



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 10

Happy Birthday Sailors - Past and Present!!!!

Let's come together to celebrate the 251st birthday of our United States Navy. The Navy came into existence on October 13th, 1775 before the United States declared its independence from Great Britain. Click on the link below for a complete history of the Navy's birth.



Birth of the U.S. Navy

"Let Americans disdain to be the instruments of European greatness! Let the thirteen States, bound together in a strict and indissoluble Union, concur in erecting one great American..."

navy.mil



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6th Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

October 12th Columbus Day

October 13th United States Navy Birthday

October 23rd 43rd Anniversary Beruit Baracks Bombing



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I wish our Navy members a very Happy Birthday. Our naval forces are a point of national pride, and we celebrate their valor past and present. So, thank you USN, and enjoy your 251st!

Our chapter hosted our annual golf tournament on September 19th at Gates Four. We had maximum numbers of golfers among whom were many active-duty service members. Volunteers also joined us who assisted with planning and preparation for the tournament. I thank all of you who generously contributed to the tournament, and I applaud those who gave their most precious commodity, time, to the planning and execution of the tournament. Great job and well done.

I ask you, our chapter members, to consider participating next year in the planning and preparation of the tournament. There are folks who have done "yeoman's work" year-after-year, and they welcome others who are willing to assist in preparation for the tournament. Please consider joining in this most important work for our chapter. By the way, the tournament is September 18th next year.

Engagement with local communities pays dividends for our chapter and those we serve.

The chapter is in the process of electing officers. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Steve Cage. He's available via email at: secretary@cfmoaa.org. You may also view the Chapter's constitution at: <https://www.cfmoaa.org/documents/>. Our election is at our November meeting. Please join us in November for the meeting and a most important guest speaker from the Veteran's Administration, Mrs. Marri Fryar.

Finally, I wish you a very Happy Halloween.

Never Stop Serving.

Greg

Gregory K. Williamson



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

NAVY

Save the Date
Cape Fear Chapter,
MOAA Annual
Membership Meeting
November 14, 2026
Iron Mike Conference Center

★
Mrs. Marri “Nikki” Fryar

Executive Director, Fayetteville NC
VA Coastal Health Care System





SECRETARY

By
Steven Cage

Chapter Elections and Appointments: Please keep the MOAA National motto "Still Serving" in mind as you consider volunteering for an available position or if you're asked to do so. All Chapter members know that organizations of any type take a substantial effort to lead and administer in order to successfully accomplish their missions and you can help. While there will always be reasons not to volunteer, many of which may be significant and/or valid (and may pass in time), 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 or by assisting Board members with their duties. Our Chapter membership currently spans 60 plus years between the oldest and youngest members and is split among those who still serve (or support those serving), those who work as part of their post-service life, 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 as well. Please consider sharing some of your available time with the Chapter and let us know what may work for you at capefearmoaa@gmail.com.

As previously mentioned, our 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.

Chapter Life Membership Update: With the Chapter Life membership cards recently presented to LTC (USA, Ret.) Bruce Brown and MAJ (USA, Ret.) Byron "Lee" Young at the Chapter's 19 September Tournament, the members who have received their Chapter Life membership card now include 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 Tichich, 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.) 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, and LTC (USA, Ret.) Frank Stump III. -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

By
Steven Cage

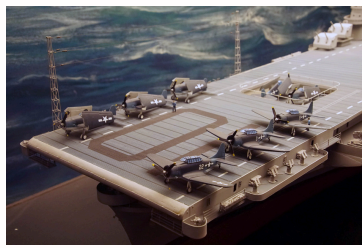
One note: if you have (or think you may have) previously paid annual dues in advance (including 2026) and want to apply that to a life membership, send a note to capefearmoaa@gmail.com to help clarify how much you will owe before making the payment. Life membership payments can also be paid by check 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): Next month we'll begin sending renewal reminders for calendar year 2027 to our annual members. 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 September, there are 42 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). It is possible, for those interested in renewing for multiple years at the current rates, to do so both via check (for as many years as you want) or Cheddar-Up (limited to 3 years at a time). 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.

Renewing your Membership: 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.





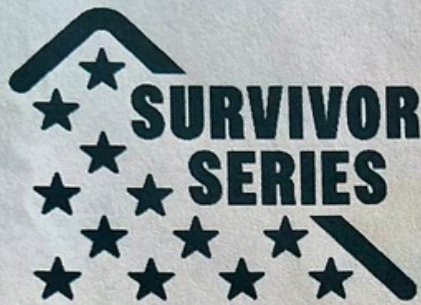
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON OFFICER

By
Sylvania
James



VA Office of Survivors Assistance Survivor Series

Presented by Office of Survivors Assistance



**Last Wednesday of every month
1 pm – 2 pm ET**

Visit www.va.gov/SURVIVORS
for more information, schedule, and topics



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

ONLINE EVENT

The VA's Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) invites you to join the *Survivor Series*, a monthly virtual program dedicated to supporting surviving families of deceased service members and Veterans.

