



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER MOAA

"INFOGRAM" NEWSLETTER

An informative monthly newsletter for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01).

VOLUME 2025 ISSUE 1

FOR **ALL** MILITARY OFFICERS -
ACTIVE AND RETIRED



Remembering 9/11

[James Nachtwey's 9/11 Photographs | TIME](#)

[September 11 attacks: What happened on 9/11?](#)

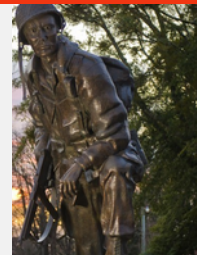
[A Time Capsule in Two Front Pages - NY Times](#)

[A timeline of the tragic events on 9/11 | Fox News](#)

[24th Anniversary Commemoration | 9/11](#)



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2nd Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting

September 11th Patriot Day
"Remembering 9/11"

September 20th Annual Golf
Tournament

October 7th Chapter Board of
Directors Meeting



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

I hope that you have enjoyed our very warm summer (It is 95 as I write this.). I've spoken with some of you about adventures in and outside CONUS. Some of your travels sounded both relaxing and adventurous.

I want to thank Dr. Harold "Hal" Thacker for accepting the role of Editor for our revived newsletter; this vital position is necessary for the newsletter's success. It is a long overdue fulfilled need for our chapter. The newsletter will help inform our members of chapter events and activities along with member engagements in our community.

There are several events to share with you in the upcoming months. The first is our Golf Tournament Fundraiser September 20th at Gates Four. It is the cornerstone of our donor engagements, and it is the primary fundraising source of our annual grant and scholarship programs. I encourage you to consider a donation.

Next up is our Habitat for Humanity Veteran Build. We don't have a firm date, yet; however, it likely will be in October. The chapter volunteers enjoyed assisting a Veteran last year who needed significant home repair. More will be published in our newsletters and our website.

Our chapter will also participate in the Veterans Day Parade November 1st in Fayetteville. We invite you to enjoy the parade and to encourage others to celebrate our Veterans, past and present. MOAA's legislative objectives support Veterans, active military members and their families. This is another opportunity to show our support and comradery.

Our final event of the year is Saturday, November 15th. The North Carolina Secretary for Veterans and Military Affairs, Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette, is our keynote speaker at our annual chapter membership meeting. She will join us for lunch, and I encourage you to attend and spend some time with Secretary Mitnaul Mallette.

If any of you have member news to share with our chapter, please send it to me. It will help if you have it prepared for publication, that is, newsletter ready. Finally, chapter corporate supporters who may want to place their contact information in the newsletter may contact me, and I will connect you with Dr. Thacker.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement.

Never Stop Serving

Gregory K. Williamson
Colonel, USA Retired
President, Cape Fear Chapter MOAA
EMAIL: president@cfmoaa.org



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Legislation/ Recruiting

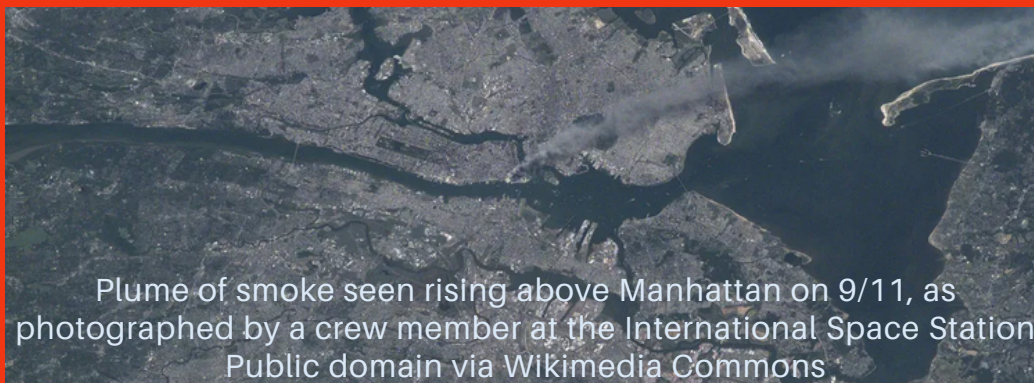
By

George Bond

Federal Legislation from summer AIA, MOAA recently sent emails to legislative Representatives requesting their support of three Bills. 1) Major Richard Starr Act 2) Tricare Access to Care Act 3) Military Spouse Hiring Act, supported by several NC Representatives. However, Senators Tillis and Bud have not supported them yet. If you can contact Tillis and Bud please ask them to support these very important Bills for our military and dependents.

