

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

At Hendersonville Country Club
unless otherwise indicated

April 8 - **Conducted remotely**



July 8 – **Stand by...** 😊

October 7 – **Very hopeful!** 😊

Quarterly Chapter Meetings

At Hendersonville Country Club
unless otherwise indicated.

February 22 – **Held as planned**



April 25 – **Suspended** 😞

August 22 – **Fingers crossed!**



November 21 – **Very hopeful!**



President's Remarks



I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe. Like you, I never dreamed in a million years that our lives would be **so** impacted by COVID – 19. As I write this, much has been learned about this virus and still more is being learned for the benefit of all mankind around the world. I'd like to think we're all following the news and medical updates so we can be ready as further guidance is provided. We're fortunate to have credible resources such as NCDHHS (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services) <https://publichealth.nc.gov/>, a great reference, for the most up-to-date information for North Carolinians. **Until we're able to resume normal group gatherings, the WNC MOAA Board meetings will be conducted remotely.** Unfortunately, that may prove to be a bit of a challenge for our quarterly Chapter meetings. **Until the coast is clear, quarterly Chapter meetings are suspended.** I'd like to think that, although we're living within the appropriate constraints of social distancing, we're not completely **up a tree** given current technology. Because we want to make sure you receive ongoing Chapter updates, the Board and I will be reaching out to you to make sure you're OK, catch up, see if you need anything, and ensure we have all your current contact information. Until then ... Be patient. Be kind. Be safe. We'll get through this.

Sincerely,

Donna Culp, Capt, USAF (Fmr)

President, WNC MOAA

cmomwow@yahoo.com

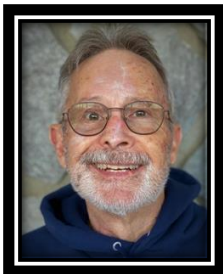
OTHER ON LINE RESOURCES PERTAINING TO CORONAVIRUS AND COVID-19 AS FOUND ON

<https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/coronavirus-resources/>

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [VA Coronavirus Website](https://www.va.gov/coronavirus)
- [TRICARE Coronavirus Information](https://www.tricare.mil/coronavirus)
- [DoD Coronavirus Response Website](https://www.dod.mil/coronavirus)
- [Health.mil Coronavirus Information](https://www.health.mil/coronavirus)
- [National Institutes of Health Coronavirus Information](https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military.com](https://www.military.com/coronavirus)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military Times](https://www.militarytimes.com/coronavirus)

WNC MOAA Website is up and running!

Kudos and props to our Webmaster, John Culp (LTC, USA-Ret), and Web Designer, Ric Kolseth, of Hidden Province Productions, for getting our website rebuilt, up and running. Updates are ongoing, especially as COVID-19 forces continual reassessment and change in how we conduct personal and professional business. Networking with various Veterans organizations and medical entities that care for Veterans throughout WNC, our website has created a special link posting daily updates that relate to COVID-19. A couple of examples include, but are not limited to:



Webmaster - John Culp

- ✓ Haywood County Health Department Director, Dr. Mark Jaben – short videos providing public education and ongoing updates.
- ✓ VA Medical Center, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), updates **and more**.
- ✓ You are welcome to come click around!
- ✓ <https://www.wnc-moaa.org/>

Thank you Doug Ehrhardt for pointing us in the right direction!

North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC)

February 15, 2020 – NCCOC Installed New Officers for 2020-2021



!!!Congratulations!!!

(L to R) - Immediate Past President CAPT David Lee, USNR-Ret, conducting installation of Officers: 1st VP - COL IGGI Husar, USAR-Ret; President - COL Jim Brumit, USA-Ret; 2nd VP – Lt. Col. Ed Brown, USAF-Ret; Treasurer – CAPT Mike Covell, USN-Ret. Not present: Secretary – COL Jeri Graham, USA-Ret.

