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THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER of MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

P O BOX 53621

FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305

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INFOGRAM - April 2014

EDITOR: LTC John W. Hazlett, US Army (Ret)

www.cfmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Juan Chavez,

phone: (910)797-5419,

email: President@cfmoaa.org

It pleases me to declare our general membership meeting held at The Mash House Restaurant on Friday the 28th of March a big

success. It was well attended, the food was excellent, we heard a great presentation by Old Glory Legacy Foundation Founder and Executive Director Rachel Medley, we recognized

one of our own for outstanding service, and we signed up four new members. The only way that could've been any better would be to have signed up more than four new members.

But seriously, I thank all who attended and particularly those who brought guests who decided to join our chapter. Kudos to George Blanc, Don Gersh and all my staff who help put this event together.

The highlight of the meeting was presenting the 2013 DeMeter Award for Outstanding Service to Bill Dadek. Bill has done, and continues to do, a phenomenal job with our ROTC support programs. During the next three months as the end of the academic year approaches and the ROTC scholarships, awards, and commissioning ceremonies of 5 universities and 25 high schools reach a feverish tempo, we'll see Bill in the thick of it, insuring that every Chapter or MOAA award is presented personally by him or a member of our chapter. This can get very knotty as it is not uncommon for two or three schools to schedule their awards ceremonies on the same day. Somehow, however, Bill will make it happen seamlessly. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Bill, and I consider myself blessed to have served alongside of him at this time and place.



Last year about this time I appealed for volunteers to help us make award presentations in an effort to lighten the burden on Bill, but sadly, no one stepped up. This year, I'm appealing for volunteers again, not only as award presenters to help Bill, but for other positions as well. If you recall in the State of the Chapter Report I presented in January, one of our goals for 2014 is to encourage members to serve in appointive or committee positions. As promised, I have included in this issue a list of "volunteer opportunities" for you to consider. Please review the list and if anything strikes your fancy, please call. We need all the help we can get and this is a good opportunity to step up to the plate and do something meaningful and self-satisfying.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that this year is an election year. Pursuant to our constitution and bylaws, at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting in November 2014, we must appoint a nominating committee of five members, not currently holding elective or appointive office, to nominate candidates for elective office. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please call me.

I wish all of you a warm, beautiful and blessed Easter season.

MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITING AND RETENTION

by Juan Chavez, President, phone (910) 797-5419; email President @cfmoaa.org

RECRUITING

We closed the first quarter of 2014 with 17 new members, not too shabby, but still below the glide path we need to be on to reach our annual goal. **But!** . . . It is always a pleasure to welcome new members, and we welcome the newest 6:

LTC (Ret) Jack Kelley, USA

LTC Mark Hayden, ARNG

MAJ (Ret) Steven Sosa, USA

MAJ (Ret) Jane Fisher, USAF

CPT Larry Pitts, USA

CW4 (Ret) Lester Beery, USN

It is imperative that we continue to recruit with a new sense of commitment. If we're going to put up a fight against the anticipated cuts in our defense budget, and protect our hard-earned benefits we all need to stay focused. We must increase our numbers to have a fighting chance.

We live in one of the largest recruiting markets in the country, so go out and recruit someone today! Once again, the **eligibility criteria** for membership are: *any commissioned or warrant officer – active duty, retired, former, Reserve or National Guard, in any of the seven uniformed services.*

RETENTION We closed the 2014 membership renewal period on 31 March with a renewal rate of 90%. Of the 10% (24) who did not renew: 5 were active duty members who PCS'd; 3 retirees relocated; 3 died; 10 have not responded, and only 3 refused to renew. We are still holding hope for the 10 who have not responded. If you are one of them, please mail in your renewals ASAP using the form on the back page of the *Infogram*. You can also renew online and pay by credit card by going to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/>.

If you have any questions please call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545.



ROBERT F. DEMETER CHAPTER SERVICE

AWARD FOR 2013

It is a distinct pleasure to announce that the recipient of the Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award for 2013 is LTC (Ret) William J. Dadek, US Army.

Bill was recognized for sustained outstanding service to the chapter as 3rd Vice President for ROTC Affairs and Chairman of the ROTC Scholarship Committee for the past 7 years.

