Western North Carolina
Military Officers Association of America

Spring Newsletter
2026

An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

Save the Dates 2026

Chapter Picnic

May 29, 2026

BOD Mtgs.	Chapter Mtgs.
July 14	August 15
October 14	November 14
January 6, 2027	February 20, 2027

The Western North Carolina Military Officers Association (WNC-MOAA) is an affiliate Chapter of National MOAA, is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan.

The mission of WNC-MOAA is stated in the bylaws and referenced in the newsletter and website.

Chapter meetings are held quarterly on Saturdays in February, August, and November. May is our Annual Chapter Picnic.

February and August meetings are held at the Hendrick-Rhodes Veterans Center, 900 N Main St, Hendersonville.

November is our Annual Meeting at Champion Hills Country Club.

Registration information for the Friday, May 29 Picnic is on the last page of this newsletter.

Spouses and guests are welcome at all Chapter meetings.

From the President's Desk:

Picnic Season, Membership Growth & Chapter Success

Dear WNC-MOAA Members,

As we head into the summer season, excitement continues to build across WNC-MOAA with outstanding events, strong member participation, and continued national recognition for our chapter.

First and foremost... Picnic, Picnic, Picnic! I hope every member is planning to join us on Friday, May 29 for our WNC-MOAA Summer Picnic. This year's picnic promises to be one of our best yet, filled with great food, fellowship, laughter, and fun activities for everyone attending.

One of the most important things each of us can do to help strengthen our chapter is introduce prospective members to WNC -MOAA. The picnic is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, fellow veteran, or someone you believe would enjoy the camaraderie and mission of our organization. Our chapter continues to grow through personal relationships and member involvement.

We are also introducing something new this year - Silent Auctions! In addition to our always-popular raffle baskets, members and guests will have the opportunity to bid on a variety of exciting auction items. Between the silent auctions, raffle baskets, excellent food, and fellowship, this will truly be an event you will not want to miss. *Online bidding will open on May 18th!*

Our members have also been having a great time participating in the Sunday Barn Yard Bingo events at Sideways Farm & Brewery. These afternoons have become a fun and unique way to enjoy fellowship while also supporting chapter activities through fundraising. If you have not attended yet, I encourage you to come out and experience the fun for yourself.

We also recently enjoyed a terrific visit and brewery tour at New Belgium Brewing. Events like these continue to strengthen the friendships and camaraderie that make WNC-MOAA such a special organization.

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our recent "When Two Becomes One" Workshop. The workshop exceeded expectations with outstanding attendance, exceptional speakers, generous sponsors, and overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Please take time to read the article elsewhere in this newsletter highlighting the event and the impact it had on attendees.

On the membership front, Military Officers Association of America has finally released the names of more than 1,200 MOAA

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members residing within our region. While this initiative is intended to support local chapter recruiting efforts, the project has proven challenging because much of the contact information provided is incomplete or outdated. Our chapter has begun the first phase of outreach, and we appreciate your patience if you are inadvertently contacted regarding membership opportunities. We hope to complete this effort by year's end and will report back on the number of new members recruited through the initiative.

Despite numerous outreach attempts, some members did not renew their 2026 chapter dues. Per our chapter bylaws, those individuals have now been removed from our chapter rolls. We truly hate losing members and continue doing all we can to remain relevant, engaging, and valuable to every member of our chapter family. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know.

Chapter dues directly support our ability to provide meaningful programs and services, including JROTC leadership awards, donations to local veteran-focused organizations, support for chapter meetings and our annual picnic, and the administrative functions necessary to keep the chapter operating effectively. Members continue to have the option to pay up to three years of dues at the current rate, allowing them to lock in today's pricing even if dues increase in the future.

As I mentioned last newsletter, one of our major goals for 2026 is to increase chapter membership by ten percent. I need everyone's help to make that happen. I encourage each of you to invite someone who may be interested in WNC-MOAA to attend the picnic or a luncheon, or even participate in one of our upcoming events or activities. Information on how to do that is included on the final page of this newsletter. In addition to growing membership, we must continue increasing volunteer involvement and participation in chapter activities, which is essential to sustaining the energy and impact of our programs.

Finally, I am extremely proud to share that for another consecutive year, WNC-MOAA has received national recognition from Military Officers Association of America.

Our chapter has once again earned the prestigious 5-Star Level of Excellence Award. In addition, WNC-MOAA received the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award at the 5-Star level for both our website and newsletters. Congratulations!!!

These awards are highly competitive, with submissions from MOAA affiliates across the country. To once again be recognized at this level speaks directly to the dedication, creativity, leadership, and hard work of our board members, volunteers, and chapter supporters. Thank you for everything you do to help make WNC-MOAA one of the premier MOAA chapters in the nation.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic on Friday, May 29... and don't forget to bring a friend or a future WNC-MOAA member! Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I am always open to new ideas, suggestions, and conversations, and I hope to see and speak with many of you in the months ahead. Please feel free to contact me at president@wnc-moaa.org anytime.



Steve Watkins
President, WNC-MOAA Chapter
'Never Stop Serving'

First-Ever WNC-MOAA Silent Auction Opens May 18!

For the first time ever, WNC-MOAA will host an online Silent Auction as part of our 3rd Annual Picnic fundraiser. ***Online bidding opens Monday, May 18 and closes at 10:00 PM on May 28.*** Items not completed through the online auction "Buy It Now" option will transition to a traditional silent auction at the picnic, where attendees may continue bidding in person.

Featured items include:

- Selkirk Beginner Pickleball Power Bundle
- Guided Fly Fishing Excursion in Maggie Valley + Scotsman Public House meal certificate
- 2-Night Stay at DuPont Yurts + DuPont Canteen package
- Kenmure Country Club golf for 4 with carts
- Cummings Cove Golf & Country Club golf package for 4
- Smoky Mountain Railroad excursion certificate
- Curtis Wright Falconry Experience
- Bold Rock Cidery gift package
- Handmade Arctic Animal Quilt donated by Tricia Vinson

All auction items must be picked up at the picnic on Friday, May 29.

All proceeds support WNC-MOAA chapter programs, JROTC leadership awards, and local veteran-focused initiatives.

Preview auction items and place your bids at:

WNC-MOAA Silent Auction

Bid early, bid often!

MOAA Stresses Need for Clear Veterans Strategy in Senate Testimony

From National MOAA: By: Kevin Lilley

A clear definition of "veteran success" will help lawmakers and the VA align efforts to get veterans the care, benefits, and support they've earned through service, MOAA told Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee members during April 29 testimony on Capitol Hill.

A National Veterans Strategy "can provide a durable, bipartisan framework that strengthens support for the entire veteran community," Jen Goodale, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Veterans and Retired Affairs, told legislators in a session addressing more than two dozen veterans-related bills under consideration by the committee.

