

WNC MOAA**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA****WNC MOAA****2020 Save the Dates:**

**1 Jan – 1 March WNC MOAA
Dues Renewal**

Quarterly Board Meetings

At Hendersonville Country
Club unless otherwise
indicated

January 15 – At the Veteran’s
Museum – Brevard

April 8

July 8

October 7

Quarterly Chapter Meetings

At Hendersonville Country
Club unless otherwise
indicated.

February 22

April 25

August 22

November 21

**President’s Remarks**

The first thing I want to do as the new president of WNC MOAA is to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and welcome you to join in on the planned, and yet-to-be planned chapter activities for 2020.

As you know, we have quarterly meetings where we gather to catch up with friends, find out what’s going on in the chapter, and hear an interesting guest speaker. And we’ve had some extraordinarily great guest speakers! Most of all I hope everyone enjoys the food, fun and fellowship and the inspiration we draw from one another to never stop serving.

I like to think of our continued commitment to serve as a multifaceted jewel that radiates light in all directions. From the heavy lifting done on the National level all the way down to the personal level of neighbor helping neighbor. President John F. Kennedy said, *“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”* From the day we raised our hand to serve in the military until today, as MOAA members, we do exactly that. We ask what can we do to help? And we find a way.

I look forward to our time together this year and wish you and yours a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Donna Culp, Capt, USAF (Fmr)
President, WNC MOAA



Membership

MOAA

WNC MOAA

New Member

Renewing Membership

It's that time of year again! As we begin the New Year, our goal is to make sure our WNC MOAA members are receiving emails, newsletters, and announcements about meetings, events and how to get involved. To do that, when you send in your WNC MOAA membership renewal and dues, please make sure to include any changes in your contact information.

Newcomers are always welcome! If you have a friend or colleague interested in learning about MOAA and getting involved in our chapter, be sure to invite them to a meeting or whatever we may have going on.

If you are a newcomer, it's helpful to know what the **Western North Carolina MOAA Chapter**, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), does.

- Supports National and State legislative matters which benefit active, retired, Reserve and National Guard military personnel and their families.
- Encourages and facilitates comradeship among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services.
- Facilitates involvement in Veteran related volunteer opportunities. Read on to the "Getting Involved" section of this newsletter for more information.

If you're not a **MOAA National** member yet and want to learn more, visit <https://www.moaa.org/join>.

- BASIC membership is at no cost to you.
- PREMIUM membership gives you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources; exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.
- LIFE membership is the most elite membership category; also available on a sliding scale depending on age.

Submitted by Donna Culp

Annual Dues are Due and Payable Jan 1; past due March 1

There are several different ways to renew your membership to WNC MOAA:

1) The easiest and fastest way to join/renew your membership is online. You may accomplish this in the few easy steps listed below. You may also complete the form below.

1. Go to www.MOAA.org
2. Select Chapters & Councils (top of the page)
3. Click "Chapter Dues"
4. Click the blue button titled, "Join or Renew your chapter dues"
5. Complete the form and your dues are paid.

2) If renewing, and you prefer to send your renewal dues with a personal check (no credit cards please), just complete this form and mail to:

WNC MOAA
P.O. Box 1984
Hendersonville, NC 28793



Chapter Membership RENEWAL: \$30 Regular member and spouse; \$10 Surviving Spouse

Name: _____ National MOAA#: _____

Rank: _____ Service: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Donation: _____ (All donations are to the chapter general fund)

Enclosed are my dues for the year(s) _____

3) To join WNC MOAA as a newcomer, you can complete this application and mail it with your check. No credit cards please.



