MAY 2019

INFOGRAM

CAPE FEAR FEAR CHAPTER CHARTERED MARCH 22, 1961

An informative monthly newsletter for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)

VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE AT WWW.CFMOAA.ORG

Art Rodriguez retires from 20 years of leadership and service

EDITORIAL BY DON GERSH

THANKS ART … In this 1999 photo, Art Rodriguez begins 20 years in various leadership positions on Cape Fear Chapter's board of directors. (Donated photo)

Retired Army Col. Arturo "Art" Rodriguez has decided to spend a little more time for his wife, Argie; his family, including a great granddaughter, and finally, himself. The decision gives Art and Argie the freedom, the first in decades, to make travel decisions without first checking their "MOAA" calendar of events.

Art may not have served in every elected and appointed (or staff) position, but he certainly had years of experience and institutional memory.

He served as president in 2001 and again in 2005-2006. Besides being the Transition Liaison Officer these past few years, Art and Argie coordinated the annual Christmas trips to Myrtle Beach. It is fitting the traditional road trip ends with Art's retirement.

(Left to right) Arlie Smith, Art and Ed Thomas

As editor of the Infogram, I always tried to give photo credit to those who provided them, whether a high school student shooting for the school paper to a professional photographer for a regional daily.

Art was our "pro photog." I appreciate his dedication to the craft and want to again recognize and thank him for getting the shots I wanted for my publications. SEE more photos on page 3 of Art. And *thank you* Argie for your service to the members of the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA!

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President's Report

Retired Army Maj. Ira M. Watkins
(910) 308-7702 president@cfmoaa.org

Chapter scholarships to ten top cadets

May, the month named after the Greek goddess Maia, is the third and last month of spring. This month provides an array of interesting activities for our chapter. A review of some of the activities to place emphasis on are outlined below as we close out the cooler days of spring and prepare for the warmer days of summer.

The annual scholarship luncheon is one of the first big events for the chapter. Held on Friday, May 10 at The Mash House. This general membership meeting will provide an opportunity for all to participate in a ceremony honoring JROTC and SROTC cadets who have earned a scholarship award from our chapter. A total of ten high school and college-level cadets earned scholarships with the combined value of $16,000.

Additionally, 15 JROTC units will receive financial support grants from the chapter this month to support unfunded training and special equipment needs.

The scholarships and grants being awarded this month will no doubt make an immeasurable impact on the lives of the students in the senior and junior ROTC programs. As a result, I take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to all of you for your steadfast support.

All Chapter members are asked to consider attending the Memorial Day Ceremony at Freedom Memorial Park on Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m.

Our Chapter will place a memorial wreath at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

One of the most special days in May is Mother's Day. Remember, a mother is your first friend, your best friend, your forever friend. Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers, especially our Gold Star Mothers.

Lastly, we are continuing our efforts to increase our presence on social media. If you have a Facebook account or you are establishing one, visit our page and like/share with other.

The link is https://www.facebook.com/CapeFearChapterMOAA/

You can also access us on Facebook by going to our website (www.cfmoaa.org) and clicking on the Facebook icon on the header of the homepage. Do not forget to "like us" and share with your followers. In closing have a super May, enjoy this last month of spring, and "Never Stop Serving."

Ira

The Editor's View

Retired Army Lt. Col. Don Gersh
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Art and Argie Rodriguez

November 2018

Happy Birthday Art!

Art receiving MOAA Leadership Award from Chapter President Juan Chavez

"That smile!"

January 2017

Board meeting February 2016

Photos by Don Gersh

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

Chapter Website http://www.cfmoaa.org/ **MOAA Website** http://www.moaa.org/

MOAA "Take Action" http://www.moaa.org/take Action/

Membership Open to active duty, former,retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services or their surviving spouses.

Chaplain's Thoughts

Retired Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Atkinson
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Mother's Day and Memorial Day

Charm can fool you, and beauty can trick you, but a woman who respects the Lord should be praised. Give her the reward she has earned; she should be praised in public for what she has done. -Proverbs 31:30-31 (New Century Version)

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said. "You're taking a lot of time on this one." And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order?"

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts, all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up and six pairs of hands." The angel shook his head and said. "Six pairs of hands? "It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes." "That's on the standard model?" asked the angel." One pair that sees through closed doors, another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front. "Get some rest tomorrow." "I can't," said God, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. You can imagine what this mother can do or endure." "Can it think?" "Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

"There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model." "It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear." "What's it for?" "It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

As we celebrate Mother's Day on the 12th and Memorial Day on the 27th, let us think about sacrifice. The value of something is often dependent on supply and demand, however, the sacrifice of moms and the blood of the patriot is something that goes way beyond that. Their commitment to suffer hardships to make it better for others is a testimony of selfless service.

May God richly bless the military and the memory of those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms, and may the Lord help us to honor those moms who serve so well. Proverbs 31 says, "A virtuous woman who can find?" Our military wives and those women who serve our great nation are ones I would point to and say they deserve great honor.

Kudos to our military in general and especially those who died for our freedoms. And kudos to our moms, may they be praised. Blessings to all of you. I hope to see you at our next function, the scholarship luncheon, which is one of my favorite CFC MOAA meetings.

Tim

Chapter News

3rd Vice President Marty Williams giving soon-to-be-commissioned senior ROTC cadets from Campbell University a presentation about the benefits of belonging to MOAA. He and President Ira Watkins presented every cadet with a Gold Bar Packet.

Cadet Thomas Duclos (Right) from Fayetteville State University is one of the 50 Cadets from the Campbell University ROTC Battalion to receive a Gold Bar Packet from the Cape Fear Chapter.

