



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER MOAA

"INFOGRAM" NEWSLETTER

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

FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY, RETIRED, AND FORMER
OFFICERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND
THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES

Volume 2025 Issue 2



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY!!

[Birth of the U.S. Navy](#)

[Naval War of 1812](#)

[U.S. Navy Blockades During the Civil War](#)

[Naval Veterans of WWI](#)

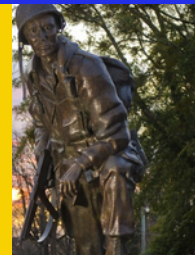
[Chronology of U.S. Navy Operations in
WWII](#)

[Command of the Sea: The Naval Side of the Korean War](#)

[U.S. Navy in Vietnam.pdf](#)

[U.S. Battleship Pounds Hills Held By Syrians In
Lebanon](#)

[U.S. Navy in Operation Enduring Freedom, 2001-2002](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7th Chapter Board of
Directors Meeting

October 13th United States
Navy Birthday

October 17th & 18th Fort
Bragg Retiree Appreciation
Day

October 23rd 1983 Beirut
Barracks Bombings
"Remember Beirut.."



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President:

September has been a busy month for the Cape Fear Chapter and for many of you. The month began with a holiday and a rather somber remembrance of 9.11 accompanied by several tragic events. Those wounds are still healing for many who experienced personal loss and collectively for our nation. Some of you also sent children and grandchildren off to school to begin their annual routines. This, too, can be a time of mixed emotions--a somber event both for parents and children with an anticipation of joy in the new school year.

I am reminded that we as a chapter continue to support those who serve and served our nation along with their families every day during every season. Most recently, we held our charity golf tournament. It is our chapter's primary activity that raises grant and scholarship funds. The funds support 25 J/ROTC programs in our catchment area along with local Veterans' organizations including: Fisher House, USO, YMCA, Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build.

Thanks to all of you, members, corporate sponsors, and chapter friends, who generously contributed to our very successful tournament. I am honored to be part of a team that so readily gives time, talent and treasure. I give a special accolade to Juan Chavez who has given an extraordinary amount of time and energy for the success of our fundraiser. Super job, Juan.

October hosts another Cape Fear Chapter event, our annual cooperative venture with Habitat for Humanity's Veterans Build. We'll have more about that event in future emails, but 12 - 15 volunteers will be asked to participate on a Saturday. We are eager to help a Veteran in need.

Finally, keep November 15th on your calendar. Secretary for North Carolina Veteran Affairs, Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette is our guest speaker and will join us for lunch. I am eager to have our chapter meet her.

Thanks for all that you do, and Happy Birthday United States Navy!

Never Stop Serving

EMAIL: president@cfmoaa.org

Gregory K. Williamson
Colonel, USA Retired
President, Cape Fear Chapter



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Legislation/ Recruiting

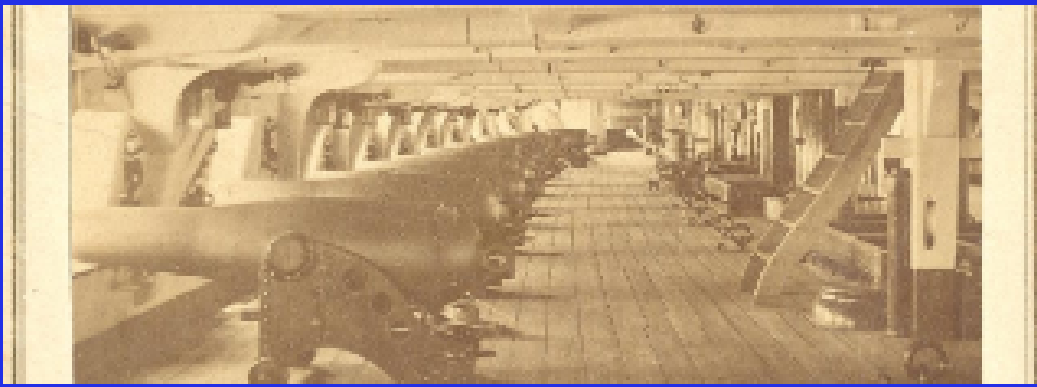
By

George Bond

There have been no significant changes to the pending State Bills since last month.

It would be wonderful if all current members recruited one new member this month. If you know a friend or neighbor that would like to become a Chapter member, please let me know. All Chapter Members are recruiters. Thank you for your assistance.