APPLICATION FOR MOAA MEMBERSHIP: WNC CHAPTER

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____

GRADE: _____ SERVICE: _____

ACTIVE DUTY: _____ RETIRED: _____ RETIRED RESERVE: _____

FORMER OFFICER: _____ RESERVE OFF: _____ NG: _____ WIDOW(ER): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TEL NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Nat'l MOAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____

PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES AND NAME TAG IS ENCLOSED: _____

(Membership valid 1 Jan – 31 Dec)

_____ \$40.00 FOR NEW MEMBER (Includes Spouse) AND NAME TAG

_____ \$20.00 FOR NEW SURVIVING SPOUSE AND NAME TAG

Make check payable to WNC MOAA

Complete and mail your application with your check to:

***WNC MOAA Chapter, Inc
P O Box 1984
Hendersonville, NC 28793***

WELCOME ABOARD!

Name Badge Application as a new member:



WNC Badge Application

(Badges are \$10 each)

MOAA Member:

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Service: _____ Ret: _____ Former: _____

Attachment (Check One): Magnet _____ Clip _____ Pin _____

Spouse:

Name: _____

Resident City: _____

By popular demand, name badges are only magnet types.

Upcoming new WNC MOAA Website:

We're excited to announce the new WNC MOAA Website is currently under construction.

Keep watching for it!

Smoky Mountain Satellite MOAA

Chair: David McCracken 828-550-5980

Supports: VET SMILES Initiative – JROTC – We Honor Veterans

Next Meeting: 18 February – 1130 - at Sagebrush Steakhouse, Canton, NC – just off I-40 at exit 31

Updates from Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation: 2019 Status of VET SMILES Initiative

1. During 2019, Smoky Mountains Outreach Foundation (SMOF) provided financial support of over \$20,000 to 41 veterans within the seven counties of Western North Carolina. The distribution by location was: 1) Cherokee, 9 veterans; 2) Clay, 2 veterans; 3) Graham, 1 veteran; 4) Haywood, 3 veterans; 5) Jackson, 9 veterans; 6) Macon, 11 veterans; 7) Swain, 5 veterans; plus Qualla Boundary, 1 veteran (spouse is enrolled with ECBI)



16 November 2020 **ECU Smiles for Veterans** supported by volunteers from the dental profession: ECU Greenville Main Campus, ECU CSLC in Spruce Pine, and Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers. – Submitted by David McCracken

2. SMOF collaborates with several stakeholders to achieve the VET SMILES initiative. Veterans Services Offices validate veteran status. NC Serves Western enrolls the veteran to access services (some of which families may also receive). East Carolina University (ECU) Community Service Learning Center (CSLC) in Sylva conducts the dental services for **VET SMILES**. Private dentists may also provide pro bono services on a volunteer basis.

3. ECU CSLC in Sylva conducted two **ECU Smiles for Veterans** events in 2019. The 16 Nov **ECU Smiles for Veterans** was supported by SMOF, NC Serves Western, numerous volunteers from the dental profession (including ECU Greenville Main Campus, ECU CSLC in Spruce Pine, and Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers).

4. Since the start of the **VET SMILES** initiative, ECU School of Dental Medicine, through the services of ECU CSLC in Sylva, NC, has provided more than \$38,000 in dental services during **ECU Smiles for Veterans**, as well as over 250 volunteer hours by dental professionals for Saturday, 16 November 2019.
5. **VET SMILES** provides a full range of dental services once the veteran enrolls with NC Serves Western, starting with an exam and x-rays (funded by SMOF), with each veteran then having a dental plan developed by the ECU CSLC dentists. During 2019, five veterans received partial or full denture sets.
6. 132 veterans are on service request roster, at least 31 were disabled veterans. **Donations are encouraged to serve even more veterans on the waiting list.** Donors can send checks to: Smoky Mountains Outreach Foundation – PO Box 676 – Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 or use the website Website@smoutreach.org

WNC MOAA’s Final Chapter Meeting of the Year Eventful



23 November 2019 - Guest speaker, Stephanie Young, Director of the Asheville VA Medical center, and staff member Amber Brown, provided an informative history of the hospital, highlights about the hospital’s values, and workload profile giving us insight to who and what the Asheville VA Medical Center *is* to Veterans and their families in our area.