One of those bills – the bipartisan National Veterans Strategy Act (S. 3726) – would create guidance similar to the National Security Strategy to "articulate national objectives, define shared outcomes, and coordinate efforts across agencies responsible for supporting the veteran community," according to **MOAA's written testimony**. Identifying families, caregivers, and survivors as key stakeholders and building metrics to evaluate government systems and provide for long-term planning would be critical to a successful strategy, Goodale told lawmakers.

The two-part hearing included testimony from VA officials followed by remarks from representatives of MOAA, AMVETS, and Wounded Warrior Project.

"Improving the lives of those who have served is not a partisan issue, but a shared mission that involves every member of this committee," said Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), the committee chairman. "Whether we are addressing health care, resources, or the efficiency of benefits claim processing, our focus remains on those who served and sacrificed for their nation."

Along with establishing a National Veterans Strategy, MOAA expressed support for other legislation under consideration, such as:

The Mammography Access for Veterans Act (S. 3395), which would increase access to mammography services, especially in rural or underserved communities, by making permanent the VA's tele-mammography pilot initiative. "For women veterans, it's not that they don't want to get screenings," Goodale told the committee in response to a question from Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), the panel's ranking member. "It's that it is difficult to make the appointments. It's difficult to find the place that will support them. [The act] will enhance opportunities ... to get those screenings as necessary."

The FRAUD in VA Disability Exams Act (S. 3000), which would require the VA to proactively target fraud in veterans' disability benefit questionnaires (DBQs). This legislation supports MOAA's long-standing goal of protecting veterans from predatory actors seeking to collect payment in exchange for manipulating the VA claims process – a practice also targeted by the MOAA-supported GUARD VA Benefits Act.

The Justice for ALS Veterans Act (S. 749), which would extend increased compensation to surviving spouses of veterans who died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) no matter how long they had the disease, removing eligibility requirements that fail to consider the short life expectancy of those diagnosed with ALS.

The Carlton H. Ingram Veterans' Benefits Protection Act (S. 4140), which makes clear VA disability ratings should discount the effects of medication and treatment if a baseline condition can be determined. This law comes after the VA's passage, and rescission, of a disability ratings rule that may have punished veterans for treating an illness or injury.

The Stuck On Hold Act (S. 3170), which would require the VA to establish a call-back system for its customer service lines, allowing veterans to avoid long wait times.

The Maternal Health for Veterans Act, draft legislation which would improve funding and expand reporting requirements for VA maternity care.

MOAA offered conditional support for other legislation, including bills that would create a rolling five-year staffing plan for the VA and improve VA care and benefits connected to toxic exposure. Goodale pledged to work with the committee to ensure these bills address concerns from MOAA and the wider veterans community as they move through the legislative process.

The pieces of legislation under committee consideration may "differ in scope, but share a common principle: Veterans deserve systems that are fair, modern, transparent, and worthy of their service," Goodale told lawmakers. "MOAA appreciates the committee's bipartisan leadership and stands ready to help advance these proposals."

MOAA's Legislative Action Center

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using MOAA's messaging platform.

(https://moaa.quorum.us/)

Click here to - ***TAKE ACTION***



Spring 2026
State Legislature Update

Welcome to the unknowns that will be happening in the state legislature up through election day. It should be interesting as we see what will be happening this session. To give a quick recap, we haven't changed our three top priorities, 1) property tax update for disabled veterans & surviving spouses, with our recommendation to utilize bill H341, the best compromise bill of all recommended, with any shortfalls within a specific county to be supplemented by the state. Second priority is supporting the Veteran In-State Housing/Care Programs which falls under the Department of Military & Veteran Affairs. This includes the Veteran State Homes Program Improvements and the WNC Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) Rebuild which has received no state financial support. Third priority is supporting all Occupational Certification Portability & Economic Opportunities for Military/Veterans/ Spouses (Subset of the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) Priorities). For brevity, additional details on each of these are in the recent past WNC MOAA newsletters.

So, what has been happening within the NC State Legislature over the last few months? In the WNC region, we lost Representative Mike Clmpitt to cancer last month. Governor Stein has appointed Anna Ferguson to represent Jackson, Swain & Transylvania Counties finishing his term and taking his place on the upcoming ballet. She is the First member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to serve, a dual plus for the county and providing tribal representation. Not a veteran, but the tribe has the most recent veteran service organization to gain Congressional recognition. In the primaries, 8 incumbents lost their bids, to include the Senate President, Phil Berger. This has never happened in NC before and so how that impacts the legislation power struggles is unknown. Three Democrat representatives lost their bids; all had voted to overturn a governor veto and their party openly turned on them for that decision. The rest were House republicans with one from Haywood County, Mark Pless. It is said he openly had issues within his county with leadership. It seems that the state GOP were also openly campaigning against the losing incumbents for various party infractions. Bottomline, it is unknown how these 8 incumbents will vote or respond in the short session.

The short session (election year) is expected to go into August and be highlighted with budget efforts. NC is now the only state in the nation without an approved budget, having a stalemate between the Senate & House. Both are run by the GOP, although there is no supermajority. The 2025 long-session set a new record low for passing the least number of bills (97 signed into law) as the most unproductive in state history. Topics set to dominate include the budget, property tax limitations (potentially a state constitutional amendment limiting city/county increases), Medicaid budget shortfalls, continuing 2025 session business (crossover list), infrastructure needs, Without a new budget (having some short mini budget approvals) many state employees and teachers are still getting paid on 2023 levels without cost of living increases. Four vetoes have been overturned in the senate but wait for house votes. They are SB1150 Freedom to Carry NC, SB153 NC Border Protection Act, SB 227 & 558, both dealing with DEI in Public Schools. Overall NC has about a 1% increase in revenue this year, but a projected reduction in the future and so how to deal with that trend seems to be what is the major stumbling block in the budget. As for Medicaid, there was an increase in eligibility allowed when free federal funds were provided, but that spicket has been changed and now NC must make some hard decisions.

With these issues looming and an election coming up, there seems to be very little focus on veteran bills and issues. The Fayetteville State Veteran's Home, the largest one in the state, is still closed and remains unrepaired or replaced. No funds have been set aside for the WNC VRQ by the state, even threw the disaster relief avenues. POW/MIA flags still do not fly on state buildings, only on federal ones. Property tax updates for disabled veterans have not been updated in years, and the Coast Guard is not getting paid (a federal issue, but where is the outcry from NC leadership)? With a state that gets about 12% of its GOP from military/veteran related sources, it is hard to acknowledge it as a veteran friendly state. It has made decisions against the children of wartime veterans' scholarships as mentioned in our winter newsletter. There are ongoing questions about the authorization of state trust fund money based on where the funding originates from and purpose. How can 10% be siphoned to the state veteran's cemetery fund when the money has been provided by Medicare/VA/and paid for by those currently residing in the state home structure? How can money be used for grants when it comes from private veteran medical insurance plans? It is currently very disconnected and questions on legality can easily be raised. There are very few in our state legislature that have a military background and most of those are very dated in their knowledge. Hopefully we can overcome that widening disconnect with such an important constituency.



