



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 3



***HAPPY BIRTHDAY
UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS!!***

[Brief History of the United States Marine Corps](#)



[History of Veterans Day](#)



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 1st Cumberland
Veterans Council Veterans
Day Parade**

**November 4th Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting**

**November 8th Southern
Pines Veterans Day Parade**

**November 11th Veterans
Day**

**November 15th Annual
Meeting of the
Membership**

**November 27th
Thanksgiving Day**



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cape Fear Chapter Members:

In this month of Thanksgiving, I thank each and every one of you for your ongoing service to our community, our chapter, our men and women serving at home and abroad and all Veterans who need a bit of help from time to time. You quietly go about this service without fanfare; yet, to those in need, your quiet service makes a difference.

November is a busy month for many of you and for our chapter. We kick off November with our participation in the Veterans Day Parade in Fayetteville. This year the parade is on November 1st. The North Carolina Council of Chapters meets in Raleigh on November 7 and 8, and we host North Carolina Secretary for Military and Veterans Affairs, Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette, at our annual meeting on November 15th. Please RSVP as soon as possible for the annual meeting. We hope to see you there.

I am aware as I write this note to you that some of you, your friends, family and acquaintances may have been affected by the government shutdown. I ask that you remember those who continued to serve during this time of ambiguity and uncertainty; furthermore, it is most admirable that our men and women in uniform serve honorably throughout these moments—as they always have. I commend them all.

I also wish the United States Marines, "Happy Birthday!" The Marines celebrate their birthday on November 10th. So, in this month of remembering Veterans past and present, we celebrate the US Marine Corps' birthday.

In closing, I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Never Stop Serving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg K. Williamson".

Gregory K. Williamson
Colonel, US Army Retired
President, Cape Fear Chapter



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Legislation/ Recruiting

By

George Bond

The state legislative priorities are indicated below.

1. Secure increase funding for the North Carolina Scholarship for children of Wartime Veterans (Wartime Scholarship) which was reduced by 25%.
2. Expand property tax relief for North Carolina Veterans by supporting H341.
3. Have the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to rebuild or repair Veterans home in Fayetteville. It was closed in 2023 and review all 5 state Veterans' homes.
4. Advance HB 288 POW/MIA Flag/State Bldgs. & Schools, not just federal buildings.
5. Expand support and resources for Veterans and dependents affected by toxic exposure.
6. The establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in ALL North Carolina counties and Jurisdiction, coupled with increased funding to adequately support Veterans Suicide Prevention programs at local community level.

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.

Remember to Recruit!



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By
Bill Bell



Annual Meeting of the Membership
Hodge Room, IMMC, Fort Bragg

1130 hours, Saturday, 15 November 2025

Guest Speaker

Honorable Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette
Secretary, North Carolina Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

Attire: Coat & tie for gentlemen,
Comparable dress for ladies.

Cost: \$35.00 Per Person
(Tax & Gratuity Included)

Menu

Choice of entrée:

London Broil, Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Vegetarian
Eggplant Parmesan atop Linguini

Country Mashed Potatoes; Green Beans w/Lemon &
Thyme; Mixed Green Salad w/Dressings

Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls w/Butter
Iced Tea, Water and Coffee

Dessert: Tiramisu

Entertainment

To be provided by the 82nd Airborne Division
Band Woodwind Ensemble



RSVP NLT 13 November 2025

Reservations Request

Name _____

Name of Guests _____

Number of

Reservations _____ x \$35.00 = _____

Indicate choice of entrée for each person,
"B" for beef; "C" for chicken; "V" for vegan

Send reservations and check

(payable to CFC MOAA) to:

Bill Bell, 6408 Cattlesmore Road, Fayetteville, NC 28311

or

Scan

QR Code to RSVP & pay by credit card.



REMEMBER

HONOR

TEACH



WREATHS

— *across* —

AMERICA

The CFC MOAA Sponsorship Group supporting Sandhills Cemetery was successfully established and is available to take wreath orders. Our website for online sponsorships (purchases) is located at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0678P. Note, I set our initial goal at 50 wreaths, which we can adjust based on the organization's response. I also placed an order for five (5) wreaths to confirm that the site was correctly processing.

I also have a customized order form for mail-in sponsorships with an option to scan our QR code as an attachment.

There is no accounting on our part for wreath sponsorships. All tracking is accomplished at the Wreaths Across America National office. In the event that someone needs help in completing the form, I'm available to assist accordingly.

Note, all checks are to be made payable to Wreaths Across America and not to the Chapter.

The deadline for wreath sponsorships to count this year is at midnight, Monday, 1 December.

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on veterans' grave markers at cemeteries nationwide each December for National Wreaths Across America Day. Your donation ensures a wreath is placed to honor one or more veterans at the participating location of your choice. Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form.
Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	GROUP ID	LOCATION ID(s)	DOLLAR AMOUNT
		NC0678P	NCSVSL	



Each individual wreath sponsorship is \$17.

If your check is for multiple locations, list each location ID with its dollar amount.

SPONSOR NAME	
PHONE #	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
MAILING ADDRESS	

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

- ☐ IN-HONOR OF: Let someone know you sponsored wreath(s) for veteran(s) in their honor. We will email them.