Bill was officially presented the DeMeter trophy and certificate by Juan Chavez, Chapter President at our March 28, 2014 general membership meeting. Congratulations Bill and thanks for your dedicated service to the chapter.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Other than serving in one of the five elective positions, there are many other ways chapter members can serve and make meaningful contributions. We are in dire need of volunteers to help carry the load of operating the Chapter in an effective and efficient manner. The majority of the positions/jobs listed only require a commitment of a few hours a month of your time and most of the work can be performed from or in your home. Any member or their spouses may participate. Some of the positions listed below are currently filled, but having a replacement in queue to understudy would be ideal.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for one or more of the positions listed, please call our Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545, or email at Secretary@cfmoaa.org.

Executive Board and Special Staff Appointive Positions:

- Auxiliary Liaison Officer (Auxiliary member preferred)
- Personal Affairs Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Assistant Newsletter Editor
- Assistant Secretary
- Web Master
- TOPS (The Officer Placement Service)

On-Going Committees:

- ROTC and Scholarship Committee
- Personal Affairs Committee
- Newsletter Editorial Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Programs Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Sponsorship Sales Committee
- Membership Committee
- Information Dissemination Committee
- Membership Directory Committee
- TOPS (The Officer Placement Service) Group

Special Purpose Committees:

- Nominating Committee (On election years; 2014 is an election year)
- Golf Tournament Committee
- Veterans Day Parade Committee
- Christmas Dance Gala Committee

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

- Honor Guard Member
- ROTC Awards Presenter
- USO Airport Lounge Steward

CHAPTER MEMBERS CAN PURCHASE ADS TO SPONSOR PUBLICATIONS

This year's membership directory will carry "sponsorships" in the form of business cards. The cards will be placed throughout the expanded and improved directory and will be mailed first class to Chapter Members in late April or early May.

The sponsorship cards will be printed in black and white. The cost is \$50 for a one-year contract.

Beginning with the May issue, the monthly newsletter will also run sponsor ads. Contracts are for either six issues or 12 (a "baker's dozen" for those who buy the one-year commitment!). The INFOGRAM will also be available on the Chapter's website at www.cfmcaa.org and will include the ads.

Sponsors may buy full-page, half-page, quarter-page and business card-sized ads.

Cost is:

Full-page	6 issues \$850	12 issues \$1,693
Half-page	6 issues \$419	12 issues \$753
Quarter-page	6 issues \$204	12 issues \$389
Business card	6 issues \$95	12 issues \$188

For more information or to reserve your sponsorship place, contact Don Gersh at 910.624.4597 or doneal.gersh@gmail.com. Checks are payable to Cape Fear Chapter MOAA and may be mailed to Post Office Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



DONATION TO THE OLD GLORY LEGACY FOUNDATION

Miss Rachel Medley, Founder and Executive Director of the Old Glory Legacy Foundation, accepts a \$500 donation from the Cape Fear Chapter presented by President Chavez at the general membership meeting and luncheon held at The Mash House Restaurant on 28 March 2014. The Old Legacy Foundation (OGLFoundation.org) is a horse farm operated by Miss Medley that brings military service members and their families together to build strong family relationships and lasting memories through outdoor activities. It is a non-profit enterprise that is totally dependent on donations for its operation.

JROTC HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS-SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014

Fairmont High School JROTC held their awards banquet on 22 March 2014. Under the direction of LTC (Ret) Davis and his staff the cadets decorated the Fairmont Heritage Center and conducted an excellent military ball to celebrate the achievements of the Fairmont "Tornado" Battalion cadets. Fairmont Mayor Charles Townsend was the featured speaker. Cadet Captain Sequita McAllister was presented the MOAA Medal for Achievement by LTC (Ret) Dadek, 3rd Vice President of the Cape Fear Chapter.



The South View High School JROTC Ball of 2014 was held on the 28th of March in the Lafayette Room, Fort Bragg Club. The event included a buffet dinner, and dancing after the formal part of the program. Colonel (Ret) Michael Johnson, Senior Army Instructor and his assistant Master Sergeant (Ret) Larry Bradford along with the cadet leadership provided a festive occasion for the "Tiger" Battalion cadets and their families/friends. Awards were presented to deserving cadets from many national and fraternal organizations. Our 3rd Vice President, LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek, presented the MOAA Medal for Achievement to Cadet Kaely Churchill. Chapter member LTC (Ret) Jack Kelley was the featured speaker.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER by Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb, phone: (910) 635-8308, email: chaplain@cfmoaa.org

"And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15: 37-38)

We are in Lent or “Easter” season. It is a time where Jesus’ suffering is remembered and He is hailed as the unique and only Son of God. It is also fascinating that a Roman Centurion—an officer likely in command of 100 Soldiers, was one of the first people to recognize the divine purpose in Jesus’ suffering. This very officer likely played a role in how the crucifixion was handled. He was probably an experienced warrior and a disciplined leader. However tough he was, he had inside a sensitive, spiritual center (an intuitive soul) that enabled him to make the above, eternally memorialized statement about Jesus Christ. His observation probably changed the direction in his military life, but more importantly it was a confession that united him with God’s Word.