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 benefits 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

"Fall a Time of Beauty and Joy"

I grew up in North Carolina and remember the feeling when Fall weather came. I would feel exhilarated and would feel a new burst of energy. God has given us beautiful seasons to enjoy here in this state, but I think Autumn is my favorite. The Bible says, "For everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens Ecc. 3:1." I love the cool weather and the changing of the leaves. Usually the bugs and pollen are not so bad also. The Fall colors are so very nice and bring joy to my heart.

The change of fall reminds us that it is a time to prepare. The Bible says that the ant does not have to have a commander to prepare for winter, and tells us to consider the ant and to be wise. Proverbs, Chapter 6, Verses 6-11 says: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." God gives us so many things in nature that speak to us of His grace and beauty. When I see the beautiful leaves of Fall on a tree I think of the following poem by Joyce Kilmer:



Trees

I think I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breasts;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree whose nests in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain,
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

So whether working out in the yard getting our beds ready for winter, just going for a walk in nature, or on a special trip seeing the leaves in the North Carolina mountains, let's look up to our creator and know that His presence is with us in Christ. I hope to see you at the November CFC MOAA banquet. Let's enjoy the Fall season and the beauty of God's creation and each other as we have opportunity.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

THE ANNUAL Cape Fear Chapter MOAA FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT was a great success. We hosted 100 golfers of whom 54 were active duty soldiers.

The day began with registration and lunch. The golfers made their way through 18 holes receiving beverages along the way. As a result we raised over \$36,000 to support various entities within our chapter's catchment area including: 25 JROTC programs, 4 universities, USO, Red Cross, Fisher House, Armed Services YMCA and Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build. We will share more details in a future email to our chapter members. Thanks for your generous support.



[For more photos, visit the CFC, MOAA website at the link below.](https://cfmoaa.org/photos/index.php?id=1753042979)

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

NOTE TO SELF:

- Have lunch

~~Get2Know, On the Go~~

WEBMASTER

By
Joe Tichich

Get2Know - On the Go Luncheon
Tuesday, 21 October, Logans on Skibo
1130.

Fellow Chapter Members,

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!

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.

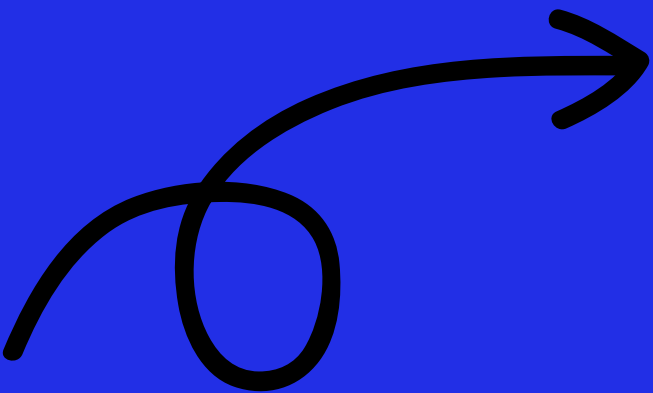
In February 2025 we introduced **Cheddar Up** to collect for meals and RSVP for our chapter meetings and events. By using this option to pay, the member automatically RSVP's and there is no need to mail in a reservations form. This saves you time, paper, check, envelope and postage stamp and, as a bonus,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

North Carolina Council of Chapters

On **November 8, 2025** at the annual **North Carolina Council of Chapters'** business meeting, the NCCOC will be voting to fill the President's', three Vice Presidents' and potentially a fourth Vice president's position depending on the wishes of the Council. Below are position requirements:

President:

- ☒ The NCCOC President serves as the chief executive officer and official representative of the Council.
- ☒ Presides at all Council and Executive Committee meetings.
- ☒ Appoints standing and special committees, subject to the approval of the Council.
- ☒ Acts as an ex-officio member of all committees with voting rights on all except the Nominations Committee.
- ☒ Confers with the Secretary regarding contents of notices of meetings, meeting agendas, and distribution of minutes
- ☒ Confers with other officers and chairs regarding their respective duties.
- ☒ Be familiar with the NCCOC Bylaws, "Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide", and the "National MOAA Strategic Plan".
- ☒ Must be a National MOAA member.

Vice-President/ Membership:

- ☒ Chairs the Membership Committee.
- ☒ Oversees the committee efforts to retain existing members and recruit new ones.
- ☒ Maintains the Council CM with National MOAA.
- ☒ Ensures all Council and chapter officers are National MOAA members.
- ☒ Coordinates with chapters to ensure upkeep of chapter's, the CM, Committee Module. The VP, Membership must be able to teach classes on the CM.
- ☒ Maintains records on chapter growth, losses, and retention using the CM.
- ☒ Maintains the status of chapters health
- ☒ Be familiar with the NCCOC Bylaws, Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide", and National MOAA "Strategic Plan."
- ☒ Must be a National MOAA member.

