



April 2015

A Four-Star Chapter



Cape Fear Infogram

Publisher COL Juan I. Chavez, USA, Ret. ♦ Editor LTC Don Gersh, USA, Ret.
A monthly newsletter for the members of the Cape Fear Chapter



Harry and Mary Meinhardt were presented with a President's Proclamation designating the top senior ROTC scholarship awarded each year as the "Meinhardt Scholarship" in their honor for their unwavering support and generous monetary contributions to the ROTC Scholarship Fund over the years.



The 2014 Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award was presented to Don Gersh (right) for outstanding service to the chapter in his capacities as Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Chairman of the Legislative Committee.



The Chapter Volunteers who staff the Fayetteville Regional Airport USO were recognized at the Awards luncheon.



Also receiving certificates of appreciation and chapter coins were members who served as the Honor Guard during 2014.

See President's Report next page



President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

Phone (910)797-5419, email: President@cfmoaa.org

Awards Luncheon Recap

Our bi-monthly general membership meeting and luncheon at The Mash House on the 6th of March was a great meeting in several respects. Of course I am writing this for the benefit of those who could not attend the meeting.

For the 80 some odd members who did attend, they had a first-hand opportunity to hear a comprehensive "State of the Chapter" report summarizing the chapter's operations and accomplishments in 2014, an assessment of where the chapter is now, and the chapter goals for 2015. The bottom line is, the chapter is in excellent shape overall, and its future looks bright.

The meeting also presented a platform to recognize and reward chapter members who are doing splendid things. It was a distinct honor and privilege for me to present the following:

The 2014 Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award to Don Gersh for outstanding service to the chapter in his capacities as Secretary, *Infogram* Editor, and Chairman of the Legislative Committee. There was no question that Don Gersh contributed more to the chapter in 2014 than any one single member. We are blessed to have an officer of Don's caliber as one of our leaders; he is a hard-working and dedicated individual, and an example to all.

To Harry and Mary Meinhardt a President's Proclamation designating the top senior ROTC scholarship awarded by the Cape Fear Chapter each year as the "Meinhardt Scholarship" in their honor. The Meinhardt's have been staunch supporters of the ROTC Scholarship Program over the years through volunteer service and generous monetary donations. The proclamation, first of its kind in the history of the chapter, was read and presented to the Meinhardt's, while their son Carl witnessed the presentation.

Certificates of appreciation and chapter coins to several chapter members for their exemplary service as USO volunteers and members of the Chapter Honor Guard. The USO volunteers included Barbara Azzarelli, George Blanc, Jack Cox, Tom Delahunty, Bob and Nancy Garman, John Hazlett, Bob Ives, Dave and Dot Miller, Art and Argie Rodriguez, Tom Shipp, Arlie Smith, and Burt VanderClute. The Honor Guard members were Bob Garman, R.B. Goforth, Bob Ives, Dan Moses, Art Rodriguez, Dean Russell, and Arlie Smith.

If that wasn't enough good tidings, we enrolled two of our guests as new chapter members. George Weninger and his beautiful wife Nadhia, and Ken Digby were inducted as our newest chapter members.

May is shaping up to be a very eventful month for our chapter, so please stay tuned in for the forthcoming announcements.



Editorial

By LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA

Phone (910) 624-4597, email: Secretary@cfmoaa.org

Rep. Ellmers to address Chapter

Congratulations to those recognized at the Awards Luncheon for their service, commitment and support of the Chapter during 2014. Juan Chavez's *President's Report* identifies the members who earned the honors, many of whom were in attendance. It was one of the largest meetings of the last two years and, once again, well hosted by The Mash House.

Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting-Luncheon

The next bi-monthly general membership meeting will be held on the 27th of May at the new Fort Bragg Catering and Convention Center starting at 11:30 AM. The Center is located on Reilly Road directly across the street from the PX Mini Mall.

The guest of honor and featured speaker will be United States Representative for the North Carolina Second District, Congresswoman Renee Ellmers. As previously announced, the Cape Fear Chapter was recently assigned responsibility to liaise with Congresswoman Ellmers and her staff as part of the nationwide MOAA grassroots effort of linking a MOAA chapter with each congressional representative in the country to nurture their support and influence in moving the MOAA legislative goals forward.

This will be Congresswoman Ellmers' initial visit to the Cape Fear Chapter and hopefully one of many to follow. She will be officially conferred Honorary Membership in the Cape Fear Chapter. To make this event a special and warm welcome for Congresswoman Ellmers, we are asking all our members who can possibly attend, to be present at this meeting.

Bring a prospective member to the meeting and if he/she joins, we'll pick up the tab for the lunch and award a free 2015 membership in the Chapter. For details and reservations see event flier on page 5.

High School JROTC Leadership Awards

The Cape Fear Chapter presented the MOAA Medal and Certificate to recognize JROTC cadets who demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. Congratulations to the following MOAA award recipients during the month of March 2015:

Cadet Taliyah McRae, South View High School Army JROTC; presented by Chapter President COL (Ret) Juan Chavez on March 20th.

Cadet Jessica Howard, Jack Britt High School Army JROTC; presented by chapter member, LTC (Ret) John Hazlett on March 27th.

New Junior ROTC Senior Instructor at LSHS

We welcome Chaplain (Colonel) Gregory K. Williamson, US Army, Retired as the new Senior Army Instructor at Lumberton Senior High School in Lumberton effective 13 February 2015. He lives in Fayetteville with his wife Jackie; they have two grown sons, Aaron and Isaac, who also reside in the Fayetteville area with their families. Colonel Williamson joined the chapter and he looks forward to attending some of our meetings. We wish him the best of success in his new job.