At State Legislation, there have been two bills signed into law so far that impact the veteran community. The first one HB91 or now SL2025-20 which recognizes Space Force as an official Military service branch, established on Dec.20,2019, and is effective as of 6/26/2025. The second bill is SB118 or now SL2025-72. The bill is 8 pages in length and includes a lot of different components and nuances. The major topics include reducing concealed handgun fees for certain Veterans, provides additional time for military families to provide proof of residency for public school enrollment, prohibits discriminatory admission policies regarding active-duty service members and veterans require military admissions deferment for certain persons admitted to the UNC system and provide in-state tuition to certain honorably discharged veterans. It also regulates compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters, authorize remote driver's license renewals for active-duty military and their families. It provides children of wartime veterans scholarship funds award flexibility and authorizes sheriffs to send permit expiration notices via email. They are still working to learn more information on the study being worked (HB432) on property taxes and the other bills that made the crossover list and are being worked in various committees.

Our BOD recently authorized a Membership Committee; we sent emails to those we thought may like to be Chapter Members and asked them to send back their application. If you have received our email, please return your application. We assure you that you will enjoy our chapter. We have been a 5-star chapter for the past 12 years. We plan to send emails for another 3 months in September. However, if you know a friend or neighbor that would like to join our MOAA family please let us know at 1vp@cfmoaa.org. Everyone is a recruiter in MOAA and we look forward to hearing from you. On a personal note, I was recently honored by the CG XVIII Corps, who appointed me as a "Airborne Ambassador". I have a special jacket For all Fort Bragg events. During one event I had the opportunity to talk with NC Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs, Jocelyn Mallette who was the CG guest speaker. I invited her to be our guest speaker for our annual meeting on 15 NOV 25. She graciously accepted. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of summer.



Plume of smoke seen rising above Manhattan on 9/11, as photographed by a crew member at the International Space Station
Public domain via Wikimedia Commons

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By
Bill Bell



Keynote Speaker
Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette
Secretary, NC Department of
Military & Veterans Affairs

Save the Date

Annual Membership Meeting

November 15, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA

Iron Mike Conference Center
2658 Rock Merritt Ave
Fort Bragg, NC 28310



SECRETARY

By

Steven D. Gage

Helpful MOAA Links

The links below include our Cape Fear Chapter site (on top) as well a variety of specific MOAA National sites, some of which you may find interesting and/or particularly applicable. Most of the National sites have a pop-up chat box that you can use to get additional information. The last site compares the MOAA Basic, Premium, and Life membership options and benefits that accrue to each. Just copy & paste any link below into your browser to access.

Cape Fear Chapter info on events and activities: <https://cfmoaa.org/>

Currently serving officers: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-currently-serving-officer/>

Surviving Spouses: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-surviving-spouse/>

Early Retirees: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-an-early-retiree/>

Retiree: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-retiree/>

Military Spouses: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-spouse/>

Former Officers: <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-former-officer/>

Chapter and Council (groups of Chapters) information:
<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/>

MOAA National Member befitis and discounts
<https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/MOAA-exclusive-discounts/>

Comparison of and benefits relating to MOAA National Membership levels:
<https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>



CHAPLAIN

By

Timothy Atkinson

Involvement: A Call to Action

The biblical story of Esther is a timeless reminder of the power of stepping up when it matters most. Faced with danger and uncertainty, Esther chose courage over comfort—action over silence. (Please read this whole account in the Bible.) Esther is the Christ figure in this story. She is willing to lay down her life for her people. She served her people well.