She went on to explain the Veteran eligibility and social determinants for access to VA medical care, the Mission Act, and what the hospital values as the best way forward as stated in Secretary Wilkie’s 4 Priorities for the VA (as taken from Stephanie’s Power Point).

Customer Service

Our first priority is customer service. That’s the prime directive. When Veterans come to VA, it is not up to them to get us to say yes. It’s up to us, you and me, to get Veterans to yes. That’s customer service. We’re going to make sure you’re trained and equipped to achieve that.

Implementing the MISSION Act

Our second priority, implementing the MISSION Act, will fundamentally transform VA healthcare. It will consolidate community care into a single program that’s easier for Veterans, families, community providers, and all of you to navigate. The MISSION Act also expands our family caregivers’ program to provide much-needed assistance to the people caring for some of our most needy Veterans day in and day out.

Electronic Health Record

Our third priority is replacing our aging electronic health record. The new electronic health record will modernize our appointment system, automate our disability and payment claims systems, and connect VA to the Department of Defense, private healthcare providers, and private pharmacies. Implementing the electronic health record will be an ongoing, iterative process to build a continuum of care that’s organized around Veterans’ needs.

Transforming our Business Systems

Our fourth priority is transforming our business systems. We’re modernizing human resource management, finance and acquisition, and our supply chain. It’s about giving you more leeway to manage budgets, recruit, retain, and relocate staff you need to serve Veterans. It’s also about more robust partnerships with state and local communities to address challenges like Veteran homelessness and suicide prevention, our top clinical priority.

Following the meeting, Stephanie personally sat down with WNC MOAA members to take questions, field issues, and offer guidance. Thank you, Stephanie, and Amber!

- Submitted by Donna Culp

Asheville VA Hospital Highlights

- ❖ Quality of Care
 - 5 Star in SAIL Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning)
 - Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals, other key certifications
- ❖ #1 Best Place to work in the VHA (Veterans Health Administration) based on the results of the All Employee Survey scores
- ❖ 2018 Winner – Overall Best Patient Experience Award
- ❖ Pathway to Excellence designation – by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, recognizing commitment to creating a positive practice environment
- ❖ Strong community partnerships
- ❖ Innovation

So much to celebrate!



Marleen Varner, WNC MOAA VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) Representative, accepts the VAVS certificate from Stephanie Young, Director of the VA Hospital, Asheville, NC on behalf of WNC MOAA in recognition of 29 years of WNC MOAA's perfect attendance at the VAVS Committee meetings – FY 2019.

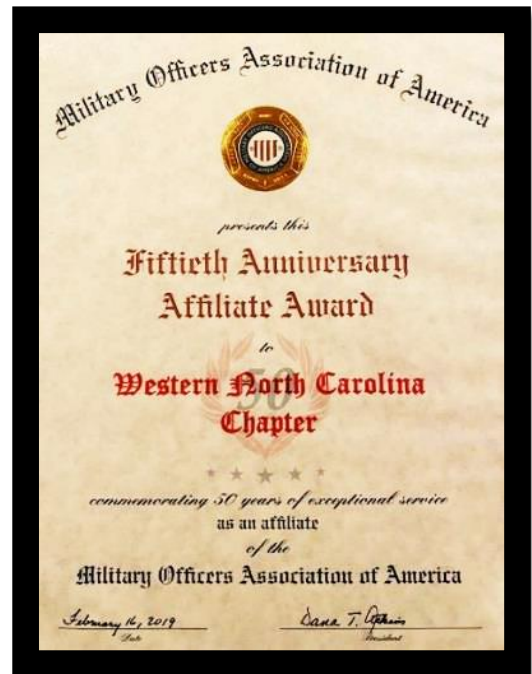


President WNC MOAA, Mike Covell (2018-2019) passing the MOAA President's Pin to incoming President, Donna Culp (2020-2021). Donna is the first female WNC MOAA President in the Chapter's 50 year history.