For more information about our NCCOC Officers go to:

<https://www.moaa-nc.org/directory.php>

February 22, 2020 – 1st Quarterly Chapter Meeting

Thank you to our guest speaker, Emmett Casciato, and his lovely wife, Toni, of the *Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas*, who provided us with the story behind the inspiration, evolution of the museum to what it is today, and the vision for continued growth and development. Also in attendance were several members of the museum's board who helped make the museum the world-class military museum it is today and will be tomorrow. In addition to Emmett's presentation, he graciously gifted the book, *"Welcome Home Brother – Memoirs of Vietnam War Veterans"* by Michel Robertson, to our Chapter and President, Donna Culp.

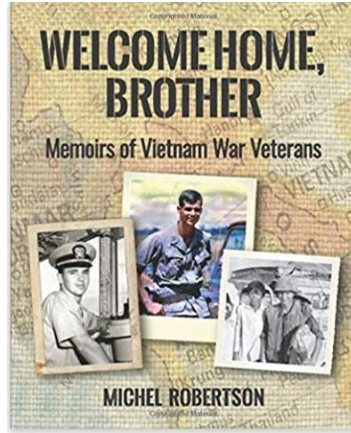
Thank you!

Special thank you to all who contributed to the book. Thank you for your service! And welcome home!

Special Note: In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the museum is temporarily closed, which eliminates visitors and their donations that are vital to the life and operations of the museum. Therefore, to help ease this financial crisis and to thank Emmett for his hospitality to our WNC MOAA Board and undying support of our Veterans, on 8 April, WNC MOAA Board of Directors voted to give the museum a donation of \$1,000. For more information about the museum and how to donate go to <https://theveteransmuseum.org/>



Book Nook – now that we have time to do the things we’ve been too busy to do... consider these books to include in our down time...



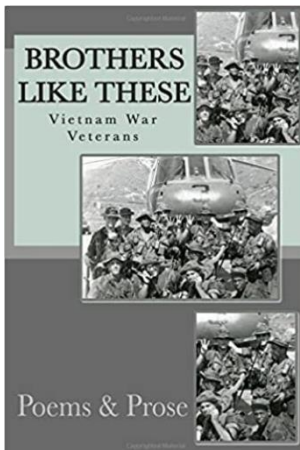
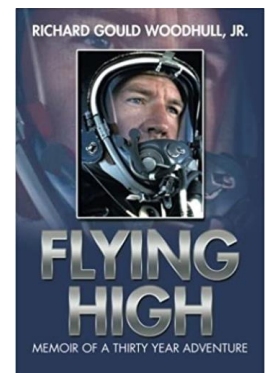
<https://theveteransmuseum.org/news/welcome-home-brother-memoirs-of-vietnam-war-veterans/>

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #124

Although the museum is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, call 828-884-2141 and leave a message indicating you would like to purchase a book along with your name and phone number and Emmett will return your call.

If you missed Colonel Richard “Duke” Woodhull’s presentation as our guest speaker last year, his book tells even more about his 30-year Air Force career as an Air Force U-2 pilot. Once you start reading this book it’s difficult to put down - until you’ve read it all!

https://www.amazon.com/Flying-High-Adventure-Woodhull-2013-09-27/dp/B01FJOKIL6/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=flying+high+richard+woodhull&qid=1585170238&sr=8-1&swrs=145860F440ABF121C78C9EF9A4F756



https://www.amazon.com/Brothers-Like-These-Joseph-Bathanti/dp/0998194921/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=brothers+like+these&qid=1585172417&sr=8-1

Providing healing through the arts, the NC Veterans Writing Alliance Foundation, in partnership with Blue Ridge Honor Flight, in early February, presented a program where Vietnam Veterans who contributed to this book presented live readings to a full house at Flat Rock Theater. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, and you’ll think your way through this great read. ***Special thank you to all who contributed to this book. Thank you for your service! And welcome home!***

The Foundation’s mission is to provide healing through the arts and creative writing to all Veterans in our community. For more information contact Stephen R. Henderson, USMC, srhcamaro60@gmail.com 828-6065988

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Before the COVID-19 crisis affected the United States and especially Western North Carolina, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, another call to “NEVER STOP SERVING!” was unfolding.

When WNC MOAA and Smoky Mountain Satellite MOAA member, Karen McKay, slipped and fell in December 2019, she immediately realized she was seriously hurt. Soon thereafter, it was confirmed she had broken her neck.

Doctor’s orders indicated her activities were suddenly restricted and she needed to adhere to the recovery plan for several months. Now in a neck brace, she was no longer able to cut and split her own firewood as she has done for the last 15 years. Worse yet, without a wood rack to get her firewood up off the ground and cover it to allow it to dry and season properly, immediate action was necessary to get her through the cold snaps.

First, John and Donna Culp brought several loads of dry, seasoned firewood and sheltered them on Karen’s covered front porch until a proper wood rack could be built. Next came the building of the wood rack repurposing wooden pallets, concrete blocks, lumber and metal roofing, with only a few newly purchased items. Then with the help of neighbors Brian Fortune and his 13 yr. old son, Ayden; John and Donna Culp and Bill Gunn (All WNC MOAA and SFA (Special Forces Association) Chapter 17 members), John Ward (BCVC – Buncombe County Veteran’s Council Treasurer), Karen’s proper wood rack became a reality. John Ward brought an additional load of firewood and since then more donations of firewood have been delivered by Brian and Ayden and the Culp’s.

Thank you all who participated in this project! And thank you Karen for all the wonderful food you cooked to thank us.

Submitted by – Donna Culp



John and Bill building the roof support for Karen’s wood rack.



Karen (on the right) and her dog Barney looking on as her dream of a proper wood rack takes shape.



Bill and Donna cleaning off metal roofing to be repurposed on the wood rack.

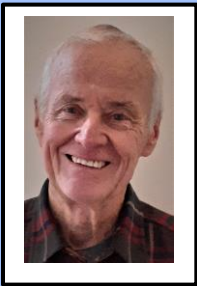


Karen’s finished wood rack and more donated wood to make ready for proper storage.

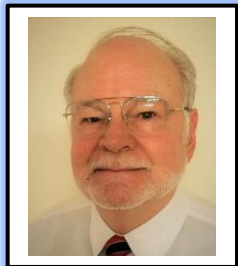
2020-2021 WNC MOAA Leadership Updates

Congratulations!!!!

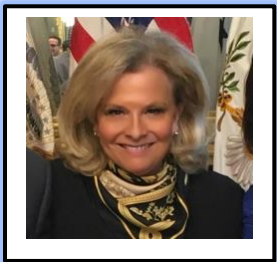
And Welcome Aboard!!!!



John "Rod" Nunnelee
CDR USN-Ret
1st Vice President



Louis "Hale" Meserow
Capt. USAF – Fmr.
2nd Vice President



Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.
Surviving Spouse
Chair - Legislative Affairs
Committee

Look for their BIOs on the website!

<https://www.wnc-moaa.org>

TREASURER’S REPORT

BALANCES: JANUARY 1, 2020: \$16,020.30 April 15, 2020: \$15,673.13

MAJOR EXPENSES:

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB – Meals \$1,471.10

VETERANS RESTORATION QUARTERS – MEALS \$1,000.00 (SEE STORY ON PAGE 7)

VETERANS HISTORY MUSEUM – CHARITABLE DONATION \$1,000.00 (SEE “SPECIAL NOTE” ON PAGE 3)

WEB SITE – DEVELOPMENT \$860.00

NAME BADGES - \$722.31

NCCOC DUES - \$190.50

JROTC – AWARDS \$147.20

For everyone’s convenience, WNC MOAA Board and Officers now have a third line on their name tags indicating the position they hold. This way when a board member or officer attends a meeting within or outside of WNC MOAA, they are more easily identified with the chapter and their duties within the chapter. This helps eliminate a lot of guesswork in a conversation.