(Continued on page 6)



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb, USA

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Great Stain Removed

The 15th of April, 1865 (150 years ago this month) Abraham Lincoln died. He was killed by John Wilkes Booth only 6 days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant marking the end to the most difficult struggle in American history. This horrible act of hate, however, did not negate Lincoln's work. Instead, Abraham Lincoln continues to be revered as "the greatest" of American Presidents. The Honorable Congressman Charles B. Sedgwick noted in his Eulogy of Lincoln (one of many) that "the great stain upon our National Character, the great source of strife and contention among our people, by his courage and fortitude has been wiped out and removed. His name has become historic."

The "great stain" was slavery and Lincoln by his stalwart perseverance maintained the struggle for the national integrity of the United States. He kept going when others gave up. He was not alone. There were many others committed to the same cause, who gave courageously and doggedly sacrificed everything for the USA. Lincoln set an example of staying in the fight when the cause is right regardless of any obstacles. When Americans do that they win. This continues to be our challenge. Let us meet the current evils and challenges to American freedoms with the tenacity of Abe Lincoln and as Holy Scripture also instructs, "since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1 NIV)

Pro Deo Et Patria

Editor's note: Ron will report to Fort Lewis (*aka* Joint Base Lewis-McChord) in June. Next month will be his last column.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the recent passing of the following chapter members:

LTC (Ret) Earl C. Horan, Jr., USA, Regular Member, March 7, 2015

Eva Sapp, wife of CW4 (Ret) Jack W. Sapp, USA, Regular Member, March 15, 2015

The loss of these loyal members will be keenly felt by all of us. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the families concerned during their bereavement.

**CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA**

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 1130 hours

*Fort Bragg Catering and Convention Center
(Located on Reilly Road, directly across from the PX Mini Mall)*

Guest of Honor and Speaker

Congresswoman Renee Ellmers, NC Second District

German Lunch Buffet

*Chicken Schnitzel, Bratwurst in Caraway Gravy, Fresh German Potato Salad,
Dutch Sauerkraut, Braised Brussel Sprouts, Pretzel Rolls and Butter.
German Chocolate Layered Cake or Apple Cobbler.
Iced Tea, Water and Coffee*

Cost: \$20.00 per person (Tax & Gratuity Included)

Dress: Dressy Casual

RSVP NLT May 25, 2015

Send reservations request and check (payable to CFC MOAA) to:

George Blanc, 3490 Thamesford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28311

Name: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

Number of Reservations _____ x \$20.00 = _____

Membership Update **Retention**

After a dismal recruiting month in February, we rebounded with 6 new members in March, bringing our total year-to-date to 16.

It is my pleasure to welcome our newest 6 members:

- COL (Ret) Gregory K. Williamson, USA**
- LTC (Ret) Ken Digby, USA**
- LTC (Ret) George R. Frank, USA**
- CW5 (Ret) Harrison George, USA**
- CW5 Roy A. Mitchell, USA**
- CW4 (Ret) Jorge Weninger, USA**

The challenges our military is facing this year are enormous, and we need to increase our numbers if we want to make a difference. You can contribute to this effort by recruiting **ONE** new member in 2015.

To review, 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 2015 membership renewal period on March 31 with a renewal rate of about 76%. We have received renewal applications each week since, but still have a number of long-time members we have not heard from. If you are one of them, please mail in your renewals ASAP using the form on page 7 of the *Infogram*.

You can also renew online and pay by credit card by going to [http://www.moaa.org/ OnlineChapterDuesPayment/](http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/).

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

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Colonel Williamson replaces LTC (Ret) Neil Harper, we thank him for his leadership in directing the Junior ROTC program at LSHS, and wish him many more years of productivity, good health and happiness.



Gregory K. Williamson



MOAA “capwiz” website

[Http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/](http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/) is the site for MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. To contact your Members of Congress, just *fill in the blanks and hit send.*

The Ladies Club of the CFC MOAA

- Congratulations to the 2015 officers:
- President - Donna Davis
 - Vice President - Beth Mason
 - Secretary - Mary Wright
 - Treasurer - Catherine Earle

***Infogram* readership survey**

The initial review of the readership results of ten percent of the members randomly selected shows that we are “on target” for meeting our editorial objectives and providing information our members find relevant. We’re still receiving surveys, so we should have a full evaluation of the readership survey in the May newsletter.

PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA
Initial Enrollment _____ or Annual Renewal _____ Date: _____
Category: Regular Member _____ (\$20) Auxiliary Member _____ (\$10)
NAME: _____
SPOUSE'S NAME: _____
RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ Active Duty _____ Retired _____ Former Officer _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER? Yes _____, Membership # _____; No _____
Are you a National MOAA Life Member: Yes _____ No _____
I would like to receive my *Infogram* by: Regular Mail _____ or E-mail _____
Signature _____
“I'd like to donate \$ _____ to the Cape Fear Chapter ROTC Scholarship Fund.”
MAIL TO: CFC MOAA, PO BOX 53621, FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305

**Your Ad
Here**

Contact:
Don Gersh at
(910) 624-4597
for rates



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***“We are a powerful voice speaking
for a strong national defense, and
representing the interests of military
officers and their families at every
stage of their career.”***

**U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers
at May 27 Luncheon at
Fort Bragg!**

Calendar of Events:

- 7 Apr - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg
Catering and Convention Center, 1100 hours
- 15 Apr - *Storm the NC Legislature*, Raleigh
- 5 May - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg
Catering and Convention Center, 1100 hours
- 4 May - MOAA Career Transition and Finance Seminar at
Fort Bragg Catering and Convention Center, 1800 hours
- 16 May - Armed Forces Day
- 25 May - Memorial Day
- 27 May - General Membership Meeting/Luncheon at Fort Bragg
Catering and Convention Center, 1130 hours
- 2 Jun - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg
Catering and Convention Center, 1100 hours