



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 4

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



*April Showers and Flowers*



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 5th Easter Sunday**

**April 6th Easter Monday**

**April 7th Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 21st "Get2Know" Luncheon**



[info@cfmoaa.org](mailto:info@cfmoaa.org)



[www.cfmoaa.org](http://www.cfmoaa.org)



MOAA's online Legislative Action Center:  
[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Cape Fear Chapter,

I wish you all a blessed and happy Easter!

A special note of congratulations to our annual award recipients at our March awards luncheon. Thank you and well done! And a special thanks to the USAF staff at FSU for the wonderful support of our event. It was a joy to have the color guard with us.

Spring is here, and we have much to look forward to as a Chapter. May 1<sup>st</sup> we gather to celebrate our 2026 scholarship recipients. We hope that you can join us as we introduce these young men and women who are seeking careers in service to our nation.

MOAA National is preparing for the annual Advocacy in Action campaign in April with our legislators in Washington, D.C. They are seeking support of the following legislative actions:  
Ending the 'Wounded Veteran Tax'

The Bill: The Major Richard Star Act would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.

Protect Pay of ALL Who Serve During Federal Shutdowns

The Bill: The Shutdown Fairness Act would protect the pay of armed forces members (to include Drill Status Reservists) during a federal funding lapse.

Protect Veterans From 'Claim Sharks'

The Bill: The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act would restore criminal penalties for unregulated actors who solicit or receive fees to "help" veterans secure VA benefits.  
Improve Access to Care at Military Facilities.

The Bill: The Military Care, Access, Reporting and Evaluation (CARE) Act would require a standardized digital platform beneficiaries could use to submit and track access-to-care issues at military treatment facilities.

You may support any of these initiatives by registering with the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC) on the MOAA homepage. Prepared letters are available for you to send to your respective federal legislators.

Thank you, Cape Fear Chapter, for your ongoing service and support of our military members and their families - active, reserve, veterans and retirees.

Never Stop Serving

Greg

Gregory K. Williamson  
President, Cape Fear Chapter MOAA

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

By  
Bill Bell

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*An Elegant Affair honoring high  
achieving ROTC and JROTC cadets  
and their families*

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 11:30 am

**Smith Lake Recreation Center**

2922 Smith Lake Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28311

**THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER**





## 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](mailto: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.

CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS  
March 14, 2026

Several chapter members were recognized for special acts and/or contributions to the chapter during CY 2025 at the Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon on 14 March 2026.

Colonel (Ret) Richard A. Underwood was presented the Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award for his sustained outstanding service as Chapter President for two consecutive 2-year terms.

Teresa Vaughn was conferred Honorary Membership in the Chapter for her sustained contributions to the chapter over several years.

Other chapter members (listed in alphabetical order) were awarded certificates for the following:

Tim Atkinson

For serving with distinction as the Chapter's Chaplain by extending pastoral outreach as well as supporting our community outreach and scholarship programs.

Eli Ballard

For serving with distinction on the Membership Committee and in community outreach.

Bill Bell

For serving with distinction as the Chapter's Second Vice President including the development of great programs and community outreach support.

George Bond

For serving with distinction as the Chapter's First Vice President and expert liaison with our Community and Military partners.

Bruce Brown

For serving with distinction in support of the Golf Tournament Working Group as well ongoing outreach work.

Steve Cage

For serving with distinction as the Chapter's Secretary and extraordinary efforts in updating our membership rolls and fielding our new Life Membership program.

Juan Chavez

For serving the Chapter with distinction as Assistant Treasurer and as the "Go to" guy for Chapter financial and administrative requirements.

Jerry Croll

For serving with distinction on our Golf Tournament Working Group and scholarship committee along with work on community outreach grants.

Ken Godwin

For serving with distinction on our ROTC scholarship committee and in community outreach.

Mondrey McLaurin

For serving with distinction to date as the Golf Co-Tournament Director.

Hal Thacker

For rejuvenating and serving as Editor of the Chapter's monthly newsletter.

CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS (cont'd)  
March 14, 2026

Joe Tichich  
Presentation of the President's Service Award.

Trina Tiffany  
For serving with distinction on our Golf Tournament Working Group along with past and ongoing support as a tournament fundraiser.

David Vroom  
For serving with distinction as the Chapter Treasurer as well as ongoing Chapter liaison with Fayetteville.

Marty Williams  
For serving with distinction as the Chapter's Third Vice President including leading the ROTC scholarship committee along with supporting local ROTC and community outreach programs.

Lee Young  
For serving with distinction in support of the Golf Tournament Working Group as well ongoing Chapter liaison with Fort Bragg.





## CHAPLAIN

By  
Timothy Atkinson

### "His Pain Your Gain"

When we think about the suffering of the Lord we cannot help but reflect about how deep that suffering was. Looking at a prophecy in Isaiah 53 that opens up the whole picture of how the Lord Jesus bled and died in order to be the sin offering for us to give us access to God the Father. This was the greatest love display in all of history, and Isaiah predicted it 700 years before it happened. Crucifixion was such an agonizing death, to imagine Christ doing that for us is such a mystery of grace.

With this great news no wonder Easter is the zenith of celebrations for Christians. As we approach this special day and the week before, holy week, we celebrate the mercy of God. May you and your family find joy in this magnificent sacrifice for the world, and the triumph of the resurrection over evil and sin. I can identify with the verses in Isaiah 53:5-6 saying that Jesus took upon Himself my sins. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." What a love the Father has for us. God needed nothing, in His nature; He is all sufficient, yet in order to have a family of sons and daughters, He sent His Son to be the sacrifice for all of the sins of humanity.

It is in that spirit of sacrificial service that I see the Cape Fear MOAA staff and volunteers serving in order to make things better for others. I'm so very proud of you and care about all of our MOAA family. Never stop serving is indeed lived out by you every day.

In conclusion, Isaiah 53 goes on to say, "I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong." We become the great and strong because of His triumph over death, hell, and the grave. His pain is truly our gain and for that I am eternally grateful. May God richly bless you and your family during this holy season. I must add that we keep our military in our prayers during this time of war, claiming Psalms 91 over them and their family members and thanking God for their brave and heroic service.

## WEBMASTER

By  
Joe Tichich

## BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!

### April Birthdays\*

To access the MOAA Take Action (**Legislative Action Center**), go to the main MOAA website ([www.moaa.org](http://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.

COL (USA, Ret.) Alan Babigan  
COL (USA, Ret.) James Baker  
COL (USA, Ret.) Eli Ballard  
CW4 (USN Ret.) Lester Beery  
COL (USA, Ret.) Steve Cage  
CW2 (USA Ret.) Dwain Courtright  
COL (USA, Ret.) Robert Covalucci  
CW3 (USA, Ret.) James Easingwood  
LCDR (USCG, Ret.) Larry Hammond  
MG (USA, Ret.) Brian Mennes  
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Henry Simpson  
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Fred Stein

\*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](mailto:capfearmoaa@gmail.com) so we can update our records.



Our Proud Sponsors



**AAFMAA**<sup>®</sup>

COMPASSION • TRUST • PROTECTION

AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust LLC

1-910-307-3500/

WEALTHMANAGEMENT@AAFMAA.COM