GETTING INVOLVED – NEVER STOP SERVING - REMOTELY

VRQ - Adjusting to all the limitations of COVID-19, the WNC MOAA Board of Directors voted in our 8 April Board Meeting/Conference call to adapt the way we “NEVER STOP SERVING” by **donating \$1,000 in lieu of our normal volunteer hours at the VRQ**. Individual donations are appreciated. Thank you, Jeff Snyder, for coordinating this effort! **Jeff Snyder, 828-684-2359** jsnyder243@aol.com

JROTC – Since the schools are shut down, possibly for the remainder of the year, Jeff Snyder has coordinated with the JROTC units to mail the annual MOAA Leadership Awards to the respective school addresses. Upon receipt of the award packages, the awards will be presented in the safest manner as indicated by school guidelines. **Jeff Snyder, 828-684-2359** jsnyder243@aol.com

Blue Ridge Honor Flight - **The May 16th Honor Flight has been cancelled**. Until further notice all BRHF plans have been suspended. In the meantime - continue to encourage war Veterans to apply for flights; get on the list to serve as a guardian; donate to keep the BRHF mission going. www.blueridgehonorflight.com or contact **Rick Devereaux** at rickdevereaux1@gmail.com

We Honor Veterans – All **pinning ceremonies have been suspended until further notice** since all hospice visitation has been suspended. In our stead, the Chaplains are continuing this mission independently as appropriate to individual circumstances. Donations to Four Seasons Hospice in support of WHV are appreciated. **CAPT John Knapp, 828-702-3317** j.knapp4@att.net

VA Hospital – **All volunteer activities are currently suspended at the Asheville VA Hospital until further notice**. However, historically, WNC MOAA has been a great contributor of coffee for the ever popular coffee cart at the hospital. When we are able to resume normal activities, we will collect coffee donations at our first, in person, Chapter meeting to help get the coffee cart up and running again. Thank you in advance! **LTC Michael Pomponio, mapomponio@bellsouth.net**

Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation

VET SMILES – The ECU Community Service Learning Center Dental School in Sylva is open for **emergency dental care only**. Hopefully by the time of the 24 September, Franklin Stand Down, life will be back to normal and this vital mission will be back on track. In the meantime, tax deductible donations are much appreciated. **COL David McCracken, 828-550-5980** dem32415@aol.com



“These experiences are really gifts that force us to step to the right or left in search of a new center of gravity.

Don't fight them.

Just find a new way to stand.”

Oprah Winfrey

DID YOU KNOW?



WNC is losing JROTC units for failing to meet required enrollment numbers. Units are usually put on probation for a time to allow them to try and raise numbers.

ACTION: Encourage high school age students you know to consider joining JROTC at their school.

Let them know it is a military-regulated program designed to offer **high school** students leadership experiences and motivate them to become better American citizens, not just a funnel into the military. **JROTC** combines classroom instruction with service to **school** and community, extracurricular and social activities and the chance to take on leadership roles.

<https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/high-school-notes/2014/11/10/3-things-to-know-about-high-school-jrotc-programs>

According to the **WNC MOAA bylaws**, (Article IV, - Membership, Section 5) **“Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in the Military Officers Association of America.”**

MOAA makes it easy to join for FREE as a Basic Member.
<https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

U.S. State Department Stops Issuing New Passports

The U.S. State Department this week said it would not be issuing or processing new passports and renewals because of the continuing impact of COVID-19.

“Due to public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, effective March 20, 2020, we are only able to offer service for customers with a qualified life-or-death emergency,” the State Department wrote on an update on its website.

Those with **“qualified life-or-death”** emergencies, which include serious illnesses, injuries, or death in a traveler's immediate family that require international travel within three days, would still need to have their passport application with all supporting documents along with proof of the emergency (a death certificate, statement from a mortuary, or signed letter from a hospital).

Those who were in the process of getting or renewing a passport before March 20 will still have their applications move forward, including those who opted for expedited service.

If you are applying for or renewing a U.S. passport on or after March 20, 2020, we will not offer expedited service and routine service may be delayed. The status of our operations may change quickly. We will update this notice as the status changes. – Submitted by Mike Covell



What do they say about MOAA on the hill?

