support, to the players (including 60 active duty military) who made the day special, and to our chapter members for a commendable outpouring of generosity.

The following is a list of all sponsors and donors; those indicated by an asterisk (*) contributed in multiple ways.

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Next year: Sat., Sept. 16

**CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

ANNUAL TRIP TO MYRTLE BEACH, SC

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2016

COST: \$77.00 per person

(Includes bus fare, show tickets, dinner and gratuity.)

PROGRAM: Motor coach will depart from the new Fort Bragg Iron Mike Conference Center parking lot at 8:30 AM on Friday, 2 December 2016. Group will stop for lunch (Dutch Treat) at the K&W Cafeteria in Myrtle Beach. The Christmas Show at the Alabama Theater is at 1:45 PM, and dinner at the Chestnut Hill Restaurant at 5:00 PM. Estimated time of return to the Fort Bragg Club parking lot is 9:15 PM.

RSVP NLT 25 November 2016

(Trip limited to 52 passengers, make reservations early.)

Send reservations and check (payable to CFC MOAA) to:

Art Rodriguez, 3406 Sugar Cane Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28303

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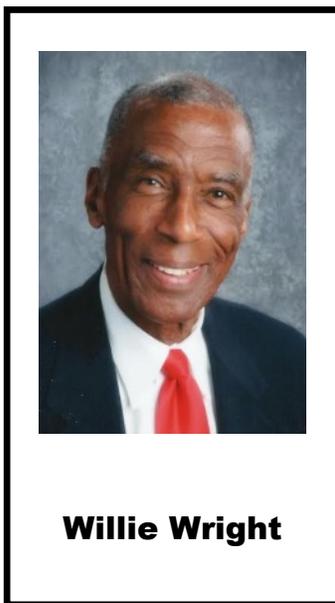
By Sara VanderClute, Special Correspondent

Willie Wright (Colonel, US Army, Ret'd) is pretty darned good at taking tests.

At several important crossroads in his life, moving on to the next major step involved taking – and passing! – a test.

As a high school senior in Virginia, in 1955, he wasn't quite sure what he wanted his future to hold. But an observant teacher alerted him to an opportunity for which he was well-suited. Virginia was recruiting males to enter the teaching field, and offered an interest-free loan to those who entered the program. But first – a test. The teacher let Wright borrow her car to go take the entrance exam at Virginia State University. Driving off, all dressed up in a suit and tie, he may not have known he was taking the first big step into his future. But, after taking the test, he drove back to school to return his teacher's car. She was standing in the doorway, having been alerted by VSU that he'd passed the test. She said, "Congratulations!" and his future was launched.

At VSU, in the late fifties, ROTC was mandatory for all able-bodied male students for the first two years of college. To continue in the program in the junior and senior years, participants had to pass a test. Once again, Wright passed that test, and thoroughly enjoyed the final two years of ROTC. Upon graduation in 1959, he was offered a Regular Army commission – and the rest



Willie Wright

is a distinguished personal history that brought Wright a successful career in the Army, travel around the world, retirement as a n O-6, and a subsequent career in guidance and education. At a certain point, he realized he'd never get back to a Virginia classroom

"I enjoyed the Army," he says today, "but I probably most value what it brought to my family."

That family includes wife, Maxine, and their two daughters. They all enjoyed the international travel, living abroad, and exposure to people

and places they might not otherwise have met. One example is what happened to the Wright's older daughter. While he was on active duty, he served on a military commission investigating a cheating scandal at West Point. Part of that work involved working with the schools that fed their graduates into the military academy – military prep schools as well as some very tony private schools, like Peddie School in New Jersey. When the headmaster mentioned the school was having difficulty recruiting African-American attendees, Wright mentioned his daughter was an excellent student. She was tested, interviewed and soon became a student at Peddie, one of the most prestigious coeducational, non-denominational schools on the East Coast. That daughter went on to graduate from the Air Force Academy, retire from a career in the Air Force, and now serves as the head of Veterans Affairs in the state of Arizona. The Wrights' younger daughter passed on a military career for herself,

working in the field of gerontology, but she married a soldier and *their* daughter just graduated from the Air Force Academy, too.

As for Wright himself, even after a successful Army career, there was one more test in store for him. He went to Campbell University working toward a degree in counseling. He took an aptitude test to help him assess what his next professional path should be. There was one certain and clear conclusion – educational guidance and counseling. With that, Wright’s second career was determined when he was hired by the Cumberland County Schools as a guidance counselor. He laughingly says he retired from the school system in 2005 and has worked every year since – but he has pared back his schedule significantly which leaves him more time to devote to what is certainly his *third* calling – volunteerism.

Anyone who has any involvement in the Fayetteville community has almost certainly benefited from Willie Wright’s volunteerism. He’s chaired the Board of Trustees at the Cumberland County Library system, welcomed theater-goers to the Cape Fear Regional Theater, chaired the board of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, served on the Community Concert board – and many, many more, making the list too numerous to be specific. It says it all that he was named a Mover and Shaker in 2007, received the Long Leaf Pine Award in 2014, and is even now a member of Virginia State University’s Hall of Fame.

Of course, Wright is also a member of the local MOAA chapter. He understands full well the

difficulty of recruiting and retaining membership in the organization. He has seen, as an AUSA member, how regulations enacted by Congress that affect recruiting have decimated the local AUSA membership.

“I remember when we had 14,000 AUSA members on Fort Bragg,” he says. “Today, there are no more than 2,000.”

Wright also speaks to the differences among generations of military officers. Without being critical, he muses about how younger officers may have a different interpretation of such virtues as service, commitment and loyalty.

“There are differences in young people,” he says. “And it affects how organizations like MOAA have to recruit and function.”

Wright himself embodies the valuable presence a former military officer can be to a community. All that he’s learned, in Surry, Virginia and thereafter, he shares with those constituencies for whom he volunteers.

“I get more out of volunteering than I contribute,” he says. “I just want to keep on learning and growing.”

This interview is one of a series of features about members of the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA. It is intended to acquaint members with one another and to illustrate the diverse and contributory lives that former military officers lead in our community.

Do you have a business or service you’d like other Cape Fear Chapter members to know about?

One economical way is to advertise in the *Infogram*.

Contact Editor Don Gersh at 910.624.4597 for information.



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

Initial Application [] Renewal [] Date _____

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

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Birth date _____ Spouse's name _____

Status: Retired [] Active Duty [] Former Officer [] Reserve [] National Guard []

Cadet/Midshipman [] Surviving Spouse [] (Please 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 National MOAA member, but intend to join.

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.

Signature: _____

Annual Chapter membership dues: \$20.00 for Regular members \$10.00 for Surviving Spouses

Please mail this application with your check (payable to CFC, MOAA) to:

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA P.O. Box 53621 Fayetteville, NC 28305

IN MEMORIAM

Helen L. Barker

It is with deep regret that we announce that Helen L. Barker one of our surviving spouse members passed away on September 2, 2016. Helen was an active member of our chapter since the death of her husband. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the Barker family during their bereavement.

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“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.”

www.cfmoaa.org



Calendar of Events

11 Oct - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

1 Nov - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

8 Nov - Election Day

11 Nov - Veterans Day

18 Nov - CFC MOAA Annual General Membership Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1800 hours

2 Dec - Myrtle Beach Trip (See flier on page 9)

6 Dec - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

3 Jan - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours