



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.

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

Volume 2026 Issue 9

Observation of Patriot Day

On September 11th, 2026, will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93. Patriot Day is a day of remembrance for all of the patriots that gave their lives on this historically significant day in American history.



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1st Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting

September 7th Labor Day

September 11th Patriot
Day

September 19th Annual
Golf Tournament



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cape Fear Chapter,

September is a consequential month in our chapter's annual "lifecycle". It is the month when many of the programs that we support, that is, Junior ROTC and University ROTC programs are beginning their new academic years. Twenty-five high school JROTC programs and four universities receive our financial support. Our annual golf tournament is the primary source from which we derive our income to assist these programs and several other veteran service support projects. I thank all of you who have generously donated already, and I ask members to consider a donation if you've not done so. You may go to our webpage: <https://cfmoaa.org/golf/> for more information and details. You may mail your donations (\$85 for a golfer, \$150 for a hole sign, or \$320 for a foursome or whatever you choose) to us at:

Cape Fear Chapter MOAA
ATTN: Golf
PO BOX 53621
Fayetteville, NC 28305

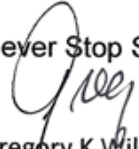
We also will set our schedule for our partner project with Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Build. We've asked for two days this year, a Friday and Saturday, in October. We will publish those dates as soon as we coordinate them with the folks at the Fayetteville Habitat for Humanity. So, watch for emails announcing the available dates and number of volunteers for each day.

I encourage you to check our legislative priorities. Our local chapter is encouraged by the renewed interest in refurbishing or rebuilding our local Veterans home. As you are inclined, speak with your local elected officials to encourage them to stay engaged with the project. We want our veterans in need to have the best care available, and many of them require the kind of care provided by a veterans home. Remember to check the MOAA.ORG legislative action link (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>) as well to send your federal legislators letters regarding congressional actions that you choose to support.

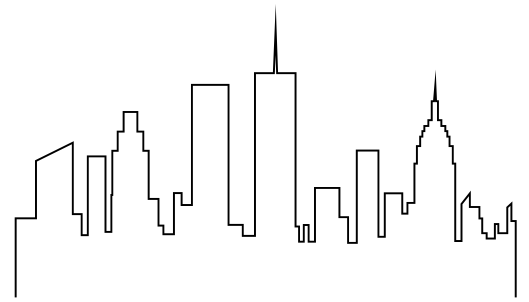
Finally, put a save the date on your calendars for our annual meeting on November 14th at the Iron Mike Conference Center. We will elect our new officers for the next two years. Your input matters, and we want to hear from as many of you as possible.

Thanks, again, for all that you do for one another and for our communities.

Never Stop Serving.


Gregory K Williamson
Colonel, USA Retired

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!

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By
Bill Bell



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 19, 2026

How do I support or sign up for the tournament?

You may send a check to:
CAPE FEAR CHAPTER MOAA
ATTN: GOLF TOURNAMENT
PO BOX 53621
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305

PLAYING GOLFERS:

PLAYER #1 _____

PLAYER #2 _____

PLAYER #3 _____

PLAYER #4 _____

POC PHONE# _____

EMAIL _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

CHECK-IN TIME IS 11:00 am, September 19, 2026

Buffet opens at 11:30 am, September 19, 2026

SHOTGUN START AT 1:00 pm, September 19, 2026

AUTOMOBILE TAGS MUST BE CURRENT TO ENTER

Details at the link below: <https://cfmoaa.org/golf/>

**WANT TO PAY ONLINE? SCAN THE QR
CODE BELOW**



"Four"





SECRETARY

By
Steven Cage

Chapter Elections and Appointments: The Cape Fear Chapter will hold its biennial elections in November. The four elected officers are the President and the 1st (Membership), 2nd (Programs), and 3rd (ROTC) Vice Presidents. Appointed Officers, who are also members of the Chapter's Board of Directors, include the Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Chaplain/Personal Affairs Officer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Legal Advisor. Those who may be interested in serving or in getting more information on particular positions can send a note, subject: Elections, to capefearmoaa@gmail.com.

All Chapter members know that organizations of any type take a substantial effort to lead and administer in order to successfully accomplish their missions. You can help. While there will always be reasons not to volunteer, many of which may be significant and/or valid, consider instead how much the CFC can benefit by sharing your qualities and capabilities. If committing to a two-year-long office is too much at this point in your life given what else you may have going on, let us know if you are willing and able to help by participating in shorter-term projects or efforts. Our Chapter membership currently spans 60 years between the oldest and youngest members and is split among those who still serve (or support those serving) or otherwise work and those on the partially or fully retired side of the spectrum. While we typically do well in getting volunteers for our single day Chapter projects like supporting Habitat for Humanity or the Scholarship Golf Tournament, there are other Chapter activities we could use some help with. Please consider sharing some of your available time with the Chapter and let us know what may work for you at capefearmoaa@gmail.com.

Chapter Life Membership Update: Chapter Life membership cards have now been presented to LTC (USA, Ret.) John Hazlett, LTC (USA, Ret.) Dennis Franken, CW4 (USA, Ret.) Don Talbot, Mrs. Lois Ives, Mrs. Carol Ivey, Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret.) Joe Tcich, and LTC (USA, Ret.) Tim Atkinson. President Williamson expects to present the remainder to the other Life Members listed below at upcoming Chapter events. Those Life Members with cards waiting for them are COL (USA, Ret.) Rudolph Baker, Mrs. Ilse Bass, CW3 (USA, Ret.) James Fleming, MAJ (USA, Ret.) Phil Flynn, COL (USA, Ret.) John Hermann, MAJ (USA Ret.) Henry Simpson, COL (USA, Ret.) David Baggett, Mrs. Tammy Beshlin, LTC (USA, Ret.) Bruce Brown, LTC (USA, Ret.) David Cheney, COL (USA, Ret.) John Dunnigan, MAJ (USA, Ret.) Tim Fitzpatrick, LTC (USA, Ret.) George Glann, Mrs. Michelle Lane, LTC (USA, Ret.) Art Macaldao, MAJ (USA, Ret.) Warren "Ron" O'Brien, LTC (USA, Ret.) Frank Stump III, and MAJ (USA, Ret.) Byron "Lee" Young.

Cards for the next group of Life Members will be ordered later. These new Life Members include CW4 Harold Thacker, CPT David Vroom, COL Stan Dodson, COL Eli Ballard, Dorothy Hinrichs, and COL Steve Cage.

Those who want to become life members before reaching their 90th birthday (when CFC Life Membership becomes 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 or Surviving Spouse members. Once there, follow the prompts to pay. (Continued on next page)



SECRETARY (CONTINUED)

One note: if you have (or think you may 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. Life membership payments can also be paid by check per the annual dues directions below.

Annual Dues Reminder (feel free to skip this if you're a Life Member or current through at least 2027): In a couple months we'll begin sending renewal reminders for calendar year 2027 to our annual members. Feel free to renew now and beat the rush. On the other hand, believe it or not, 2026 is more than half over and we still have a sizable number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written in mid-August, there are 44 officer and Surviving Spouse members who are in arrears on our membership rolls. 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! Annual dues for 2026 remain \$20 for officer members and \$10 for Surviving Spouses. Those members currently behind on dues may also wish to consider renewing for 2027 (or further in the future) at the same time to guarantee doing so at the current dues prices (\$20 or \$10). Reminders will continue to be sent as needed while you're on our membership rolls unless you advise us that you've moved out of the area or otherwise changed your mind about being a CFC member. Please update us at capefearmoaa@gmail.com.

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.

Renewals: 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.





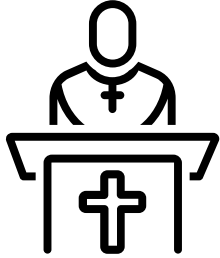
MOAA Surviving Spouses
by
Sylvia James

I have been a surviving spouse since 2005 and a MOAA member since 2009. I'm a mother of three adult daughters (ages 36, 32, 26) and grandmother to one grandson, age 3. I have found that military benefits and entitlements while having been a dependent of an active duty officer were readily offered and explained to me, but often the moment your spouse passes away that immediate connection is lost. I have found MOAA to be a tremendous resource in learning and maintaining my benefits as a widow. I encourage you to keep your membership current and have an active subscription to the monthly MOAA magazine. Changes to your surviving benefits change more than you know and it is important to stay active and vigilant. To stay up to date please check out the MOAA website www.MOAA.org/spouse.





CHAPLAIN
By
Timothy Atkinson



LIVING IN THE TRUTH

JOHN 8:31-32 TO THE JEWS WHO HAD BELIEVED HIM, JESUS SAID, "IF YOU HOLD TO MY TEACHING, YOU ARE REALLY MY DISCIPLES. THEN YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS TO ALL. I HOPE TO SEE SOME OF YOU AT THE GOLF FUNDRAISER ON 19 SEPT. TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A VERY MEANINGFUL DEVOTION ON TRUTH.

DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING IN THE TRUTH. SO MANY THINGS IN THE WORLD ARE ABOUT A DISTORTION OF REALITY. SATAN'S FIRST TEMPTATION WAS TO PUT DOUBT IN ADAM AND EVE'S MIND BY ASKING, "HAS GOD NOT SAID YOU CAN EAT OF ANY TREE OF THE GARDEN? THEN SAYING YOU SHALL NOT SURELY DIE AFTER SAYING THEY WOULD BE LIKE GOD. THEY WERE ALREADY LIKE GOD; THEY WERE CREATED IN HIS IMAGE. JESUS TELLS US TO TRULY BE HIS DISCIPLE WE WOULD CONTINUE IN HIS WORD, THEN THAT DWELLING IN THE PAGES OF GOD'S WORD WOULD BRING US TO AN EVER DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S TRUTH AND THAT TRUTH WOULD SET US FREE. JESUS' TEACHINGS ARE IN ALL OF HOLY SCRIPTURE. HE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD.