Patricia Ann Vinson
LTC, USA (Ret)
State Legislative Affairs Team



In Memoriam

RADM Walter Cantrell, USN (Ret)

passed away on April 23, 2026

We honor and remember the lives and service of WNC-MOAA members who have recently passed away. Their dedication to our nation, commitment to the military community, and friendship within our chapter will always be remembered with gratitude and respect.

Family members and friends are welcome to contact the chapter if they would like their loved one honored in a future WNC-MOAA memorial tribute - president@wnc-moaa.org

New Belgium Brewery Tour Brings Members Together for Fun and Fellowship



Members of the Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America recently enjoyed a fun and relaxing outing at New Belgium Brewing Company in Asheville. The tour provided members and guests an opportunity to spend time together outside of the normal chapter meeting environment while learning about one of Asheville's most well-known local businesses.



Participants enjoyed a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the brewery, learning about the brewing process, the company's history, sustainability efforts, and the story behind several of New Belgium's popular craft beers. The visit also included time for conversation, laughter, and fellowship as members explored the brewery campus and enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere along the French Broad River.



Events like this continue to strengthen the camaraderie within the chapter and provide opportunities for members, spouses, and friends to connect with one another while supporting local businesses and enjoying the many attractions Western North Carolina has to offer.

The chapter looks forward to planning additional social outings and activities throughout the year as part of our commitment to member engagement and fellowship.

When Two Becomes One Workshop Receives Outstanding Response

by S Watkins

On Saturday, March 21, the WNC-MOAA hosted its *When Two Becomes One: Planning for the Years Ahead* workshop at Blue Ridge Community College. The full-day program brought together members, spouses, surviving spouses, and guests for an informative and thoughtful event focused on preparing for the future with confidence and clarity.



Attendees and volunteer speakers participate in the WNC-MOAA "When Two Becomes One: Planning for the Years

From the moment attendees arrived for coffee, conversation, and check-in, there was a strong sense that this workshop was addressing an important need within the military and veteran community. Participation throughout the day was exceptional, with attendees highly engaged during presentations, asking thoughtful questions, and sharing personal experiences.



The workshop featured an outstanding lineup of volunteer speakers who generously donated their time and expertise. Topics included VA and survivor benefits, financial planning, estate planning, healthcare directives, aging and caregiver considerations, retirement living options, hospice and palliative care, and practical steps families can take now to avoid confusion and stress later.

Presenters included representatives from veterans services, Charles Schwab, Strauss Attorneys PLLC, the Charles George VA Medical Center, Carolina Village, and Four Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care. Their willingness to volunteer their time and openly share their professional knowledge made the workshop especially meaningful.



WNC-MOAA President Steve Watkins welcomes attendees at Blue Ridge Community College.

One of the most appreciated aspects of the day was that the workshop focused on real-life planning, not just theory. Attendees discussed organizing important documents, understanding military and VA benefits, reviewing wills and beneficiary designations, planning for healthcare needs, and preparing financially and emotionally for the unexpected.

Each participant received a comprehensive planning binder filled with worksheets, checklists, speaker materials, contact information, and resources that can continue to guide families long after the workshop ended. During the guided planning session near the end of the day, attendees had an opportunity to begin working through important questions and organizing next steps together.

Feedback following the workshop was overwhelmingly positive. Many attendees commented that they wished they had received this information years ago. Others shared that the workshop encouraged important conversations between spouses that are often delayed because people do not know where to begin.

The workshop reinforced an important message: planning ahead is one of the greatest gifts we can give our families. Taking time to prepare today can reduce stress, confusion, and uncertainty during difficult times in the future.



WNC-MOAA extends sincere appreciation to all of the speakers, volunteers, and Blue Ridge Community College for helping make this workshop such a success. Due to the tremendous response and strong interest from attendees, the chapter is already exploring opportunities for future workshops and expanded educational programming.

For members who were unable to attend this year's workshop, watch future chapter communications for additional programs and opportunities. This event clearly demonstrated that these conversations matter and that our military and veteran families value the opportunity to learn, prepare, and support one another.

Veterans Restoration Quarters Update

By Jennifer Watkins, WNC-MOAA Representative

I attended the April 22, 2026 advisory meeting for the Veterans Restoration Quarters and wanted to share several updates with our WNC-MOAA members regarding the important work being done to support veterans in Western North Carolina.

One of the most encouraging announcements was that several veterans have recently transitioned into homes of their own. Campus improvements are also continuing, including upgraded door locking systems and a much-needed internet upgrade being completed by Carolina Tech.

Rebuild Plans Moving Forward

The long-awaited rebuild project is now expected to begin in mid-to-late June or early July. A viewing area will be established so supporters can safely observe the construction progress.

The project is expected to take approximately 18 to 24 months, although leadership remains hopeful it can be completed closer to the 18-month timeline. The kitchen renovation will be the first major phase and will feature updated commercial appliances along with several modern "smart" appliances.

Once completed, the rebuilt campus will provide transitional housing for approximately 250 to 300 veterans in single-occupancy living spaces.

Veterans Village Updates

The Veterans Village currently houses approximately 200 veterans. Following the rebuild, the Village will transition to approximately 120 to 130 self-contained units as part of a Permanent Support Housing (PSH) program.

Each unit will include a sink, small refrigerator, and two-burner stove. Rent will be based on Asheville HUD rates with a sliding scale tied to income. Utilities and meals will be included.

Veterans in the PSH program will sign a two-year agreement and continue following many of the same accountability standards currently used in transitional housing.

Community and Volunteer Support

VRQ leadership and nearby businesses have formed the "Exit 55 Coalition" to advocate for sidewalks, bus stops, and other safety improvements around the campus area.

Volunteer projects also continue. Recently, veterans from Mission Health repainted parking and safety markings throughout the property. Additional volunteers and donated paint supplies are still needed.

The Elks Lodge of Asheville recently completed a new computer room for veterans and is preparing to renovate the points room used primarily by veterans in transitional housing.

Ongoing Needs

VRQ leadership discussed several ongoing needs, including:

- Funding assistance for meals
- Roof replacement for the Village
- Fishing equipment for veteran outings
- Laundry facilities
- Additional volunteers for maintenance projects

Leadership noted that budgets remain strained following Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent WNC-MOAA on the VRQ Advisory Committee and will continue sharing updates on the important work being done to support veterans in our community.

