



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER MOAA

"INFOGRAM" NEWSLETTER

An informative monthly newsletter for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01). Military Officers Association of America and its affiliate Cape Fear Chapter are nonpartisan.

Volume 2026 Issue 3

FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY, RETIRED, AND FORMER OFFICERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES

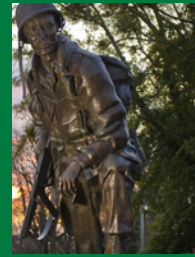


"65 Years Young"

*To the Cape Fear Chapter of the
Military Officer's Association of
America*



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 3rd Chapter Board
of Directors Meeting**

**March 14th "Awards &
Recognition" Meeting**

**March 17th Saint Patrick's
Day**

**HAPPY
PATRICK'S
DAY!**



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



MOAA's online Legislative Action Center:
www.moaa.org/takeaction

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cape Fear MOAA will celebrate our birthday on March 14th during our annual awards ceremony. We will celebrate 65 years of serving and advocating for service members, Veterans and their families. MOAA has been instrumental as the united voice to legislators advocating for earned benefits. Cape Fear members are part of that united front to preserve earned benefits.

During our March meeting at Fayetteville State University, we will recognize members for their contributions to our Veteran and Active-Duty communities along with those to our chapter. If you know someone who has been an active volunteer on behalf of these communities, let me or a board member know so we can recognize their work among us. We want to celebrate these volunteers' works with one another. And, a special thanks to the FSU USAF detachment for sponsoring our event on campus.

Our chapter is aging, and we want to identify some of our younger members who have the gifts, talents, abilities and willingness to assume roles of greater responsibility. If you are one of our newer members who would like to get more engaged in our chapter activities, you may contact me or one of our board members. We covet your input and participation.

We also want to grow our chapter membership. There are MOAA national members in our Cape Fear area who are not members of our chapter. If you have eligible friends or associates who are not members of our chapter, please invite them to one of our events or to our casual get-together lunches. We want to meet them and share our chapter vision and mission with them.

Finally, I thank you members for your work in the local communities and a special thanks to our board members who have worked tirelessly to enhance participation, community visibility and advocacy. I deeply appreciate the care and concern that members have for one another. It is evidence of a healthy, vital core of folks who share in one another's lives together.

I hope to see you on March 14th as we celebrate our birthday and member achievements.

Never Stop Serving.

Greg

Gregory K. Williamson
President, Cape Fear Chapter MOAA

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Legislation/ Recruiting
By
George Bond

The state legislative priorities are indicated below.

1. Secure increase funding for the North Carolina Scholarship for children of Wartime Veterans (Wartime Scholarship) which was reduced by 25%.
2. Expand property tax relief for North Carolina Veterans by supporting H341.
3. Have the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to rebuild or repair Veterans home in Fayetteville. It was closed in 2023 and review all 5 state Veterans' homes.
4. Advance HB 288 POW/MIA Flag/State Bldgs. & Schools, not just federal buildings.
5. Expand support and resources for Veterans and dependents affected by toxic exposure.
6. The establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in ALL North Carolina counties and Jurisdiction, coupled with increased funding to adequately support Veterans Suicide Prevention programs at local community level.

It would be wonderful if all current members recruited one new member this month. If you know a friend or neighbor that would like to become a Chapter member, please let me know. All Chapter Members are recruiters. Thank you for your assistance.

Remember to
Recruit!

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WHY JOIN?



As champions of the uniformed services community, MOAA is dedicated to protecting your hard-earned benefits while providing resources, programs, content, and other support to make an active, impactful difference in your life and the lives of your family.

Our identity is defined by getting results on Capitol Hill, and we invite all officers and surviving spouses to join us in this critical fight. By becoming a dues-paying MOAA member, you will help fuel our ongoing advocacy efforts on your behalf.

For state and local issues, MOAA chapters lead the way. Find camaraderie with a purpose by joining your local chapter. Scan the QR code for more information or reach out to your local chapter.



A LEGACY OF ADVOCACY SUCCESS

Worked to establish TRICARE For Life in 2001 and to defeat multiple enrollment fee proposals since

Championed a historic pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers in 2024

Helped secure needed support for veterans and caregivers via passage of the Dole Act in 2024

Other legislative wins we have played a critical role in accomplishing over the years — further demonstrating why MOAA has been named a Top Lobbyist by *The Hill* 18 years in a row:

- Modernized the GI bill for the 21st century
- Expanded benefits for veterans harmed by burn pits through the PACT Act
- Repealed the SBP-DIC Offset ("Widows' Tax")
- Enhanced protections for families residing in military housing
- Secured back pay for federal recognition of promotions
- Defeated the "COLA minus 1 Percent" reduction in retired pay
- Halted military treatment facility downsizing
- Boosted compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability or greater

STAY INFORMED ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND MORE

Legislative Action Center

Our Legislative Action Center empowers you to engage with your lawmakers on issues impacting the uniformed services and veteran communities. Learn more at moaa.quorum.us.