Happy 50th Birthday!

WNC MOAA

Founded in 1968 and incorporated into National MOAA as an affiliate in 1969, WNC MOAA celebrated 50 years as an active and thriving Chapter in 2019.



Guest speaker, Stephanie Young, Director of the Asheville VA Hospital, conducted the installation of WNC MOAA Board and Officers (2020-2021) at the 23 November Chapter Meeting.

2018 Level of Excellence Award

WNC MOAA received the 5 Star 2018 Level of Excellence Award at the North Carolina Council of Chapters Convention, held at Cherry Point Marine Base, 15 November 2019. The 5 star award goes to Councils and Chapters that are recognized as the *very, very best*. Congratulations and thank you WNC MOAA members - ***Well done!***



MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins presenting WNC MOAA President Mike Covell with the 2018 LOE Award.



Mike sharing the moment with wife, Joanie. *Thank you for all your support Joanie!*

“Congratulations and thank you WNC MOAA members - *Well done!*”

Bringing the LOE home, Mike presents it to previous WNC MOAA Presidents, John Knapp and Spence Campbell at the 23 November 2019 WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting.



Mike Covell presenting the 2018 LOE to previous WNC MOAA President, John Knapp, CAPT, USNR (Ret)



Previous WNC MOAA President, Spence Campbell, COL, USA (Ret) doing the honors of pinning the 5 Star Award to our MOAA flag.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King



Donna Culp



Ron Urrutia



Ty Keplinger



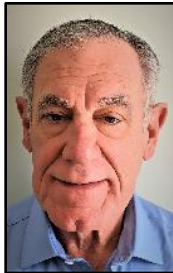
Bob Rebscher



Mike Covell



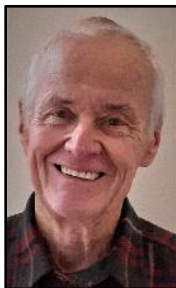
Jeff Snyder



Mike Pomponio



John Culp



Rod Nunnelee



Vivianne Wersel



Nancy McCarthy



John Knapp



Michael Padgett



Herb Mencsh



David McCracken



Spence Campbell



Jerry Beschta

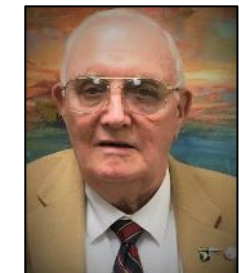


Marleen Varner

Meet
Some of
Our
Chapter
Leaders



Brian Johnson



Larry Wilson

WNC MOAA Board, Officers, Committees and Programs

President – Donna Culp Capt. USAF (Fmr)

1st VP – Ron Urrutia LCDR USN (Ret)

2nd VP – Ty Keplinger MAJ ARNG (Ret)

Secretary – Bob Rebscher Capt USMC (Ret)

Treasurer – Mike Covell CAPT USN (Ret)

Navy Rep – Herb Mensch CAPT USN (Ret)

Army Rep – Larry Wilson LTC USA (Ret)

USAF Rep – Jeff Snyder Col USAF (Ret)

USMC Rep – Bob Rebscher Capt USMC (Ret)

At Large – Spence Campbell COL USA (Ret)

Smoky Mountain Satellite – David McCracken
COL USA (Ret)

Immediate Past President – Mike Covell CAPT
USN (Ret)

Membership – Tyrel Keplinger MAJ ARNG (Ret)

Chaplain – Jerry Beschta CDR USN (Ret)

Senior Advisor – Richard Deveraux Maj Gen
USAF (Ret)

Web Master – John Culp LTC USA (Ret)

Newsletter Editor – Donna Culp Capt USAF
(Fmr)

JROTC Liaison – Jeff Snyder Col USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs – **Brian Johnson Lt USAF
(Ret)**; Michael Padgett COL USA (Ret); Dr.
Vivianne Wersel (Surviving Spouse)