Servicemen and women past and current should also glean from this that it is good, honorable, and right to have and proclaim our observations about God just the way it was done in times past. General George C. Marshall in 1941 eloquently stated, “the Soldier’s heart, the Soldier’s spirit, the Soldier’s soul are everything. Unless the Soldier’s soul sustains him he cannot be relied upon and will fail himself, and his commander, and his country in the end.” We should embrace that same Holy Spirit intuition and pray for God to sustain our hearts this April and beyond with the hope only He can provide so that we can stand with the old Roman Centurion and identify what we know to be truly from God Almighty. *Pro Deo Et Patria*

ALL – AUXILIARY LIAISON LETTER by Carol Ivey, phone: 910-868-3213, email: auxlo@cfmoaa.org

Tricare for Life will begin a yearlong home drug delivery program. DOD health officials project that it will save the government \$120 million per year in retail drug costs and save beneficiaries \$28 million in lower drug co-payments. This will affect about 500,000 military beneficiaries age 65 and older with chronic health conditions and force them, beginning this month to have maintenance drug prescriptions filled by mail order rather than local retail pharmacies. If you currently use the refill centers this will not affect those prescriptions.

HOW TO REQUEST MILITARY HONORS FOR A DECEASED VETERAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

To request military honors for a military veteran contact the Fort Bragg Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Office. The Fort Bragg Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Office provides casualty, mortuary, survivor outreach services, memorial honors, and offer support, guidance and services to North Carolina Soldiers and their Families as well as other Casualty Assistance Centers (CAC). The CAC is the go-to on all Army casualty issues and guidance for the area of responsibility North Carolina.

The Fort Bragg office is located off of Normandy Drive at the Soldier Support Center (Building 4-2843) 2d Floor, Wing D . The Office hours: 0800 - 1700 Monday - Friday and is closed all federal holidays. The main telephone number (910) 396-9901 / 800-682-6973 and the On-Call 24 hour number (910) 309-6463 To find out more information visit the Fort Bragg website: <http://www.bragg.army.mil/directories/HR/personnel/Pages/CAO.aspx>

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

The House and Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittees held back-to-back hearings this week focusing on personnel benefit cuts contained in the administration’s FY 2015 request. Both panels expressed concerns over DoD’s proposals to trim compensation and benefits, especially ahead of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission’s (MCRMC) report which is due in February 2015.

At the House Subcommittee hearing, Chairman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) provided a cool reception to DoD’s proposals to trim basic pay, housing stipends, TRICARE benefits, and commissary offerings, and indicated they could be modified by lawmakers in the coming weeks.

The Pentagon’s total request for military personnel spending next year would mark a six-year low.

“The quality of life for our personnel is good, and we know that we have to slow the growth to balance

the force," said Jessica Wright, acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

MOAA and other military advocates dispute that claim and believe personnel growth has already slowed, and that the Pentagon is unfairly singling out personnel to balance the budget.

Chairman Wilson stated that while defense officials insist the changes would not hurt troops' quality of life, "there's no doubt it will cut purchasing power" and "affect their day-to-day financial decisions."

"You're moving down the path ahead of the MCRMC," stated Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.). "It seems like the Department of Defense is willing to make changes without any information [from the Commission]."

Before the Senate panel, DoD Comptroller Robert Hale pleaded with the Senate panel not to undue money-saving proposals in the fiscal 2015 budget proposal — but Senators called them financially crippling to enlisted members and military families.

"Their paycheck isn't going to go as far with these cuts," said panel Chairwoman Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). "We really are changing the deal."

Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) asked whether DoD had studied the impact the proposed changes would have – especially on junior enlisted troops. "I assume because you propose this, you ran all these numbers and really looked at rank versus how much more that person will pay. And I think that's really important for us to see the numbers," Ayotte said.