Smoky Mountain Satellite Update

Some of the Smoky Mountain Satellite members met on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the Main Street Diner in Waynesville for lunch, fellowship, and discussion. The group was also pleased to welcome potential satellite member Calvin Latham to the meeting.

During the gathering, John shared updates on veteran-related issues and activities in the Smoky Mountain area, while WNC-Chapter President Steve Watkins provided general Chapter updates along with information about upcoming chapter events and the annual picnic.



L to R - Mark Nault, Calvin Latham, Michael Padgett, Chapter President Steve Watkins, and John O'Donnell

Since March 25 was also National Medal of Honor Day, attendees took time to share stories and biographies of several Medal of Honor recipients. The discussion was both meaningful and inspiring as members reflected on the courage, sacrifice, and leadership demonstrated by our nation's heroes.

The Smoky Mountain Satellite Group continues to provide a great opportunity for fellowship and connection among members in the western part of our region.

The next Smoky Mountain Satellite meeting will be held on ***Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM*** *at the Main Street Diner in Waynesville. All chapter members and prospective members are welcome to attend.*

Your DD-214: Protecting Your Military Legacy & Your Family

Submitted by Steve Watkins



For many veterans and military families, conversations about survivor planning, military records, and veteran benefits are often delayed because they feel uncomfortable or overwhelming. Unfortunately, families frequently discover the importance of these documents only during a medical emergency, after a veteran's passing, or when applying for benefits years later.

One of the most important things every veteran can do for their spouse and family is ensure they know where military records are located, how to access them, and why they matter.

At our recent survivor planning discussion, we emphasized the importance of the DD Form 214, commonly called the "DD-214," along with retirement and discharge documentation used by the National Guard and Reserve Components.

Simply put, these documents often serve as the proof needed to access benefits earned through military service.

What Is a DD-214?

The DD Form 214 is the official document issued when a service member separates or retires from active duty military service. It serves as a permanent summary of military service and contains information often required by the Department of Veterans Affairs, funeral homes, veteran organizations, and government agencies.

The DD-214 typically includes:

- Dates of military service
- Branch of service
- Final rank and pay grade
- Character of discharge
- Military occupational specialties
- Awards and decorations
- Combat or overseas service
- Retirement eligibility
- Separation status and reason for discharge

For Army National Guard and Reserve Component retirees, additional documents may also be critical because many Guard and Reserve members do not receive a traditional active-duty retirement package.

Important Guard and Reserve records may include:

- NGB Form 22
- NGB Form 23 retirement points history
- Retirement orders
- 20-Year Letter
- Reserve retirement account statements
- Gray-area retirement documentation
- Disability rating decisions
- Survivor Benefit Plan paperwork

These records become especially important when spouses or family members must verify military service after the veteran is no longer able to assist them.

Why This Matters So Much for Spouses and Families

Far too often, surviving spouses discover:

- They do not know where military records are stored
- The veteran handled all military and financial matters
- Passwords and online accounts are inaccessible
- Important documents are hidden in boxes, file cabinets, or storage bins
- Benefits cannot be processed without proof of service

This can create enormous stress during an already emotional time.

A spouse, trusted family member, or executor should know:

- Where original military documents are located
- How to access digital copies
- Who to contact for assistance
- Which benefits may exist
- What funeral wishes the veteran had
- Whether the veteran was enrolled in VA healthcare or Survivor Benefit Plan coverage

Even highly organized families sometimes discover gaps in records after a death or medical emergency. Taking time now to organize military paperwork can prevent months of frustration later.

Benefits That Commonly Require a DD-214

The DD-214 is often required to establish eligibility for:

- VA healthcare enrollment
- VA disability compensation
- Military retirement verification
- Survivor benefits
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Burial in a national cemetery
- Military funeral honors
- Government-issued grave markers or medallions
- VA home loan eligibility
- Educational benefits
- State veteran programs
- Veteran preference for employment
- Property tax exemptions in some states
- Veteran identification cards
- Membership in veteran organizations

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Your DD-214 (Continued from page 8)

Without proper documentation, applications may be delayed or denied until military service can be verified.

Funeral Planning and Military Honors

One of the most immediate needs for the DD-214 occurs after a veteran's death.

Funeral homes routinely request a copy to:

- Verify honorable military service
- Arrange military funeral honors
- Coordinate flag presentation
- Schedule honor guard support
- Confirm eligibility for burial in a national cemetery

Request government-issued headstones or grave markers

Families are often surprised how quickly these documents are needed.

Veterans should discuss:

- Burial preferences
- National cemetery eligibility
- Funeral honors wishes
- Obituary military information
- Religious or military traditions they want included

Having these conversations ahead of time can greatly reduce stress on surviving family members.

Digital Access Is Becoming Increasingly Important

Today, many military and VA systems rely on secure digital access.

Veterans should ensure spouses or trusted family members know:

- How to access VA.gov accounts
- Where important passwords are securely stored
- Whether ID.me login credentials exist
- How to locate military retirement information
- How to contact DFAS or the VA

As more services move online, digital preparedness has become just as important as physical paperwork.

Recommended Documents to Keep Together

Veterans should consider maintaining a secure military and family records file containing:

- DD-214 or equivalent retirement documents
- Retirement orders
- Marriage certificates
- Birth certificates
- Social Security information
- VA disability letters
- SBP election paperwork
- Life insurance policies
- Wills and trusts
- Powers of attorney
- Medical directives
- Funeral instructions
- Military awards and citations
- Contact information for veteran organizations and support agencies

Many families find it helpful to create both:

- A secure physical file
- An encrypted digital backup

Where Should These Documents Be Stored?

Good options include:

- Fire-resistant home safes
- Safe deposit boxes
- Secure cloud storage
- Password-protected flash drives
- Attorney or executor document files

Just as important as storage is making sure someone else knows where the records are located and how to access them.

A locked safe that nobody can open does not help a surviving spouse.

How to Obtain Replacement Records

If military records have been lost or destroyed, replacement copies can often be requested through:

- The National Archives
- County veteran service offices
- State veterans affairs agencies
- Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs)
- VA.gov
- The appropriate branch of service

Many counties also allow veterans to record a copy of their DD-214 with the Register of Deeds or Clerk of Court office for safekeeping.

Veterans should also periodically review their records to ensure names, service dates, and discharge information are accurate.

Start the Conversation Now

One of the greatest gifts a veteran can provide their family is preparation.

No one likes discussing illness, death, or end-of-life planning. However, having these conversations now can:

- Reduce confusion later
- Prevent delays in benefits
- Eliminate unnecessary stress
- Protect spouses and survivors
- Ensure military honors are properly provided
- Preserve the veteran's legacy and service history

If your spouse or family members do not know where your military records are located, now is the time to sit down together and review them.