Legislators like working with MOAA because we're:

- Proactive
- Non-combative
- Doing everything right!



Legislative Issues: MOAA Makes It Easy

To Be Heard

Although COVID-19 issues are paramount on the hill at this time, MOAA provides a streamlined method of supporting legislative issues we care about. Here's how it works:

- ✓ Go to moaa.org
- ✓ Click on Legislative Action Center that takes you to the "Take Action" center <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>
- ✓ All the bills are listed here each one has a button

TAKE ACTION

- ✓ Click on the button and it takes you to a letter that spells out what we're asking our legislators to consider in regard to that topic/issue.
- ✓ Next, you'll confirm your contact information as you want it

PREVIEW MESSAGE

to appear and then click on

- ✓ You'll see who the recipients will be and the letter they will be receiving
- ✓ Lastly, click on

SUBMIT

<p>Recipients</p> <p>U.S. Senate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)</p>	<p>* Message Subject:</p> <p>Please consider a temporary waiver of TRICARE</p> <p>Dear [Recipients],</p> <p>* Your Message:</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to waive TRICARE mail order pharmacy copays during the COVID-19 emergency. Eliminating mail</p>
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You're done! And now your voice will be heard.

Next, you'll receive a standard computer generated reply acknowledging your letter has been received.

Later you should receive an email giving a status of all that's involved in moving that issue along. Imagine my surprise when I received a call from Sen. Tillis' office staff and we actually had a nice chat!

– Submitted by Donna Culp

Hails

Lance Dickinson CW2 USA-Ret

Larry Chapman Col USMCR-Ret

John Culp LTC USA-Ret

Alan Treloar, CW04, USN-Ret

Joe Neubert, CAPT, USA

Farewells

None to report at this time.

TAPS

Robert Lewis Smith, Lt. Col (Ret. USAF)

January 17, 1934 - April 3, 2020

Lt. Col. Smith will be buried with his son in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, HI. A graveside service will be arranged when possible. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl, 17, Chicago, IL 60601

Robert Whitfield Smith, Lt Col (USMC-Ret)

June 26, 1933 – March 16, 2020

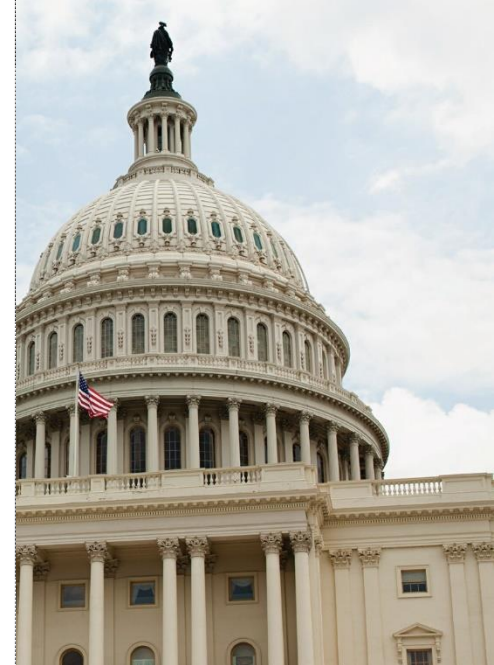


THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



Western North Carolina Chapter



MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? Yes No Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

**Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here
to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.**



And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving 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. **Visit moaa.org/join to learn more or call 800-234-6622**
How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

• **Fill in this form**

• **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to **WNC MOAA**

Mail to WNC MOAA PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 29793

• Go to **wnc-moaa.org** for more information about our chapter

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.

Chapter membership and dues information:

Valid: 1 Jan – 1 Mar

New Member: \$40 (Includes spouse)

Renew: \$30

Surviving Spouse

New Member: \$20

Renew: \$10

Send payment to:

WNC MOAA
PO Box 1984
Hendersonville, NC
28793

Name Badge Application (included in new membership):

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Service: _____

Ret: _____ Fmr: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Resident City: _____

Badge: Magnet Type Only