VA Liaison – **Michael Pomponio, LTC, USA
(Ret)**; Marleen Varner (Surviving Spouse);
Rod Nunnelee CDR USN (Ret)

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Nancy McCarthy
Rev. (Ret)

Smoky Mountains Outreach Foundation –
David McCracken COL. USA (Ret)

Honor Flight Liaison – Rick Deveraux Maj
Gen USAF (Ret)

VET SMILES Initiative – David McCracken
COL USA (Ret)

We Honor Veterans – John Knapp CAPT
USN (Ret)

TREASURER'S UPDATE:

Submitted by - Mike Covell

Current Membership – 95

End of Membership Drive – 1 March 2020

Jan 1 Account Balance - \$16,020.30

Income to date - \$1,355.00

Expenses to date - \$663.66

Hails

Rick Sanders COL USAR
Krishnas Das COL ARNG
Ray West CAPT USNR
Vivianne Wersel Surviving Spouse
Nancy Hudson Cpt USA
Joyce Jolly COL USA
James Greene CAPT USCG
Jonathan Plott LtCol USAF
Hale Messerow Cpt USAF
Joe Neubert CPT USA
Pete Graef CAPT USN
Jean Vierra Surviving Spouse
Bill McKelvey COL USA

Farewells

Cornellius Andreae Maj USAF
Bernie Callaway CAPT USN
Joy Dietle LCDR USN
Roger Richardson CAPT USN
Richard Rockwel LTC USA
William Watkins CAPT USA



TAPS

NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

When Keith Broadwater called to ask if one of the Culps – both military veterans and officers, would be able to swear in their son, Dylan, to the USAF, the answer was “YES!”

Donna recalls, “We were the only military officers they knew and seems the recruiter was short on officers to do the job.”

Dylan, his wife Ashlie, mother Tammy, and father arrived at the Culp home with the swearing in paperwork, the American Flag, and next thing you know, Dylan Broadwater was a Captain in the USAF – headed out the next day for training, followed by his first PCS assignment (December 2019), to Mountain Home.

A pharmacist, Dylan’s swearing in was extra special to Donna because he was now a fellow BSC (Biomedical Science Corps) officer and wears the Captain’s bars. Donna took off her uniform to pass on to Dylan. Just neighbors helping neighbors. Submitted by Donna Culp

Getting Involved:

There are many opportunities for you to serve the Western North Carolina community through WNC-MOAA. Below is a list of some of those projects:

1. Prepare and serve lunch to homeless veterans once a quarter at the **Veterans Restoration Quarters** (near the Asheville VA Hospital) on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 0930 to 1230. **Contact Col Jeff Snyder, 828-684-2359**
jsnyder243@aol.com
2. Participate in **“We Honor Veterans” pinning ceremonies as partners with Four Seasons Hospice**. These events are unscheduled, performed on your availability. For more information contact **CAPT John Knapp, 828-702-3317**
j.knapp4@att.net
3. **Present MOAA award to JROTC cadet at annual award ceremony**. Dates and location as determined by the high school. You can select the school(s) of your choice. For more information contact **Col Jeff Snyder, 828-684-2359**
jsnyder243@aol.com
4. **Provide support for family members of veterans using the Asheville VA Hospital**. The duties vary depending on your time of availability. For more information contact **LTC Michael Pomponio, mapomponio@bellsouth.net**

5. Join the **Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation** which meets seven times a year at various locations in the western most counties of North Carolina. Their outreach efforts are described in this newsletter. For more information contact **COL David McCracken, 828-550-5980, dem32415@aol.com**

6. **Support Blue Ridge Honor Flight.** The Blue Ridge Honor Flight chapter is preparing to send another group of veterans to Washington, DC on **Saturday, May 16th, 2019**. The local chapter, led by Jeff Miller, who co-founded the national Honor Flight network, has flown thousands of WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans to visit their memorials in Washington. The upcoming May flight, consisting mostly of Vietnam veterans, will fly out of **Asheville airport** and into Baltimore Washington airport on Allegiant Air. The flight will be a single-day trip, **returning on the evening of May 16th**