Your military service mattered. Protecting the documents connected to that service helps ensure your family can receive the benefits, recognition, and support you earned through your years in uniform.

WNC-MOAA Honors JROTC Cadets

Submitted by Steve Watkins

Spring awards season is underway across Western North Carolina, and members of the WNC-MOAA Chapter are once again recognizing outstanding Junior ROTC cadets through the annual MOAA JROTC Leadership Award program.

The WNC-MOAA Chapter currently supports 18 JROTC programs throughout Western North Carolina. Each participating school selects a deserving cadet entering their senior year who demonstrates exceptional leadership potential, strong character, academic achievement, loyalty to their unit and country, and a commitment to service.



The award package includes:

- A bronze MOAA leadership medal
- A red, white, and blue ribbon
- A matching service ribbon
- A presentation certificate
- A certificate folder

The MOAA medal program is officially approved by all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and has long been one of the ways MOAA chapters across the nation encourage and recognize future military and community leaders.

Whenever possible, WNC-MOAA members attend local JROTC awards ceremonies and personally present the award to the cadets. These presentations create meaningful connections between generations of military service and allow chapter members to encourage young men and women who may someday serve as military officers, enlisted leaders, public servants, or community leaders.

For many cadets, receiving the MOAA Leadership Award is more than simply earning another ribbon or medal. It represents recognition from retired and former military officers who understand the importance of integrity, discipline, leadership, and service to others.

The chapter believes strongly in supporting JROTC programs and the instructors who mentor these students every day. JROTC programs help develop citizenship, responsibility, teamwork, and confidence in young people regardless of whether they pursue military service after graduation.

In recent years, the chapter has worked hard to increase member participation at local awards ceremonies. Having a chapter representative present the award in person not only honors the cadet but also helps strengthen community awareness of both MOAA and the importance of military-connected youth programs.

WNC-MOAA extends sincere appreciation to the JROTC instructors across Western North Carolina for their dedication to developing tomorrow's leaders.



WNC-MOAA Board Member Jim Gough recognizes an outstanding JROTC cadet with the MOAA Leadership Award.

Mark Your Calendars - Everyone is Welcome

29 May 2026 - 3rd Annual WNC-MOAA Chapter Picnic - Mills River Park

19 June 2026 - Woodfin Satellite Mtg - support Unbroken Spirit - 11:00am-2:00pm, Location: The Man Cave, Asheville

25 June 2026 - Smoky Mountain Satellite Mtg - 11:00am-1:00pm, Location: Main Street Diner, 18 N Main St, Waynesville

15 August 2026 - Chapter Meeting - 11:00am-2:00pm, Location: VFW, 900 N Main, Hendersonville

26 September 2026 - Blue Ridge Honor Flight Welcome Home celebration, AVL Airport



Other Chapter Social activities will be sent out via email

Surviving Spouse Corner: The Value of Connection

How do you stay connected with others? Some people prefer social media such as Facebook or LinkedIn. Others rely on email, text messages, or phone calls. No matter the method, personal connection remains important, especially within the military and surviving spouse community.



A simple conversation with a friend, sharing a memory, or exchanging a laugh can brighten someone's day. Staying connected helps strengthen friendships, families, and organizations while reminding people they are not alone.

Within MOAA chapters, these personal interactions create opportunities to build friendships, exchange ideas, and support one another through shared experiences and understanding. Events, meetings, and chapter activities are about more than programs and information. They help create a sense of belonging and community.

For surviving spouses, veterans, and members who may live alone or far from family, even a quick "good morning" text or phone call can make a meaningful difference. Some MOAA chapters have established "Buddy Check" programs where members regularly check in on one another. These simple acts of outreach help strengthen connections and ensure members know someone cares.

The article also reminds chapters of the importance of maintaining emergency contact information and encouraging outreach by chaplains, surviving spouse liaisons, and fellow members. Caring for one another is an important part of continuing the mission of service beyond military life.

As members of WNC-MOAA, we encourage everyone to stay connected, reach out to fellow members, and help ensure no member of our military family feels forgotten or isolated.

Adapted from "Surviving Spouse Corner: The Value of Connection" by Pat Green, published by MOAA National on March 3, 2026. Reprinted and adapted with recognition of MOAA National.



Travel with Those Who Understand Service

MOAA Vacations provides expertly planned travel experiences created specifically for the military community. From escorted land tours and river cruises to ocean voyages and independent travel, each trip is designed to be worry-free, value-packed, and enriching.

Travelers enjoy exclusive savings, special amenities, and the confidence of working with professionals who understand military life and the importance of attention to detail. Whether you are exploring historic destinations, relaxing on a cruise, or checking off a bucket-list adventure, MOAA Vacations makes traveling easy and rewarding.

Open to MOAA members, surviving spouses, and eligible family members.

Learn more and start planning your next journey at:
MOAA Vacations

Phone: 800-211-5107 or Email mail@moaavacations.com

MOAA membership required. Offers and availability vary by trip.

Have You Visited Our Website and 'Liked' Our Facebook Page?

www.wnc-moaa.org & Facebook: ***WNC- MOAA***

The WNC-MOAA website is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

Events Calendar: Check out our "Events" page to view an updated calendar of upcoming MOAA events.

Newsletters: Access the latest issue of our award-winning Chapter Newsletter, as well as archived editions for reference.

Photo Gallery of Events: Browse photos from our luncheons, special meetings, conventions, and more! If you've attended a WNC-MOAA event, you might just spot yourself in one of the albums.

Facebook: Follow us at *WNC-MOAA* on Facebook to view photo albums, like and share posts, and stay informed on chapter news and events.

Please note: By attending a WNC-MOAA event, you grant permission for your photographic image to be captured and used in our publications, including our website, newsletters, and social media platforms.

MOAA N C WNC-MOAA

3rd Annual WNC-MOAA Summer Picnic

Willow Oak Shelter

First shelter on the right when entering Mills River Park

Parking is adjacent to the shelter.

We look forward to seeing you!





WNC-MOAA Shirts and Hats!



We're excited to announce that WNC-MOAA shirts and hats are available! Show your Chapter Pride with these stylish pieces, featuring the embroidered WNC-MOAA logo. We expect to have a limited supply at our chapter meeting, so make sure to check them out!

Shirts: These classic grey shirts are available in assorted sizes, with the WNC-MOAA logo embroidered on the left chest. *Price - $37.00*.



Hats: Choose between tan or grey, both with the embroidered WNC-MOAA logo. *Price - $27.00*.

To order your gear and represent WNC-MOAA, visit https://my.cheddarup.com/c/wnc-moaa-gear to place your order today!