Vice-President/ Federal Advocacy in Action:

- ☒ Executive advocacy-related tasks as directed by the Council.
- ☒ Chairs the Federal Advocacy Committee
- ☒ Ensures a designated chapter legislative chair or liaison is assigned to each U.S. congressional district and both senators are contacted as needed.
- ☒ Ensures representation is sent to Washington for the annual AiA.
- ☒ Creates and executes an annual legislative plan in coordination with National MOAA
- ☒ Be familiar with the NCCOC Bylaws, "Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide", and National MOAA "Strategic Plan".
- ☒ Must be a National MOAA member.

Vice-President/ N.C. State Advocacy in Action:

- ☒ Executive advocacy-related tasks as directed by the Council.
- ☒ Chairs the State Advocacy Committee.
- ☒ Ensures a designated chapter legislative chair or liaison is assigned to each 170 General assembly members and state senators are contacted as needed and to reach "green" status on the DSLO map.
- ☒ Ensures representation is sent to Raleigh on a as needed basis.
- ☒ Creates and executes an annual legislative plan and coordinates with the NC Veterans Committee.
- ☒ Be familiar with the NCCOC Bylaws, "Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide", and national MOAA Strategic Plan".
- ☒ Must be a national MOAA member.

North Carolina Council of Chapters (cont'd)

Assistant Vice-President/Transition and Career (reporting to VP Membership):

This position is subject to the approval of the Council

- ☒ Oversees the committee efforts to recruit officers transitioning from active duty to civilian careers.
- ☒ Creates an annual Transiting plan to include a directory of Transition offices at each military facility.
- ☒ Coordinates with the chapter membership chair on establishing a Transition plan.
- ☒ Contacts military Transition offices to provide information on MOAA Transition and Careers
- ☒ Assist in maintaining records on chapter growth, losses, and retention.
- ☒ Be familiar with the NCCOC Bylaws, Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide", and National MOAA "Strategic Plan."
- ☒ Must be a National MOAA member.

Vice-Presidents' additional duties as determined by the Council president.

- ☒ Assist the President when called upon.
 - ☒ Stay informed about the health of member chapters along with the Council president.
 - ☒ Performs the duties of the President in the event of temporary disability or absence of the President
- "Former chapter officers and chapter delegates are well suited for council leadership positions; chapter delegates should not simultaneously serve as elected officials on the council."

THE BYLAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS, LLC, MOAA, ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS, Section 1. determines how often an election is held. Each chapter president will have one vote for each position. Please send an email to jimbrumit@aol.com about your interest in the elected Council positions. Include in the email a brief summary of your military background, civilian work experience, and MOAA participation; only one page will do. Deadline is October, 24, 2025.

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

Fort Bragg Retiree Appreciation Days

Friday, 17 October 2025 - Saturday, 18 October 2025

Retiree Appreciation Days (RAD) 2025 will begin on Friday, 17 October 2025 with a Retiree Golf Tournament at Ryder Golf Course. Womack Army Medical Center (WAMC) is the central location on Saturday, 18 October 2025. RAD events on Saturday will begin early with breakfast (a la carte prices apply) and a welcome from the WAMC Commander (see agenda on page 2). ID card services, legal services and retirement services will be at the Soldier Support Center on this day as well.

The Fort Bragg Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and other Fort Bragg organizations will also take part in this very special event. With your support, we have experienced great success in previous years, and solicit both your support and attendance to help us make RAD-2025 even better. For more information on RAD activities, please call your Retirement Services Office at (910) 396-5304 or toll free at 1-800-535-6067.

Office of the Garrison Commander

Dear Retired Soldier and Family: You are cordially invited to attend our Retiree Appreciation Days at Fort Bragg scheduled for 17 and 18 October 2025. We are proud to host this event for all Retired Soldiers and their Families. Please join us for the entire program, or for the portions that best meet your needs. Our program is evolving every year with hopes of demonstrating our lifelong commitment to our retired population.

You and your Families continue to be recognized as pillars who support and enhance our bond with the North Carolina community. Through this enduring relationship, we share a unique spirit of understanding and cooperation. Retiree Appreciation Days are designed to ensure that this connection grows stronger.

On behalf of the over 51,000 service members of Fort Bragg and Pope Field, I extend a heartfelt invitation to you all. We hope you'll join us for what is sure to be a fun, informative, and meaningful event. Thank you for your continued support of today's Soldiers and their Families, and for your unwavering service to both.