WE CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN THE USA AND RIGHTLY SO, OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED ON PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD THAT HAS BROUGHT FREEDOM ON AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL. WE AS A PEOPLE AND AS INDIVIDUALS MUST DWELL IN GOD'S WORD IN HOLY SCRIPTURES AND DO OUR PART TO STAY FREE OURSELVES FROM THE BONDAGES OF SIN, AND DO OUR PART TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY FREE. TRUTH IS SO VERY POWERFUL.

JESUS SPOKE THE ABOVE PASSAGE TO THE JEWISH LEADERS WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE FREE BUT THEY HAD ROME AS THEIR TASK MASTERS. THE REBELLION OF THEIR FLESH HAS GOTTEN THEM INTO BONDAGE NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY BUT SPIRITUALLY. FOR 400 YEARS GOD WAS SILENT BETWEEN THE LAST BOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND JESUS' COMING. HOWEVER, HERE WAS JESUS ON THE SCENE THE TRUTH HIMSELF; AND HE WAS TELLING THEM THAT THEY CAN BE HIS DISCIPLES AND KNOW TRUE FREEDOM BY KNOWING THE TRUTH. NOT ABOUT BEING FREE FROM ROME BUT BEING FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL THROUGH FAITH IN HIM AND THE WORD OF ALMIGHTY GOD HIS FATHER. THIS FREEDOM IS EVER INCREASING AS WE GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN THE BIBLE AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.

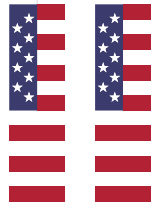
THE BIBLE SAYS TO NOT LIE TO ONE ANOTHER SINCE YOU HAVE LAID ASIDE THE OLD SELF WITH ITS EVIL PRACTICES. WHEN WE LIE, WE COMPROMISE OUR INTEGRITY AND DON'T WALK IN THE TRUTH. JESUS TOLD PILOT THAT ALL THOSE WHO LOVE TRUTH ARE HIS FOLLOWERS. LOVING THE TRUTH IS PUTTING ON THE BELT THAT HOLDS ALL OF THE OTHER ARMOUR IN PLACE. PILOT SAID, "WHAT IS TRUTH?" SO MANY ARE CYNICS LIKE HIM, BUT WE CAN BE BELIEVERS AND LIVE A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

MOREOVER, I ALONG WITH JESUS SAY, "THE DEVIL IS A LIAR." JESUS SAID THAT THAT IS HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE. WE MUST LIVE IN THE REVELATION KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND THE TRUTH OF THE FREEDOM THAT WE HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST. AS CAPE FEAR VALLEY MOAA CHAPTER MEMBERS LET'S STAND FOR TRUTH AND REJECT ANY CONFUSION ABOUT IT. TRUTH DOES NOT CHANGE BECAUSE IT FINDS ITS SOURCE IN GOD. JESUS PRAYED BEFORE GOING TO THE CROSS FOR HIS DISCIPLES AND ALSO FOR US. HE SAYS, "SANCTIFY THEM IN YOUR TRUTH, YOUR WORD IS TRUTH," JOHN 17:17. TO BE SET APART OR SANCTIFIED IN TRUTH IS TO KNOW WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND THAT WE ARE NEW CREATIONS, BORN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. HE LOVES US AS HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS. WE CAN LIVE IN HIS GRACE AND PEACE AND ENJOY HIS PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES A HOLY PEOPLE.

IN CONCLUSION, LET'S WALK IN TRUTH AND RENEW OUR MINDS TO THE HIGHER REALITIES OF GOD AND HIS TRUTH AND THE VICTORY WE HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. JOHN SAID THAT HE HAD NO GREATER JOY THAN TO SEE HIS CHILDREN WALK IN TRUTH. LET'S DO THAT TODAY. THIS IS MY PRAYER. IN GOD WE TRUST.



WEBMASTER
By
Joe Tichich



BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!

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.

September Cape Fear Chapter Member Birthdays*

LTC (USA, Ret.) Bruce Brown
Maj (Former, USAF) Erin Coughlin
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Pat Davis
MAJ (USA) Joel DuBois
LTC (USA, Ret.) Dennis Franken +
COL (USA, Ret.) Elizabeth (Betty) Goolsby
COL (USA, Ret.) Mondrey McLaurin
MAJ (USA, Ret.) William McMillian
LTC (USA, Ret.) Jon Pendell
COL (USA, Ret.) Dennis Shelden
COL (USA, Ret.) Murray (Ann) Stein

+ Cape Fear Chapter Life Member

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





9/11: A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE | FLICKR



SEPTEMBER 11 | NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY





AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust LLC
1-910-307-3500/
WEALTHMANAGEMENT@AAFMAA.COM