Thank You to Our 3rd Annual WNC-MOAA Picnic Sponsors

The WNC-MOAA Chapter would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the many businesses, organizations, and individuals who generously supported our 3rd Annual Chapter Picnic through raffle items, silent auction donations, gift cards, products, and in-kind support. Their generosity helps make this event possible and supports the ongoing programs and outreach efforts of our chapter.

We encourage our members to support these outstanding community partners whenever possible.

Thank you
TO OUR SPONSORS

- Culver's - Arden
- Chick-fil-A - Hendersonville
- Ecusta Brewing - Brevard
- Oskar Blues Brewery - Brevard
- The Biltmore - Asheville
- Tricia Vinson for providing a beautiful quilt
- Harris Teeter - Hendersonville
- Bold Rock Cidery - Mills River
- Van's Chocolates - Hendersonville
- Curtis Wright Falconry - Weaverville
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad - Bryson City
- Allegiance Flag Co. - Buford, GA
- Guidon Brewing Co. - Hendersonville
- Packa's Place - Horse Shoe
- Mills River Brewing Co. - Mills River
- Kenmure Country Club - Flat Rock
- DuPont Yurts - Hendersonville
- DuPont Canteen - Hendersonville
- Cummings Cove Golf & Country Club - Hendersonville
- Sideways Farm & Brewery - Etowah
- Maker's Mark Distillery - Loretto, KY
- J's BBQ - Ripon, Wisconsin
- Our State Magazine - Greensboro, NC
- Publix - Hendersonville
- Will Garvey for providing local honey
- Etowah Meat Depot - Etowah
- Bone & Bottle - Hendersonville
- Topgolf - Greenville
- Southern Stream CoffeeHouse - Hendersonville
- Selkirk Pickleball Co. - Dalton Gardens, ID
- Sam's Club - Hendersonville
- The Home Depot - Hendersonville
- Costco - Greenville
- Wild Birds Unlimited - Hendersonville
- Salon 104 - Hendersonville
- Fresh Market - Hendersonville
- Marsh Hen Mill - Edisto Island, South Carolina
- Starting Gardens - Etowah
- K & S Tea - Hendersonville
- Homestead Fine Linens - Hendersonville
- Mast General Store - Hendersonville
- Hair Gallery - Hendersonville
- Waynesville Sponsors:
  - Scotsman Public House
  - Mast General Store
  - Frog Level Brewing
  - Cornerstone Mercantile
  - Maggie Valley Fly Shop (Waynesville area)

Your support of our veterans, surviving spouses, and military community is greatly appreciated. Because of your generosity, our picnic continues to grow as one of the chapter's favorite annual fellowship events.

Barn Yard Bingo Returns to Sideways Farm & Brewery

Join fellow members and friends for a fun afternoon of Barn Yard Bingo at Sideways Farm & Brewery in Etowah, NC on Sundays, May 17, May 24, and May 31. Games are scheduled to begin around 1:00 PM and proceeds from selected games will help support the mission and programs of the WNC-MOAA Chapter.

Barn Yard Bingo has quickly become a popular community event featuring prizes, laughs, and plenty of excitement as participants cheer on the "special guest" chicken to determine the winning square. The atmosphere is relaxed, family-friendly, and a great way to enjoy a Sunday afternoon while supporting local veteran programs.

Members are encouraged to wear WNC-MOAA apparel and invite friends and family to attend. Come early, enjoy the farm atmosphere, food, beverages, and fellowship, and help us make these Sundays a success.

Jen and I hope to see you there!



Leave a Legacy of Service in Western North Carolina

Support the Mission of WNC-MOAA for Years to Come

The Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (WNC-MOAA) is built on a simple but powerful commitment: never stop serving. Our members put that into action every day - honoring hospice patients through our partnership with Four Seasons Hospice and the We Honor Veterans program, purchasing wreaths for veterans' graves across the region, supporting Blue Ridge Honor Flight, helping fund JROTC programs in local high schools, backing Vet Smiles to restore dignity through dental care, preparing and serving monthly meals at the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ), and supporting the Western North Carolina VA Hospital and Clinics through drives for hygiene items, snacks, and other critical needs.

Now, we invite you to extend that commitment through a lasting gift: a legacy donation.

What Is a Legacy Gift?

A legacy gift - also called a planned or estate gift - is a meaningful way to support WNC-MOAA through your will, trust, or beneficiary designations. It allows you to leave a gift without affecting your finances during your lifetime. You can give a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or name WNC-MOAA as the beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.

Why It Matters

Your gift helps ensure that WNC-MOAA remains a force for good across the mountains of Western North Carolina for years to come. It will support:

- Outreach and meal service at the VRQ
- Donations and support to the WNC VA Hospital and Clinics
- Wreaths Across America placements throughout our region
- JROTC recognition and leadership development
- The Vet Smiles dental care initiative
- Veteran honor ceremonies in hospice care
- Blue Ridge Honor Flight send-offs and welcome homes
- Chapter programming, events, and advocacy efforts

Rooted in Western North Carolina

Our chapter serves communities across Asheville, Hendersonville, Waynesville, Franklin, Brevard, Black Mountain, and beyond. A legacy gift lets your values live on - strengthening local efforts that support, honor, and connect veterans throughout the region.

How to Make a Gift

Making a legacy gift is straightforward. Here's sample language for your will or trust:

> *"I give and bequeath to the Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization, the sum of $____ (or __% of my estate) to support its veteran-focused mission in Western North Carolina."*

You can also name WNC-MOAA as a beneficiary of a retirement account, bank account, or life insurance policy.

We'd Be Honored to Talk

If you've already included WNC-MOAA in your estate plans - or would like to learn more - please contact Steve Watkins at president@wnc-moaa.org or speak with any board member. We'll respect your privacy and ensure your gift is used according to your wishes.

Western North Carolina is our home. Service is our legacy.
Your gift ensures we 'Never Stop Serving'.



Purpose of the Western North Carolina Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

The purposes of the Chapter shall be to promote the purposes of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); foster fraternal relations among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve the community and the nation.

Ref: WNC-MOAA bylaws updated, amended, and approved November 15th, 2025 can be found on our website at

https://wnc-moaa.org/chapterbylaws/



MOAA Celebrates National Military Appreciation Month with Special Membership Offer

During the month of May, MOAA National is celebrating National Military Appreciation Month with a special offer for new and renewing Premium members. Members who join or renew a Premium membership this month will ***receive 10% off their membership***, ***a $10 Amazon gift card***, and ***access to MOAA's full suite of member benefits and services***.