DoD's pay and benefits proposals for FY 2015 would be crippling for troops and their families and would be a disincentive to continue serving, according to lawmakers on both panels.

MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret.), stated "...when you add up the FY14 and FY15 pay caps, the proposed housing cuts, the reductions in commissary savings, and the new TRICARE fee structure, an E-5's family of four would experience a loss of nearly \$5,000 in purchasing power annually; and an O-3's family of four would experience a loss of nearly \$6,000.

Military Coalition partners from the National Military Family Association, Fleet Reserve Association, and Reserve Officers Association testified with Hayden before the Senate panel.

Hayden asked Sen. Gillibrand not to proceed with DoD's piecemeal changes to pay and benefits –ahead of the report of Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

This is the first step in the long defense bill process. Learn more and what you can do on [MOAA's Budget Battle webpage](#).

MEDICARE – TRICARE BUDGET CUTS (14 March 2014)

Congress has until April 1 to pass legislation to eliminate or postpone a scheduled 24 percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians. Allowing such cuts would devastate access to healthcare for beneficiaries.

To add to the urgency, Congress is adjourning for a week long recess on March 14, and when legislators return they will only have six days in session before the cuts take effect.

It's not uncommon for Congress to stave off action until the 11th hour, but it's discouraging that recent attempts to pass a permanent Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement solution have gone nowhere.

The major stumbling block continues to be the \$138.4 billion in offsets to pay for the full fix. With a long term fix unlikely another temporary patch will be needed.

There is one silver lining. When Congress restored military retirement COLA cuts last month the legislation also established a \$2.3 billion fund to help pay for a Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement rate fix. The Congressional Budget Office

(Source: MOAA's Legislative Update, 28 March 2014)

VA ELIMINATES ANNUAL INCOME REPORT

The VA is eliminating the annual requirement for most veterans enrolled in VA's health care system to report income information beginning in March 2014. Instead, VA will automatically match income information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration.

"Eliminating the requirement for annual income reporting makes our health care benefits easier for veterans to obtain," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This change will reduce the burden on Veterans, improve customer service and make it much easier for veterans to keep their health care eligibility up-to-date."

Some veterans applying for enrollment for the first time are still required to submit income information. There is no change in VA's long-standing policy to provide no-cost care to indigent veterans, veterans with catastrophic medical conditions, veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent or higher, or for conditions that are officially rated as "service-connected."

VA encourages veterans to continue to use the health benefits renewal form to report changes in their personal information, such as address, phone numbers, dependents, next of kin, income and health insurance.

For more information, visit this VA [website](#) or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

(Source: NAUS, 28 March 2014)

LADIES OF MOAA CLUB NOTES by Janet Shipp, President, phone: 910-868-4998,

email: shippahovx8@gmail.com

The March 27th Ladies of MOAA luncheon was held at Carrabba's Restaurant where Mark Moses and his staff served us a delightful meal! We are sorry if you were unable to join us.

Please welcome our new members: Ester Acker, Brittany Benassi, Maxine Donnelly, Priscilla Hambly, Karen Patterson, and Paige Robinson.

Kudos to Marty Baldwin whose picture was shown in the Fayetteville Observer as she was reading the newspaper over the radio to the blind.

Julie Minani has been working with the Cape Fear Theatre on a project called "Voices from the Homefront: Those Who Wait Also Serve", exploring the impact of deployment on military spouses and their families.

Thanks to Betty Baker, Starnell Franklin, Priscilla Hambly, Mary Wright, Argie Rodriguez, and Julie Abner, who joined me Saturday morning, March 29, for 4 hours of conversation with members of the theatre staff; it was a great time.

On April 24, we will return to the club to hear from the "Whisking Apprentice", an Air Force wife who has a business involving food she will make for you, and/or will teach you how to make things cheaper and easier. You can get an idea by looking up her business on the Internet.

CALENDAR

APRIL

01	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
07	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
24	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1100

MAY

05	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
06	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
22	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	TBA	TBA
29	CFC General Membership Meeting	TBA	TBA

JUNE

02	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
03	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
26	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	TBA	TBA

**THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
of
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**
POST OFFICE BOX 53621
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305



PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA

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Category: Regular (\$20) Auxiliary (\$10)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ Active Duty Retired Veteran

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER? Yes Membership # _____; No

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