Interested MOAAA members can help in five ways:

1. Find and encouraging war veterans to apply for the flight—there is no cost for the veteran.
2. Volunteer to serve as one of the “guardians” who will escort the veterans on this or future flights.
3. Volunteer to be part of the “ground crew” who launches and recovers the honor flight.
4. Attend **the welcome home arrival ceremony at Asheville airport on the evening of May 16th. We'll be there!**
5. And fifth, and most important of all, by *making a financial contribution to Blue Ridge Honor Flight to allow this great work to continue.* All the details are on the website at www.blueridgehonorflight.com or contact **Rick Devereaux** at rickdevereaux1@gmail.com

What else is Blue Ridge Honor Flight doing?

Blue Ridge Honor Flight is honored to partner with the NC Veterans Writing Alliance Foundation to present **Brothers Like These**. The mission of The NC Veterans Writing Alliance Foundation and *Brothers Like These* is to provide healing through the arts and creative writing to all veterans in our community.

Save the Date:

When: Sunday, 9 February 2020

What: Vietnam War Veterans will be performing their own written stories through poetry, prose, and nonfiction essays.

Where: Flat Rock Playhouse

Address: 2661 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock, NC 28731 **Phone:** (828) 693-0731

<https://www.hendersonville.com/news/2020/01/vietnam-veterans-perform-in-brothers-like-these-at-flat-rock-playhouse/>

NC Veterans Writing Alliance Foundation and Blue Ridge Honor Flight Present:

BROTHERS LIKE THESE

**VIETNAM WAR VETERANS PERFORMING
THEIR OWN WRITTEN TRUE STORIES**



Sunday, February 9, 2020 • 2pm
Flat Rock Playhouse

Tickets sold at the Flat Rock Playhouse box office starting at NOON **February 9th**
Requested donation: **\$20 per ticket**

For more information, contact Marybeth Burns at 828.388.4448 or email marybeth@summitresults.com

WNC MOAA and Members
Recognized by the Asheville VA
Volunteer Services (VAVS) Along
with Other Area Organizations for:

Activity Sponsorship

Monetary Donations

E-Donations

Item Donations

*Thank you everyone for
your commitment to serve!*

VA Volunteer Services Calling All Service
Organizations

If you can help out with these supplies,
they will be put to good use!

- ✚ Adult coloring books and colored pencils
- ✚ Acrylic and water paints and brushes
- ✚ Sketch pads and composition books (no spirals please)
- ✚ Headphones (no earbuds please)
- ✚ Small pinball games from Dollar Tree

For more information, call 828-299-2514

Thank you!

UPCOMING VA EVENTS

FEBRUARY 4 :

BLOOD MOBILE

TIME: 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

FEBRUARY 13:

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

TIME: 10:00 A.M – 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: LOWER LEVEL ATRIUM

FEBRUARY 9 – 14:

NATIONAL SALUTE TO
VETERANS

FEBRUARY 14:

VETERANS' SALUTE RECEPTION

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

PLACE: MURAL HALLWAY,
LOWER LEVEL

FOUR SEASONS, WE HONOR VETERANS PROGRAM HONORS 500TH VETERAN IN HOSPICE CARE

HENDERSONVILLE, NC – On the anniversary of the first Veteran we pinned as part of our *We Honor Veterans* program, this fall Four Seasons was honored to recognize Guy Wellman Jr., as its 500th veteran to be acknowledged since Four Seasons began partnership with the *We Honor Veterans* program in 2014.

After graduation from Indiana University in 1943, Guy Wellman Jr. attended Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, GA. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Wellman served in the 99th Infantry Division, the first complete infantry division to cross the Rhine River under fire at the Remagen Bridge in Germany during World War II in March 1945. Wellman attained the rank of Captain and received the Bronze Star for heroic service while in combat.