Marty has the honor of presenting the second lieutenant's rank on behalf of the chapter. *(Photo by Ira M. Watkins)*

Cadet Lindsey Pritchard of Methodist University, 2018 recipient of the Meinhardt Scholarship Award, was commissioned this month and was selected a Distinguished Military Graduate and one of two to receive the Pallas Athene Award. The award is given annually to the top two outstanding female senior Army ROTC Cadets in the country. *(Rachael Riley, Fayetteville Observer)*

Ira and Marty are shown with cadets from Fayetteville State University's Air Force Detachment who received Gold Bar Packets. Cadets pictured from left to right are Nathan Billman, Jessica Smith, Aleksandra Mackie, Jake Trotter, and Phil Locklear Jr.

Attached is a photo of Marty Williams presenting the MOAA Leadership Medal and Certificate to Cadet Kevin Atkins, Fayetteville State University Air Force ROTC. *(Photo by Ira M. Watkins)*

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER

MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America

General Membership Meeting
JROTC Scholarships Awards
Luncheon

The Mash House Restaurant
4150 Sycamore Dairy Rd.

1130 hours, Friday, May 10, 2019

Cost: $20.00 Per Person
(Tax & Gratuity Included)

Attire: Dressy Casual

Menu

Chopped Salad
Herb Roasted Chicken, Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Seasonal Veggies
Dinner Rolls

Dessert: Peach Cobbler

Drinks: Water, Iced Tea, and Coffee

RSVP NLT May 7, 2019

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

Rich Underwood, 2933 Wedgeview Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28306

Reservations Request

*Name*_____

Name of Guests

_____

_____

_____

_____

*Number of Reservations*_____

X $20.00 = _____

MOAA News

MOAA'S BEST COMMUNICATORS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award contest!

In the 2018 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award contest, MOAA affiliates competed in two categories of competition: print and e-newsletters and websites. Councils and chapters received extra credit for communication efforts that went above and beyond established standards, with additional points being awarded in the print and e-newsletter category to affiliates that published their own membership directory and recruiting materials. In the websites category, affiliates that communicated with their members via email networks and social media channels received extra credit.

All told, 93 councils and chapters received five-star awards for their exemplary communication efforts, and 10 councils and chapters received four-star awards for their outstanding efforts.

For the sixth consecutive year, Juan Chavez was recognized for his outstanding work receiving 5-star communications awards for the chapter website (www.cfmoaa.org) and eNewsletter (*Gram of Information)*.

Act Now: Tell Congress Not to Dismantle Military Medicine MAY 1, 2019

By Capt. Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret) Director of Government Relations, Health Affairs

First and foremost, military medicine is a national treasure, and its importance to our country cannot be overstated. The military has a long history of producing medical innovations which have resulted in great benefit for civilian medicine. The progress made on the battlefield during the past 18 years of war represents a transformation of extraordinary medical achievement for the United States and the world. However, now there is tangible movement to dismantle this national treasure and potentially damage it beyond repair - and this takedown has been insidious. Thus, it is a fair question to ask, is the true intention to outsource military medicine?

The Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget calls for the elimination of about 18,000 military medical positions. This is roughly 20% of the military's medical force. This reduction in medical capacity seems to have been developed absent a medical readiness requirement analysis in support of combatant operational plans. Instead, the cuts appear to be based on a market or network analysis in the vicinity of installations. A 20% force reduction constitutes a qualitative change to the military health system, which will cause unintended consequences and may affect all of American medical care. These consequences will be felt in the areas of combat casualty care capabilities; recruitment and retention; and in the already taxed civilian health care sector. These changes will not only dramatically affect currently serving troops. Retirees could see, and many are already experiencing, reductions in care, including pharmacy services. Many TRICARE Prime enrollees are already being a pushed into the civilian network for all of their care. This may be just the beginning.

MOAA is looking for answers to the following key questions and more: Surge capacity – can military medical departments still support operational plans, medical requirements, combat operations, humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions? Simultaneously? How will the reductions affect recruitment and retention of military medical professionals to include the reserve component? Will there be adverse effects on retention for each of the parent services? (The military health benefit is a key factor for military families who are making re-enlistment decisions). What is the stateside-to-overseas dwell ratios for deployments? Are they acceptable and predictable levels, or will the reductions result in more frequent deployments? What will be the effect on the Graduate Medical Education programs (the pipeline of physicians)? Not to mention the quality… What will be the effect on civilian medical communities associated with closure or downsizing capabilities of military treatment facilities?

Proceeding without full analyses and transparency could leave the military community insufficiently sized or with inexperienced medical personnel stateside to support overseas deployments, combat operations, and humanitarian missions. MOAA asks that you alert Congress to this issue by asking them to include provisions in the upcoming 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directing the DoD to: Develop metrics to measure long-term impacts on military readiness, family member readiness, graduate medical education, and combat casualty care capabilities. Delay medical force restructuring implementation until approved metrics are implemented and can be monitored. Develop a phased implementation plan with milestones for each phase to be met if and before advancing phases. Provide Congress with a full assessment prior to any proposed large-scale billed reprogramming initiative.

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 ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ (Please fill in the above information but show Your deceased spouse's rank and branch of

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

I am not ☐ a National MOAA member, but will consider joining.

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

If a new applicant, how did you learn about the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA?_____

_____

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

Revised Nov 2016

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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...

visit our website at:
www.cfmoaa.org

Calendar of Events

May

7 - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1000 hours

10 May - ROTC Scholarship Awards General Membership Meeting/Luncheon, 1130 hours, The Mash House

12 - Mother's Day
18 - Armed Forces Day
27 - Memorial Day 1000 hours, Freedom Memorial Park

Jun

4 - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1000 hours

Jul

2 - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1000 hours

NEVER STOP SERVING