K. Chad Mixon
Colonel, U.S. Army
Garrison Commander

Fort Bragg
Military Retiree Appreciation Days
17-18 October 2025

All Military Retirees, Dependents and Surviving Family Members are invited.

Events/Services Available

17 October 2025
Ryder Golf Course - Golf Tournament

18 October 2025
Womack Army Medical Center - 2817 Reilly Street, Fort Bragg, NC 28310 - includes but not limited to, Armed Forces Wellness Center, Behavioral Health, Blood Donor Center, Blood Pressure Screening, Breast Health/Mammograms, Chaplain/Pastoral Care, Colon Cancer Information, Environmental Health, Fayetteville, VA Medical Center, Flu shots

Soldier Support Center Bldg 4-2843 Normandy Drive, Fort Bragg, NC 28310 - Retirement Services Office, ID Card Services, Staff Judge Advocate (Legal Services)

Dragon Lanes Bldg 4-2374 Reilly Road, Fort Bragg, NC 28310 - Bowling Tournament
For more information, please contact the Retirement Services Office

Phone: 910-396-5304/8591 or E-mail: usarmy.bragg.usag.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil



Use your phone's camera to visit the RAD website
via the QR code

Human Reflection

"The Root" - A Soldier's Perspective by *"Hal" Thacker*

In late October 1983, a nineteen year old U.S. Army Private First Class (PFC), fresh out of Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma was now enroute with thirty-two fellow Soldiers to what the Marines called "The Root" which was the nickname for Beirut, Lebanon.

I was accustomed to Officers, NonCommissioned Officers, and Enlisted in the U.S. Army but now integrated with Marines and Sailors, there were "rules" new to me such as "Cinderella Liberty", a Marine PFC is an E-2 not an E-3, different mess decks for different ranks, etc.

As I reflect back over forty years back, this was the best "education" that I could have been given as a young Soldier beginning my career because I was able to spend time with a platoon of Marine Infantry in "The Root", and while on laundry detail on the USS Guam learned quite a bit about a Sailor's life.

On that fateful day, I lost two AIT instructors that were some of the best trainers that the Field Artillery School has ever produced. and I am very thank you that each of them poured into me what they knew about the military specialty that I had entered into.

So, i ask that each of you that read this, please take a "moment of silence" on 23 October for those that survived but also for the loved ones that their servicemember did not leave "The Root" the same way that they entered it.

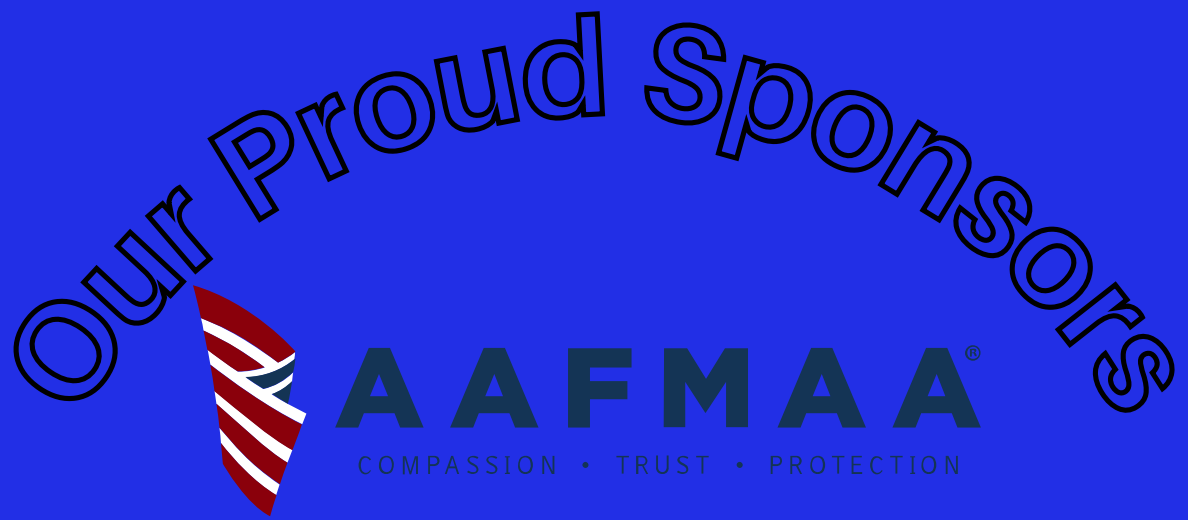
R.I.P.

SFC James G. Yarber
SGT Daniel S. Kluck



Beirut Barracks Bombing Aftermath





AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust LLC
1-910-307-3500/
WEALTHMANAGEMENT@AAFMAA.COM