“We laid in a house near the bridge and timed the shells coming in and when we felt we had it right we ran all the way across,” Wellman says. “The bridge eventually crumbled into the river due to the shelling and plane bombings. It was a huge turning point to the end of the war when our troops captured that bridge.”

Three MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Representatives were present to honor Guy Wellman for his service on October 16th. They included Lt. Col. Don Jackman (U.S. Army Retired), Col. Henry Johnson (U.S. Air Force Retired), and Capt. Mike Covell (U.S. Navy Retired). Lt. Col. Don Jackman conducted the ceremony, which marked a special moment as he also conducted the very first WHV (*We Honor Veterans*) Pinning Ceremony on November 20, 2014.

Our President and CEO, Millicent Burke-Sinclair was present and shared her appreciation for his service by giving him a “We Honor Veterans” blanket, while the Army branch of service pin was placed on his collar by Lt. Col. Don Jackman.

“It was incredibly meaningful to honor Mr. Wellman with this pinning ceremony, to see him celebrated and lifted up by family and friends,” said Millicent Burke-Sinclair, Four Seasons CEO. “The ceremony is a small gesture in comparison with the great sacrifices our veterans have made, but it allows us the opportunity to thank them with reverence and respect in their later years. It is also an opportunity to thank them for allowing us to serve them in their time of need.”

Over one third of the patients served by Four Seasons are veterans. Four Seasons offers each veteran hospice patient an opportunity to have a pinning ceremony if it is at all possible to arrange during their time receiving hospice services, publicly acknowledging their service and sacrifice.

For those facing life-limiting or chronic illness, the pinning ceremony provides a beautiful way for them to receive dignity and honor, often helping families find peace during a difficult time.

(500th Pinning continues on Page 18)

(500th Pinning cont.) The original program was developed by the Veteran's Administration along with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Four Seasons is proud to partner with the national *We Honor Veterans* program and the local MOAA chapter in offering this important and cherished service to patients and families. The clear and profound impact experienced by patients and families is seen daily and provides yet another opportunity to care for those who have first served us.

The We Honor Veterans program is made possible through Four Seasons by donations from our community. To make a gift in honor or memory of a beloved veteran, please visit www.fourseasonsfdn.org/impact/we-honor-veterans.



Permission to share this article by Callie Davis
Four Seasons Community Relations and Marketing Director

WNC MOAA Serves Christmas Lunch to Homeless Veterans



Members from WNC MOAA prepped and served Christmas lunch to 300 homeless veterans at the VRQ (Veteran's Restoration Quarters) on Christmas Day. The day's event was also featured on Chanel 13 WLOS.

Santa's Helpers

Back Row (L-R): John Odell, John Culp, Jeff Snyder, John Knapp, Paula Snyder

Front Row (L-R): Donna Culp, Portia Odell, Marty Cosgro

Submitted by Jeff Snyder



New ID Requirements in North Carolina - DMV

Do you need to obtain a REAL ID card in North Carolina?

Obtaining a DMV REAL ID in North Carolina is completely optional. Your decision as to whether you get a card should be based on your individual needs. Depending on your lifestyle and travel preferences, you may never have an occasion to need a secure ID, especially since you can just use a passport to fly instead.

However, because REAL ID cards cost the same and work in the same way as a standard card, you may find that it is just as convenient to upgrade to a secure card as it is to keep your old card.

Currently, you can use a standard form of identification for most purposes. However, the REAL ID card act requires that you have a secure ID for certain tasks starting on October 1, 2020. If you do not have a secure card by this deadline, you may need to carry another form of federally accepted identification with you when entering certain facilities or boarding domestic flights.

You do not need a gold star on driver's license in order to drive, vote, apply for federal benefits, serve on a jury or enter facilities that never required showing an ID in the first place, such as a post office.