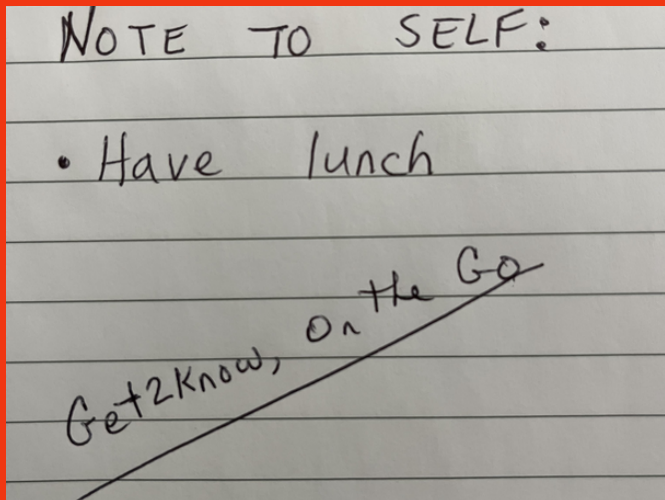
At MOAA, our motto is “Never Stop Serving.” But service is more than just words or good intentions. It’s about showing up, taking risks, and making a difference. So, what will your choice be? Will you speak up, step in, and serve—especially when it counts? There are several ways we need your involvement.

In the Book of Esther, both Esther and her cousin Mordecai faced a crisis. The Jewish people were in danger, and Esther, as queen, had a unique opportunity to intervene. Mordecai urged her to speak to the king, even though doing so could cost her life. His words still resonate: “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” — Esther 4:14. Esther made her choice—and changed history.

This story brings to mind a humorous analogy. A chicken says to a pig, “Let’s make a ham and egg breakfast for the farmer. He’s been so good to us—it would be a nice gesture.” The pig replies, “That’s easy for you to say. For you, it’s just a contribution. For me, it’s the ultimate sacrifice.” Service often asks more of us than we expect. Sometimes it’s a contribution. Other times, it’s a sacrifice. But in every case, it’s a choice to get involved.

So, what will your choice be? Will you speak up, step in, and serve—especially when it counts? There are several ways we need your involvement. Immediate need: Help is needed for the upcoming golf fundraiser—“all hands on deck.” Involvement means someone cares. When a person cares they work past their objections. They trust God to help them overcome their fears and do something to make an impact. Jim Elliott’s quote has always inspired me: “Only one life, will soon be passed. Only what is done for Christ will last.” God has designed things in order for people to be involved. Another quote I like is, “All it takes for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke also said, “Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

Our chapter is involved making a difference in the lives of young people who need help in getting their education and someday serving as an officer in the military. It is involved in the JROTC programs, not to mention Habitat of Humanity, and other key areas of our community. If you are a MOAA member you are part of this. We so appreciate all you do to make a difference. Lord willing, My wife, Peg and I plan to sponsor a hole again this year. Whatever you and I can do becomes the building blocks for a brighter future for our community and country. “Whether you’re a chicken or a pig in the story, the call to serve asks something of us all. What will your contribution be?” May God bless us and help us to be and stay involved.



WEBMASTER

By
Joe Tichich

We're excited to introduce a new way for Cape Fear Chapter members to connect—informal monthly lunches called Get2Know, On the Go. Each month, we'll choose a local spot for a relaxed lunch where you can meet fellow members in a casual, friendly setting.

These gatherings are purely social—no business talk, just good conversation and connection. Space is limited to 15 attendees, so be sure to RSVP quickly!

We usually meet around 11:30 AM, and details about the location and date will be shared via email.

Please let us know of a favorite place for lunch that could accommodate up to 15 people.

COME JOIN US—YOU'RE INVITED!

LATEST GIVING BACK



Cape Fear Chapter awards Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build grant to Chief Operations Officer Rick Callaway.

The chapter will participate in a Veteran Build project in October.



Our chapter gave a \$1200.00 grant to the Ft. Bragg ASYMCA.

ASYMCA Director Jeremy Hester received the grant from Chapter President Greg Williamson.

BREAK, BREAK, BREAK!!! Winning Awards



Worth A Look

By
Juan Chavez

"CHEDDAR UP" - What Is It?

Cheddar Up is a commercially available online system designed to assist organizations such as PTA's, Scouts, non-profits, etc., to collect money and information.

MOAA partnered with **Cheddar Up** to provide the necessary tools to MOAA chapters to collect dues and donations by offering their members the option to pay online using a credit card. The system has other features such as collecting for meeting meals among others.

MOAA has made enrollment in **Cheddar Up** optional to its affiliates at no expense to them -
- MOAA national picks up all subscription and transaction fees. Monies collected by chapters through **Cheddar Up** are electronically transferred and deposited directly to chapter bank accounts.