While MOAA Basic membership is free and provides advocacy updates and electronic communications, Premium membership ($66/year in 2026) offers expanded benefits designed to support officers and their families at every stage of life. Premium members receive Military Officer magazine, financial planning resources, exclusive discounts on travel, hotels, technology, shipping, insurance, and retail purchases, along with access to scholarships and interest-free loans for dependent children. Members also gain access to additional advocacy resources, expert guidance, and tools that can help navigate military and retirement-related benefits and decisions.

To learn more or take advantage of this limited-time offer, visit MOAA Membership Appreciation Offer or call the MOAA Member Service Center at **(866) 739-7108** and use Promo Code: **APPRECIATION26** *before May 31*.



FY 2026 CASH FLOW REPORT - 5/13/2026

INCOME	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD	Budget	Diff
Membership Dues	$1,425.00	$700.00			$ 2,125.00	$ 4,000.00	$1,875.00
Miscellaneous Income	$ 173.52				$ 173.52	$ 200.00	$ 26.48
Donations	$ 865.00				$ 865.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 135.00
VA Donations	$ -				$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
Chapter Meeting & Raffles	$1,445.00	$240.00			$ 1,685.00	$ 5,000.00	$3,315.00
Badges	$ 15.00	$ 30.00			$ 45.00	$ 50.00	$ 5.00
Surviving Spouse Dues	$ 60.00				$ 60.00	$ 100.00	$ 40.00
NCCOC	$ -				$ -	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
MOAA HQ	$ -				$ -	$ -	$ -
Wreaths /America donations	$ -				$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
Gear pass thru	$ -				$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
Total Income	$3,983.52	$970.00	$ -	$ -	$ 4,953.52	$11,850.00	$6,896.48
EXPENSES							
NCCOC Dues	$ -	$211.20			$ 211.20	$ 200.00	$ 11.20
BCVC	$ -	$ 50.00			$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ -
Recruiting & Retention	$ -				$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
Web/Digital Services	$ -				$ -	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
Liability Insurance	$ -				$ -	$ 538.00	$ 538.00
IRS tax filing	$ 50.00				$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ -
USPS/Shipping	$ 225.60				$ 225.60	$ 200.00	$ 25.60
Administrative Supplies	$ 176.22				$ 176.22	$ 300.00	$ 123.78
JROTC Awards	$ 126.55				$ 126.55	$ 200.00	$ 73.45
Speaker Gifts	$ 80.00				$ 80.00	$ -	$ 200.00
Badges	$ 110.59	$ 41.47			$ 152.06	$ 50.00	$ 102.06
Donations	$ -				$ -	$ 4,000.00	$4,000.00
Meetings Expenses/Rafles	$2,215.63	$214.00			$ 2,429.63	$ 6,000.00	$3,570.37
Smoky Mtn Satellite Support	$ -				$ -	$ -	$ -
Woodfin Satelite Support	$ 729.87				$ 729.87	$ -	$ 729.87
President's Travel	$ -				$ -	$ -	$ -
Wreaths/America expense	$ -				$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
Gear pass thru	$ -				$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
Workshop Hosting & Support	$ 954.55				$ 954.55	$ -	$ 954.55
Total Expenses	$4,669.01	$516.67	$ -	$ -	$ 5,185.68	$13,188.00	$8,282.32
NET INCOME / NET LOSS					$ 232.16	$ 1,338.00	
(RESERVE) BANK BALANCE				4/30/26	$13,495.16		

Hails and Farewells

Hails

Joy Deitle, Surviving Spouse
William Breyfogle, USA, COL
Jerry Moran, USMC, Capt
Gene Kirschbaum, USA, CW3
Bill Davis, USN, Lt

Farewells

None Reported

'NEVER STOP SERVING' … CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We Honor Veterans - Since November 2014, WNC-MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored ***over 1,100*** veterans with special pinning ceremonies to salute veterans in hospice care and thank them for their service. To learn more and get involved, contact **John Knapp, 828-702-3317** j.knapp4@att.net

Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ)

VRQ - The Chapter continues to serve our area's homeless veterans by providing a lunch prep/ serve crew on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ). We also provide the 5th Wednesday lunch crew in applicable months. The VRQ is a converted motel that provides shelter, counseling, and vocational training for the area's homeless veterans. Chapter members arrive at 9:30 to prepare for the lunch meal then, at 12:00, serve the meal to the residents of the Veteran's Restoration Quarters. The Chapter is very proud to have been serving our area's veterans with this effort since 2015. If you would be interested in joining our crew, please contact the Chapter's VRQ volunteer coordinator, **Jeff Snyder, at jsnyder243@aol.com.**

Blue Ridge Honor Flight transports American veterans to Washington, DC two times each year to "visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and the sacrifices of themselves and their friends." There are opportunities to donate, as well as learn more about applying as an honoree, guardian, or volunteer. For more information, contact **Steve Watkins at 608-225-0594 or steve.watkins.email@gmail.com or www.blueridgehonorflight.com**

Next flight: September 26, 2026

JROTC is active in 18 high schools throughout WNC. Our Chapter provides support to these units in a number of ways, to include presentation of the annual MOAA Leadership awards for a rising Senior in each unit. Chapter members present the awards on behalf of the Chapter at unit award ceremonies held in the spring. For more information about supporting the award presentations, and other information about supporting JROTC, contact Jeff Snyder at 757-570-1472 or jsnyder243@aol.com

Established in 2013, the Veterans Healing Farm's mission is "To enhance the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our nation's Veterans and their families." This is accomplished through the creation of a safe, peaceful environment that fosters healing and camaraderie. Programs focus on brain health and includes Agri therapy (organic farming, beekeeping, medicinal herbs) as well as a variety of other therapies/ therapeutic activities, workshops, and live events. **To learn more: https://www.veteranshealingfarm.org/about**

Veteran Smiles Foundation is dedicated to helping veterans find their dental home all across North Carolina. Continuing the relationship with ECU Dental School of Medicine as established with the Sylva Community Service Learning Center (CSLC). Because of the success of the Sylva program Vet-Smiles programs are now partnering with the other CSLCs in Brunswick County, Robeson County, Lillington, Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Davidson County, and Spruce Pine to reach more NC veterans. WNC-MOAA will continue its partnership with the Sylva clinic and coordinate efforts with VSF and NC Serves to continue to help identify veterans in need of dental care and a dental home for continuity of care. For more information, contact, **David McCracken, 984-233-3350, https://vetsmiles.org/**

The mission of the **Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas** is to honor our nation's veterans, to educate the public about our country's military history and the contribution of our servicemen and women, and to preserve important and unique historic artifacts. The Museum reflects a love of country and gratitude to those who serve it by remembering and celebrating their service. A world-class museum and great destination for visitors. For more information: **WNC-MOAA Museum POC: Duke Woodhull** dukewoodhull@gmail.com or go to: **https://theveteransmuseum.org/**

Join the WNC-MOAA Chapter

Pay Chapter Dues or Make Donations

If you like paying for things electronically and don't like writing checks, you can now pay for your WNC-MOAA *Chapter items online.*

You can do the following all online: you can PAY your Annual Membership Dues; make a DONATION to the Chapter's Operating Expenses; and you can even PAY for Chapter Activities (i.e. Quarterly General Membership Meetings).