→ Provide Email Recipient Name & Email Address, along with Message (optional):

- ☐ IN-MEMORY OF: Post a veteran's name & message on Wreaths Across America's Remembrance Wall online.

→ Provide Veteran Name for Memory Wall Post and Message (Optional):

Please complete this form and mail it with your check to our address below, or pay with a credit/debit card, PayPal, or GooglePay by sponsoring online at www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NC0678P or by scanning the QR code.

Wreaths Across America

P.O. Box 249

Columbia Falls, ME 04623



WREATHS *across* AMERICA



SECRETARY

By
Steven D. Gage

On 10 October, Cape Fear Chapter (CFC) members received an email (assuming we had an accurate address for you) ballot to vote for two recommended additions to our Constitution and By Laws. The voting period ends on 13 November - if you haven't voted yet, please do so now. More information on the rationale for these recommendations is later in this section.

Background: In the meantime . . . Worth noting is that our CFC membership spans a 50+ year age spectrum that includes those still working, those partially retired, those fully retired and those who mostly stay at home. Besides Surviving Spouses, our membership currently includes serving, former, and retired officers from components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Also eligible for MOAA membership are officers from the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Corps; we just don't have any members from those groups (yet). As with most organizations that serve and advocate, keeping an active Chapter membership is crucial. Doing so not only keeps our Chapter viable, but helps us better influence state and federal legislation affecting the military. Politicians understand numbers; the larger they are, the more they pay attention. Active membership also helps with various Chapter service projects and other activities. Given our wide-spread age composition, we continue to look for activities and events that can involve members from these various sub-groups. We've recently added a monthly lunch - try it out and/or make some other suggestions for activities via (capefearmoaa@gmail.com).

Membership Renewal Update: We encourage our members to vote for the proposed Chapter Life Membership proposal. Life Members will no longer have to worry about paying dues - ever! - and can focus on scholarship or other donation opportunities instead. For those who prefer to maintain an annual (or multi-year) membership, we will begin sending renewal reminder emails in October of the last paid-up year, continuing with reminders as needed over the next couple months with the goal of having all members renewed by the 1 January start of the Chapter membership year. Surprisingly, that is something we're still working on for 2025. As we enter the last quarter of 2025, we still have 54 Regular members and 13 Surviving Spouses who are NOT currently paid up for 2025, including some who are behind for a few years. To help remedy this, our Board of Directors recently approved - for those who haven't paid dues in a few years - the opportunity to achieve paid up status through 2025 with one annual dues payment (of course, you can pay more if you'd like to) in the last months of 2025. Email messages have gone out to most who are affected by this, but if you didn't get an email and want to check your dues status, send a note requesting that information to capefearmoaa@gmail.com. As an aside, please also use that address to update us if you've changed your email address/ mailing address/ phone number in the recent past. If you recently received one of those emails and meant to renew, but haven't done so yet, there are two options. The easiest and fastest way to renew is by going online (<https://cfmoaa.org/membership/>) and clicking on "Renew online HERE" to follow the prompts and add your card data, which takes less than five minutes. Or, if you prefer, you can send a check made out to CFC MOAA to CFC MOAA, PO Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305.

Membership Committee and Recommendations: Recognizing that membership is crucial for our capability and impact as a Chapter, earlier this year our Chapter President established an ad hoc committee to review chapter plans and policies regarding membership with specific goals of : Developing and recommending processes to enhance and support a timely and high rate of renewals, and as necessary, proposing constitution changes, policies, or other potential solutions; - Reviewing what other Chapters do and identifying best practices for enhancing, increasing, and furthering the involvement of CFC members; and -Reviewing the Chapter's Constitution and recommending necessary changes.

The following recommendations were made by the committee and approved by the CFC Board of Directors. Recommendations included formalizing and Improving dues payment processes by:

- Codifying the informal Chapter policy that Regular and Surviving Spouses (SS) over 90 years old are exempt from Chapter dues.
- Establishing a Cape Fear Chapter Life Membership tiered cost-by-age option (ages 40-49/Regular-\$460/SS-\$230; 50-59/ \$400/\$200; 60-69/\$330/\$165; 70-79/\$240/\$120; 80-89/\$160/\$80).
- Codifying the process for those who become a Surviving Spouse by the death of a Regular member so the Spouse assumes the membership dues status of their deceased spouse, adjusted for the Surviving Spouse rate. If the Regular member was not current on dues, the new Surviving Spouse will be considered as a paid-up member for the remainder of that calendar year with annual SS dues starting the next year.

Note: The Board has not proposed to raise the current annual dues rate (\$20 for regular members, \$10 for Surviving Spouses) for 2026, so the costs listed above will apply for 2026. If dues are increased by the CFC membership in the future, the age brackets in the recommended addition will remain the same but the life membership costs listed above will change accordingly, with the SS rate remaining as half of the regular member rate.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE Constitution and By Laws: The committee recommendations resulted in the two proposed additions (below) to our current Constitution and By-Laws (which can be found at <https://cfmoaa.org/documents/index.php?id=1386124155>).