MOAA Newsletter & Military Officer Magazine

MOAA offers a weekly e-newsletter with updates on legislation, benefits, finance, and more, plus a monthly magazine featuring in-depth coverage of military life and policy issues.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER:

CHAPTER NAME

CHAPTER LEAD

CHAPTER WEBSITE

CHAPTER LEAD CONTACT

Military Officers Association of America | 201 N Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314 | (800) 234-6622 | www.moaa.org

YOUR LOCAL MOAA CHAPTER



CHAPTER NAME

A place for MOAA members.

MOAA has an established presence in our nation's capital, but the heart of our association is in local chapters. Across the country, local chapters bring together servicemembers from every branch of service—active duty, former, retired, and Guard and Reserve.

At every stage of your life and career, you'll enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow officers and their spouses, with the opportunity for local networking, community service, advocacy at your local level, special events, and much more.

Connect with fellow members at the next MOAA chapter meeting.

To attend, please RSVP by emailing the Chapter Lead. Their contact information is listed on the front page.

NEXT MEETING DATE

VENUE NAME

START TIME

ADDRESS

MEETING TOPIC/PROGRAM

ROOM/BUILDING

TOOL

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By
Bill Bell

The Cape Fear Chapter  MOAA

SAVE
the
DATE

FOR

**ANNUAL CHAPTER
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, March 14, 2026
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

***Rudolph Jones Student Center
Fayetteville State University***



SECRETARY

By
Steven Cage

Chapter Life Membership Update: In February the Board of Directors approved the concept of developing a distinctive numbered metal membership card for those who become Life Members of our Cape Fear Chapter. As this is written in late February, we have 25 Chapter members who qualify for the card. This includes 9 members who achieved that status by being 90 years or older and will become part of the initial tranche of life members. As our Life Membership program continues, cards will continue to be provided to those who achieve that status. Those who want to become life members before they reaching their 90th birthday (when it is free) can access the Chapter website (<https://cfmoaa.org/>) and go to membership renewal or go directly to <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cape-fear-chapter-payments/items> and find the appropriate age payment button for Officer members or Surviving Spouses. Once there, follow the prompts to pay. One note: if you have (or think you have) previously paid annual dues in advance (including 2026) and want to apply that to a life membership send a note to capefearmoaa@gmail.com to help clarify how much you will owe before making the payment.

Annual Dues Reminder (skip if you're a Life Member or current through at least 2026): We still have a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written, that includes more than 30 officer and Surviving Spouse members who were current in 2025 who have not updated their membership for 2026 as well as 40 plus members who have not renewed in two or more years. The Chapter membership year goes from January through December, so those who prefer to pay annually and who haven't yet renewed for 2026 already, please renew NOW (see Renewal Options below)! Annual dues for 2026 remain \$20 for officer members and \$10 for Surviving Spouses. Reminders will continue to be sent as needed for as long as you wish to remain a member. As with most organizations that serve and advocate, keeping an active membership is crucial. Doing so not only keeps our Chapter viable, but helps us better influence state and federal legislation affecting the military. Politicians understand numbers; the larger they are, the more they pay attention. An active membership also helps with our various Chapter service projects and other activities. There are two ways to renew. The easiest and fastest way to renew is by going online (<https://cfmoaa.org/membership/>) and clicking on "Renew online HERE" to follow the prompts and add your card data, which takes less than five minutes. Or, if you prefer, you can send a check made out to CFC MOAA to CFC MOAA, PO Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



CHAPLAIN

By
Timothy Atkinson

“The Heart of the Matter”

Text: “What over your heart with all diligence for out of it flows the issues of life.” Prov. 4:23

Jesus pointed to the heart of a person and said that this was the place to start. I define the heart is the very essence of a person. It is the spirit, the deep motivations of the individual. When we ask Jesus to take our heart we are talking about the very core of who we are. When I was in the Army I remember the warrior ethos that was about having our very heart in the mission of defending our country. Yes, it included the soul and the body but if you didn't have your heart in it, it showed. An example, as a chaplain my NCOIC saw his subordinate just going around the unit walking like he had no purpose. My sergeant corrected the junior Soldier and told him that his lack of motivation was evident to all. What is our motivation?

1. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” Matt. 5:8 Our main scripture from the book of wisdom, Proverbs, says to watch over our hearts diligently. We must make the Lord our focus, just like the soldier or any military makes the mission and commanders intent his/or her focus. We have seen before the scripture in Timothy which says that a soldier does not get involved in civilian things because he wants to please his commander. (2 Tim. 2:4) Singleness of focus or purity of heart is the way that we will see or experience God and His plan for us. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says that God will hear us when we seek Him with all of our hearts.

1. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 The Lord is looking for a true and real relationship with us with true love in our hearts, and throughout our whole life and being.

My testimony is all about love and my realization that I did not love God. When I met the Lord as my personal savior, I truly loved Him. 1 John 1:19 We love Him because He first loved us. Romans 5:5 says the Holy Spirit has shed the love of God in our hearts. Let's read it.

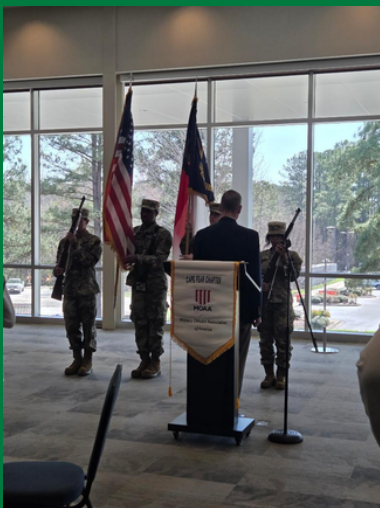
1. The heart that is receptive to the Lord, His Word, love for Him and all people, then that person is great soil for an abundant harvest. James 4:7-8 says after resisting the devil, we must draw near to the Lord and He will draw near to us. When He is with us and His presence is upon us, then we are abiding in Him and bearing much fruit, see John 15.

When we are born again and full of the Holy Spirit, praying in tongues, submitted to the Lord and hiding His Word in our hearts, then we can have a heart that is in worship to the Lord and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As we are in the Lent season, let us turn our hearts away from things that do not matter and focus on those things that are of eternal significance.

Conclusion: Lord purify our hearts, let me be as pure and precious gold and silver in my heart towards you ole Lord. Help us as veterans to be a part of the answer and make an impact each day that we live. Thank you for CFC MOAA and each of its members, bless and keep them in Jesus' name.

Recent Event

ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
March 14, 2026



WEBMASTER

By
Joe Tichich

To access the MOAA Take Action (**Legislative Action Center**), go to the main MOAA website (www.moaa.org) and log in to your account; this online portal lets members find legislators, track bills, and send messages to Congress about key military-related issues like healthcare, housing, and spouse employment. You'll need to be a Premium or Life Member for full access to these advocacy tools, as basic accounts have limited features.

Steps to Access the Legislative Action Center:

Go to MOAA.org: Open your web browser and navigate to MOAA.org.

Log In: Use your credentials to log in to your MOAA account.

Find the Action Center: Look for links to "Legislative Action Center" or "Take Action" on the site, often found in the advocacy or membership sections.

Start Taking Action: Once logged in, you can use features like:

Sending pre-written messages to your representatives.

Finding your elected officials' contact info.

Tracking MOAA's priority legislation

Key Things to Remember:

Membership: Most robust features require a Premium or Life membership, so upgrade if you're a basic member.

Stay Logged In: Enable cookies on your browser to stay logged in for easier access to campaigns.

BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!

March Birthdays*

COL (USA, Ret.) Rudolph Baker
LTC (USA, Ret.) Efrain Delacruz
MAJ (USA) Jesse Erickson, Sr.
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Phil Flynn
CPT (USA, Ret.) Bobby R. Gay
LTC (USA, Ret.) George W. Glann, Jr.
LTC (USA) Kenneth M. Godwin, Jr. Godwin
LTC (USA, Ret.) Christopher J. Grates
1LT (USA) Rayanne M. Herrera
CW2(USA, Ret.) Carl E. Mitchell
LTC (USA, Ret.) Charles E. Pimble
Mrs. Phyllis Smith
LTC (USA, Ret.) Nathan Smyth
CW4 (USA, Ret.) Don Talbot
COL (USA, Ret.) Dennis P. Walko
COL (USA, Ret.) Greg Williamson

*If your birthday is in March and you didn't see your name (or need to update your rank or status), please send a note to capfearmoaa@gmail.com so we can update our records.



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