- Go to my.cheddarup.com/c/dues-wnc-moaa-2026
- Select '**Join WNC-MOAA or Renew WNC-MOAA Dues'**
- Select your **'Member Dues' or 'Surviving Spouse Member'** option.
- Select if you need an optional **'Replacement Name Badge'**
- Select if you want to make an optional **'Donation'** if you would like to donate to the Chapter's Operating Expenses.
- Select the length of membership you would like (example - selecting a 3 years membership will protect you from any dues increase during those 3 years).
- Complete the contact information.

Cheddar Up

MOAA N C WNC-MOAA

WNC-MOAA Board of Directors and Officers 2026 - 2027

President: Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

1st Vice President: Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President: ***Vacant - please volunteer***

Secretary: Joe Neubert, CPT. USA (Fmr)

Treasurer: Steve Salter, LT, USN (Fmr)

US Army Rep: Rod Honeycutt, COL USA (Ret)

US Navy Rep: John Odell, LT, USN (Ret)

USMC Rep: Jim Gough, Col, USMC (Ret)

USAF Rep: ***Vacant - please volunteer***

At Large Rep: Jim Steinbaugh, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Black Mountain Satellite Chair: Ernie Reynolds, LTC, USA (Ret)

Smoky Mountain Satellite Chair: John O'Donnell, CDR, USN (Ret)

Woodfin Satellite Chair: Rod Honeycutt, COL, USA (Ret)

Membership Chair: ***Vacant - please volunteer***

Programs Chair: Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

Immediate Past President: Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Fmr)

Chaplain: - ***Vacant - please volunteer***

Senior Advisor: Rick Deveraux, Maj Gen, USAF, (Ret.)

Newsletter Editor: Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

JROTC Liaison: Jeff Snyder, Col. USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs - Federal: Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.

Legislative Affairs - State: Tricia Vinson, LTC, USA (Ret)

Asheville VA Liaison: John O'Donnell, CDR, USN (Ret)

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Sharon Woodcock

Webmaster: Steve Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

New number. Same support.

Dial 988 then Press 1

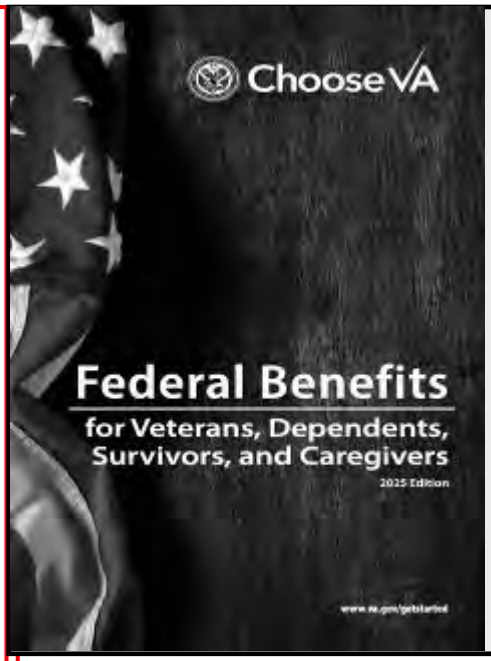
Please Share The New Phone Option For The Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 & Press 1

https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/



https://www.taps.org/mission

TAPS 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline is always available toll-free with loving support and resources at 800-959-TAPS (8277)



To download your copy go to:

2025-Federal-Benefits-for-Veterans-Dependents-and-Survivors.pdf

Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

Moved?

New Email address?

New Phone Number?

Upgrade Your Membership?

MOAA:

Call the **Member Service Center** at:
(800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311
e-mail **msc@moaa.org**

WNC-MOAA:

Use the Join Form in this newsletter to change address, update contact Information, join, or renew.
Mail checks to:
PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793
or go to
https://www.wnc-moaa.org/

For an electronic version of this newsletter go to the WNC-MOAA website

The Western North Carolina Chapter of MOAA has once again earned MOAA's highest honors for 2025, with the awards presented in 2026. We are proud to be recognized as a 5-Star Levels of Excellence Chapter and a 5-Star winner of the Harris Communications Award for both our newsletter and website!

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why WNC-MOAA chapter membership matters.

WNC-MOAA

MOAA Military Officers Association of America



WNC-MOAA CHAPTER & MOAA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM (2025)

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Former ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Surviving Spouse

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Email _____ Phone _____

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

Are you a MOAA member? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

Spouse's information

Spouse's name _____

Spouse's email _____ Spouse's phone _____

Is your spouse a MOAA member or eligible to be a MOAA member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Your Chapter interest: ☐ Attending Social Events ☐ Board of Directors ☐ Member Recruiting ☐ Legislative Affairs ☐ Newsletter Editing ☐ Public Affairs ☐ Spouse's Programs

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

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.

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** on your computer and email it to membership@wnc-moaa.org as an attachment ***or***
- **Print it** and fill it and mail it to:
  WNC-MOAA, P.O. Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793 ***or***
  Scan it and e-mail it to membership@wnc-moaa.org
- 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.

Western North Carolina Chapter membership of MOAA

Chapter Dues are due January 1
(No Later Than March 1)

Member

☐ $35 - New Member (includes Spouse)

☐ $35 - Renew

Surviving Spouse

☐ $10 - New or Renew

Name Badges
(Badges are Magnet type only)

☐ All Badges - $15 each

Badge Name(s):

_____

_____

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Watkins at: membership@wnc-moaa.org or call/text 608-225-0594

Clear Form

3rd Annual WNC-MOAA Chapter SUMMER PICNIC

Join us for our third annual Western North Carolina Military Officers Association of America Chapter Summer Picnic!
We're planning a fantastic time filled with delicious barbecue, music and fun for all.

Date: May 29, 2026
Time: 11:00am – 3:30 pm
Location: Willow Oak Shelter, Mills River Park, 124 Town Center Dr, Mills River
$20/per person

https://3rdwncmoaa-picnic.cheddarup.com

RSVP by Sunday, May 24th

WNC-MOAA QR Code

Great Raffle Prizes

Make checks payable to: WNC-MOAA; Enclosed is my check for ____ meal (s) at $20 per person. I / we plan on attending the WNC-MOAA 3rd Annual Picnic on Friday, May 29, 2026
Mail registration to: WNC-MOAA, P.O. Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793-1984

Name:_____ **Guest:** _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:**_____