Held the **last Wednesday of every month from 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET**, the Survivor Series features in-depth discussions on topics of interest to surviving families, including benefits, services, and resources available through VA and its partners. Each session provides practical information and an opportunity to better understand how to access available support.

The program is designed for:

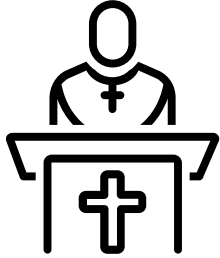
- Surviving spouses, children, parents, and family members
- Professionals who work with surviving families
- Veteran Service Officers and advocates

No registration is required. Participants may join directly using the link posted on the OSA webpage at: www.va.gov/survivors/Survivor_Series.asp

We encourage you to attend and to share this information widely to ensure survivors and those who support them have access to timely, accurate information.



CHAPLAIN
By
Timothy Atkinson



BE A CARRIER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

When we think about God, His love for us, His great salvation that He offers, and the joy of His presence in our lives, we cannot help but be thankful for His great kindness to us. I want to go a step further than being thankful as your chaplain. I challenge you to not only be thankful to God but be one who carries the presence of God in your life in such a way that people will know that God is real because you carry His presence. His presence is so very wonderful.

I myself am challenged by this and know I have a long way to go in this area. However, I remember in Iraq when my wife and another volunteer sent over so many school supplies for the Iraqi children and we were delivering them to an Iraqi school, that the principle of the school knowing we would be leaving soon gave me a card of thanks and said "thanks for bringing us God." I was flabbergasted and didn't know what to say. We could not speak of God in our mission, but because of the cross on my collar and the good deeds we had done, this woman said we had brought her God. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

Caring the presence of God is not only a great joy but what God has called us each to do. When we practice God's presence people can sense something more than the natural, they sense the supernatural. God came into this world in Jesus Christ and showed us what He is like through the life of His son, Jesus Christ. Now we have the calling to let the power of His presence go with us into each and every area making a difference by our good works and by the love that we show. Brother Lawrence who wrote the book *Practicing the Presence of God*, lived a humble life in his monastery and changed the whole atmosphere of the place as a lowly servant waiting on the priest and others who were there because of the presence of God in His life.

Your commitment to our nation by serving in the military and making a difference is greatly appreciated and we praise God for your faithful service. Our motto is "Never stop serving." This motto is a good one, because Jesus said He did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

When we let God's mighty presence not only fill us, the scriptures say to be filled with the Spirit, we bring God's great light to the dark places that need to have God so very badly. Jesus said to go and tell the good news to all nations. When we go to the people and shine His light by good deeds and His mighty presence we are a breath of fresh air. By our actions and words we spread His kingdom of grace and peace.

My challenge to you is to know that by God's grace He can use each and everyone of us to make a difference. None of us are worthy of His presence because of our deeds, but because of God's grace we can carry His presence to each and every person we may meet. Never stop serving and always carry His presence to a world who desperately needs His light and power. He will use you to brighten up someone's day and even make an eternal impact.

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.

October Cape Fear Chapter Member Birthdays*

LTC (USA, Ret.) Reid Gantt
LTC (USA, Ret.) John Hazlett+
Mrs. Dorothy Hinrichs+
Mrs. Sylvia James
MG (USA, Ret.) William Kirkland
COL (USA, Ret.) Mondrey McLaurin
LTC (USA, Ret.) Tony Memminger
LTC (USAR, Ret.) Judith Rock
LTC (USA, Ret.) John Szoka
Mrs. Mary Wright +