- 1) Recommended Constitution addition as Article VI (Dues), Section 5 (new): "Members may choose to join the Chapter as a Life Member using the following age group rates for Regular and Surviving Spouse members: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69; 70-79, and 80-89. Regular members and Surviving Spouses who join (or renew membership in) the CFC at or over the age of 90 years old will be considered Life Members and exempt from dues."
- 2) Recommended Constitution addition as Article VI (Dues), Section 6 (new): "Spouses of Regular members who become Surviving Spouses will initially assume the membership dues status of their deceased spouse, adjusted for the Surviving Spouse dues rate. If the Regular member was not paid up on dues during the current year, the new Surviving Spouse will be considered as a paid-up member for the remainder of that calendar year with annual dues at the SS rate starting the next calendar year."

As mentioned above, please vote on the recommendations if you haven't already done so. If you need a new ballot because yours was deleted or not received, please use the email address above to request one. Additionally, feel free to renew your membership now for 2026, if you haven't already unless you expect to renew as a life member, assuming that is approved by the membership's vote - we'll know on 15 November when its announced at our annual meeting.



CHAPLAIN

By
Timothy Atkinson

"Veterans and Military With Integrity and Faith"

I have thoroughly enjoyed the time seeing those who come to the meetings. I know there are many who do not come out for various reasons, but we miss you when we do not see you. My prayers are with you all for God's grace to help you and your family members each day to overcome all of life's challenges. My thought today is about how the Lord can help us to be people of integrity. My experiences in the Army taught me that integrity is so important. Letting the Lord help us to do the right thing and be people of truth is one of the keys to living on that straight and narrow path that leads to life.

Our conscience is to be a guide to us in making our lives live in the light of God's truth and morality. We must keep it clean with confession to the Lord and each other. In my devotions I came across this wonderful scripture that has been inspiring me and speaks of integrity: (Psalms 36:5-10)

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.
7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
8 They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
9 For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
10 Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Think about this wonderful scripture. I hope it blesses you the way it blesses me. Its message about God is so beautiful, and it ends with the statement that God's love and righteousness will continue to those who are upright in heart. This is another definition of integrity. Faith in God's integrity helps us to be people of faith and integrity. He is such a good Father as our scripture lays out.

Also, Cape Fear MOAA is the kind of organization that is doing the right thing for our fellow Americans. It is an organization of integrity and I believe is doing the honorable thing for our veterans and their well earned benefits. Let's keep our faith in God and live a life of integrity making a difference each day under the shadow of His wings. Let's do our part in CFC MOAA and may God richly bless and keep you. Hope you have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VETERANS BUILD PROJECT

We had an excellent work day at the Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Project on October 24th. We assisted with repairs and refurbishing the home of one of our local Veterans, Phyliss McCroskey. Grants from MOAA National, the North Carolina Council of Chapters and our own Cape Fear Chapter totaled over \$5000.00 to help complete this project. Thanks to all of you for your generous support of your time and treasure.



The Cape Fear Team with Veteran Phyliss McCroskey

L to R
Marty Williams, Rick Callaway, Greg Williamson, Veteran Phyliss McCroskey, Eddie Rosado, Eli Ballard, Sr, Eli Ballard, Jr., Ken Godwin, Bill Bell

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!

Cape Fear Chapter Member October Birthdays*

LTC (R) Reid Gantt
LTC (R) John Hazlett
Mrs. Dorothy Hinrichs
MG (R) William Kirkland
CPT William Lane
COL (R) Mondrey McLaurin
LTC (R) Tony Memminger
LTC (R) Judith Rock
LTC (R) John Szoka
Mrs. Mary Wright

*If your birthday is in October and you don't see your name, please send a note to capfearmoaa@gmail.com so we can update our records.



Worth A Look

By
Juan Chavez

"THANK YOU TO 2025 ROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUND RAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT CONTRIBUTORS"

This year's golf tournament played at Gates Four Golf and Country Club on 20 September was an unprecedented success, raising a record \$36,178.33 for our ROTC Scholarships Awards Program Fund, and other philanthropic programs. Our heartfelt thanks to all our commercial sponsors for their continued loyalty and support, to our chapter members who generously contributed to this annual fund-raiser, and to the players and active-duty soldiers who made the event a memorable one.

The following is a list of all sponsors and donors.

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316 Oyster Bar

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS





THE ONE AND ONLY "CHESTY" PULLER.



Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller was a highly decorated officer in the United States Marine Corps, renowned for his leadership and heroism during several major conflicts. Born on June 26, 1898, in West Point, Virginia, Puller enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1918. His military career spanned over 37 years and saw him serve in the Banana Wars, World War II, and the Korean War. Puller earned an impressive five Navy Crosses, the second-highest military decoration for valor, and one Distinguished Service Cross—testaments to his courage and tactical acumen. Known for his gruff demeanor and deep commitment to his men, Puller became a legend within the Marine Corps, embodying the spirit of the service. He retired in 1955 as a lieutenant general and remains an enduring symbol of Marine Corps tenacity and leadership. Chesty Puller passed away on October 11, 1971, but his legacy continues to inspire Marines to this day.

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