DMV REAL IDs are the most useful for drivers who frequently need to show an ID at secure facilities. Examples of tasks that require showing a secure ID include the following:

- **Boarding any domestic airline flight.**
- **Visiting nuclear sites.**
- **Visiting military bases.**
- **Entering federal courthouses, federal prisons or other similar locations.**

REAL ID Documents in North Carolina

Under the REAL ID requirements in NC, you need to prove your identity, Social Security Number (SSN) and residency when applying for a card. If you are a non-citizen, you must also verify your legal presence in the United States.

Plan ahead for your trip to the DMV by gathering the following documents:

- **One identity document** that shows your full name and date of birth, such as a passport or birth certificate.
- **One SSN document** that shows your full Social Security Number and full name, such as a pay stub, Social Security card, W-2 form or 1099 form.
- **Two residency documents** that show your residential address in North Carolina, such as a utility bill, rental agreement, mortgage statement or medical bill.
- **One or more name-change documents** if your legal name does not currently match the name on your identity document, such as a marriage certificate or divorce decree.
- **One legal presence document** if you are a non-citizen, such as a permanent resident card, employment authorization document or foreign passport with visa and I-94

NC Real ID Cont.

All REAL ID card documents should be original or certified copies rather than photocopies. You will need to apply for a new copy of your documentation before you get REAL ID credentials if you do not currently have the required paperwork on hand.

Get the complete list of requirements at: NCREALID.gov **Call to schedule your appointment:** 919-715-7000

Submitted by Marleen Varner

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As summarized in the MOAA Councils and Chapters – Leaders Workbook

National Legislative Overview

Storming the Hill (April 10, 2019) Topics:

- Military pay raise at 3.1%
- End the widows’ tax: H.R. 553 and S. 622
- Stabilize TRICARE fees and copayments

Challenges Ahead:

- Impeachment proceedings
- Government funding
- Political divisiveness leading up to 2020 elections
- Legislator turnover

2019 Legislative Gains

- 2.6% active duty pay raise
- Protected BAH from arbitrary cuts
- No new TRICARE fees
- Comprehensive military housing reform
- Blue Water Navy signed into law
- Expanded military spouse education and employment benefits (MyCAA and licensure reimbursement)
- Protected Coast Guard pay (included retirement and survivor benefits) in the event of another shutdown

NOTE: Widows Tax repeal unknown at time of print

To learn more about what National MOAA is doing and what you can do - go to www.moaa.org

2020 Legislative Goals

- Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality of life
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards
- End financial penalties for military survivors
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts
- Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through VA and DoD
- Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services' ability to recruit, retain, and manage personnel

WNC MOAA Board and Committees Get Sneak Peek at Veterans Museum

The first WNC MOAA Board meeting for 2020 was hosted by **Emmett Casciato**, of the **Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas** in Brevard, 15 January 2020. Emmett graciously led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off our meeting, while facing an American Flag possessing 48 stars, proving ***our flag is never too old to honor***.

Upon completion of our business meeting, Emmett treated us to a personal tour of the museum for which we want to say a heartfelt, ***"Thank you!"***

Emmett will be our guest speaker at the 22 February 2020, general chapter meeting where we will learn there's much more to the story of this world class museum and the stories behind it.



Emmett (in red shirt) giving WNC MOAA Board members tour of Veterans Museum – Submitted by Donna Culp

Please Join us for a Luncheon!

Guest Speaker: Emmet Casciato

President - Founder – Curator



GENERAL CHAPTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Meeting/Lunch REGISTRATION:

Saturday – February 22, Hendersonville Country Club

1100 AM Check-in/Social; 1200 PM Lunch/Program

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: Wednesday, February 22.

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA; Enclosed is my check for ___ meal (s) At \$25 per person.

I/We plan on attending the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2020

NAME: _____ Guest: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

This is the 1st WNC MOAA event attended: Y/N

Checks payable to WNC MOAA. Mail this form with payment to:

WNC MOAA
PO Box 1984
Hendersonville NC 28793