The Cape Fear Chapter enrolled in January 2025, and we began collecting membership dues and donations for the scholarship fund using the system.

In February 2025 we introduced **Cheddar Up** to collect for meals and RSVP for our chapter meetings and events. By using this option to pay, the member automatically RSVP's and there is no need to mail in a reservations form. This saves you time, paper, check, envelope and postage stamp and, as a bonus, you profit from earning the reward points on your credit card.

The option to pay by check is still available, however, you must still complete and mail in a reservations form and check.

Finally, we have implemented yet another **Cheddar Up** feature to streamline the collection of sponsorships, donations and individual/team player registration for our annual fundraising golf tournament. You can sponsor a hole, sponsor a soldier, make a donation, and/or register to play or any combination thereof in one transaction and charge the total to your credit card.

How do you access **Cheddar Up**? By clicking on the link provided on our website post for the event or by scanning the QR code provided on the event flier or program.

One stop for many transactions such as.....

- 
- **membership dues**
 - **donations**
 - **meals**
 - **events**
 - **golf sponsorships**

Future Event

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT September 20, 2025

Our annual fundraising golf tournament will be held at Gates Four Golf & Country Club on Saturday, 20 September 2025. Registration will commence at 11:00 AM, a lunch buffet will be served at 11:30 AM, and players will tee off at 1:00 PM. In keeping with tradition, we will invite 50-60 active-duty soldiers/airmen as our guests to enjoy a great day of golf, food and drink, and camaraderie.

We encourage all our members to take part in this annual event either as a sponsor, a donor, a player, or a combination thereof. Here is how you can:

Hole Sponsorships. A donation of \$150 will sponsor a golf hole. You can sponsor a hole in your name, or in memory of a loved one. If you know of any business, civic or church group, or friend that would be willing to support a noble program ask them to sponsor a hole. Sponsorship entitles the sponsor to a professionally fabricated sign with the inscription, "This Hole Sponsored by", followed by the sponsor's name and/or other designation, prominently displayed on one of the tee boxes during the tournament. The names of all sponsors are widely publicized in all tournament literature and our website.

Active-Duty Soldiers Sponsorships. Our program to sponsor our active-duty soldiers and airmen to play in our golf tournament as our guests is a popular one. Our soldiers have a great time and our sponsors get a great sense of satisfaction in treating them. Our goal this year is to sponsor at least 60 active-duty soldiers; the cost will be \$85 per soldier (the player entry fee). The benefits of this program are several but suffice it to say that they present us with an opportunity to thank our active-duty soldiers for their service by treating them to a great golf outing; and it presents them an opportunity to interact with their retired comrades.

To sponsor a hole and/or a soldier or simply donate you can use the sponsorship submission form and mail it in as indicated in the form together with your check. A second option this year is to submit your contributions online and charge the total to a credit card by scanning the QR code on the form or the tournament flier. Player(s). If you are a golfer, put your own team together and enter as a team; or enter as an individual player and we'll pair you off.



For flyers and more information, visit the CFC, MOAA website at the link below.

<https://cfmoaa.org/journal/>

Recent Event

EVENING AT THE BALLPARK July 12, 2025

Our sixth annual chapter baseball game outing at Segra Stadium, was another thriller with our Fayetteville Woodpeckers putting down the Delmarva Shorebirds of Salisbury, Maryland 4-2. Once again, we enjoyed the game from the Party Deck which offers protection from the elements and offers several sitting and viewing options. We had a great crowd of 50 attendees and everyone had a great time with family, friends, and each other! America's favorite pastime certainly held true for all of us again.

A picnic buffet was part of the fare, and it included hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, mac & cheese, watermelon, cookies, and soft drinks. Adult beverages were available next door at the Club Lounge on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Bill Bell arranged for a raffle of baseball trinkets, hats, bags, etc., and a 50/50 raffle, the winner (Tom Ashcraft) taking home \$75.50. Bill and Gale outdid themselves by doing a stellar job in arranging and managing a fun-filled evening at the ballpark!



Cam Fisher blasts one over the fence!

For more photos, visit the CFC, MOAA website at the link below.

<https://cfmoaa.org/photos/index.php?id=1753042979>



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