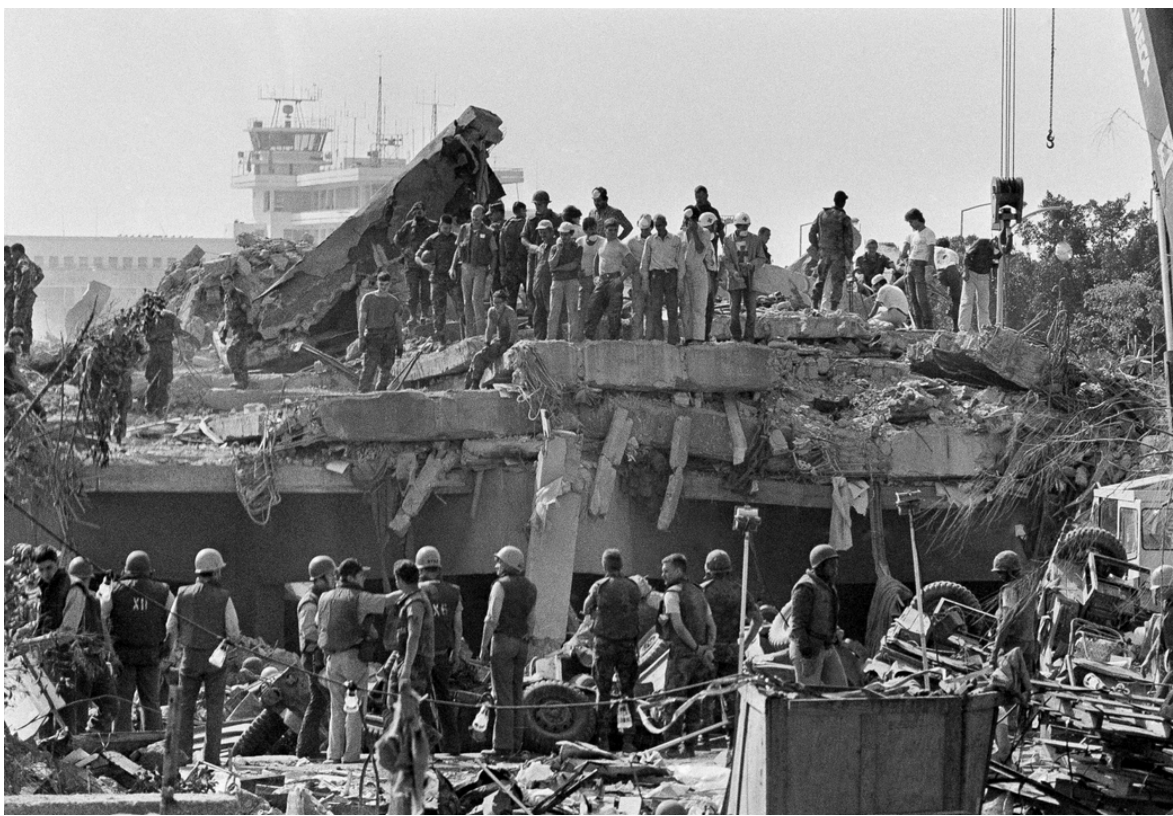
Cape Fear Chapter Life Member *If your birthday is in October and you didn't see your name (or need to update your rank or status), please send a note to capefearmoaa@gmail.com so we can update our records.



THE VERY PAINFUL BIRTH OF THE US NAVY



<https://www.history.navy.mil>



ABCNEWS.COM

1983 BEIRUT BARRACKS BLOWN UP



THE ABOVE PHOTO TAKEN BY CPL KIP A. HIGGINS, USMC

BEIRUT MEMORIAL ON LINE - BEIRUT KIA

WITHOUT OUR GRACIOUS SPONSORS, THE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS.

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THE MEINHARDT FAMILY
MOAA, NATIONAL**

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RICK HENDRICK TOYOTA

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COL(R) JUAN CHAVEZ
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BRONZE

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LUTHERAN HOUR MIN/VETS
PURNELL SWETT JROTC
SARAH VOLKMAN
LTC(R) GEORGE GLANN
LTC(R) JIMMIE RIGGINS**

DONORS

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COL(R) DAVID BAGGETT
COL(R) ELI BALLARD
COL(R) WILLIAM BELL
TAMMY BESH LIN
MAJ(R) GEORGE BOND
LTC(R) BRUCE BROWN
BRYAN HONDA
COL(R) STEVE CAGE
RACHEL CAMPER
CAROLINA SPECIALTIES
LTC(R) DAVID CHENEY
LTC(R) JAMES CHRISHON
CRUZ MASTERS
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MARY EIDMAN
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CAROL IVEY
MICHELLE LAVIGNE LAME
LTC(R) GREG LARSON
LTC(R) PETER LEONE
RICHARD MANCUSO
LTC(R) STEVE MANNELL
COL(R) MONDREY MCLAURIN
GEN(R) DAN K MCNEILL
ERIKA MEINHARDT
HANS MEINHARDT
LISE MEINHARDT
DAVID AND DOROTHY MILLER TRUST FUND
POWERS-SWAIN CHEVROLET
COL(R) DEOGRACIA QUINONES
RHUDY'S
COL(R) ARTURO RODRIGUEZ
COL(R) EDDIE ROSADO
LTC(R) RICHARD SHEREFF
GLADYS SMOOT
LTC(R) NATHAN SMYTH
PAT STANG
CW4(R) HAROLD THACKER
TRINA TIFFANY
COL(R) RICHARD UNDERWOOD
GEORGE VENET
CPT(R) DAVID VROOM
MAJ (R) CLAUDIE WALLEN
LTC(R) JAMES WILDE
COL(R) WILLIE WRIGHT
KALLI ZIEGLER**

*Thank
You*



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