



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER MOAA

# "INFOGRAM" NEWSLETTER

An informative monthly newsletter for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01). Military Officers Association of America and its affiliate Cape Fear Chapter are nonpartisan.

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

Volume 2026 Issue 2



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 3rd Chapter  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 17th "Get 2  
Know" Luncheon**

**February 16th Presidents  
Day**

**WELCOME THE  
SNOW TO THE  
CAPE FEAR  
REGION!**



[info@cfmoaa.org](mailto:info@cfmoaa.org)



[www.cfmoaa.org](http://www.cfmoaa.org)



MOAA's online Legislative Action Center:  
[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## *FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Cape Fear Chapter,

I hope that you, your family and friends are well.

The chapter hosted a "meet-and-greet" in January at the District House of Taps. Steve Mannell was our guest speaker who shared some rudimentary steps for those retired or approaching retirement including: wills, financial management, trusts, and estate planning. Steve is one of chapter members and the President of AAFMAA Wealth Management. His presentation highlighted the need for chapter members to plan wisely and prudently for the future. As we begin the new year, there are a few things that I request you to do. In order to support legislation that preserves earned benefits for Veterans, Surviving Spouses, Active Duty members and their families go to [MOAA.ORG](http://MOAA.ORG) and "click" on Advocacy, and then "click" on Legislative Action Center. Once there you can register by "clicking" on the red "Sign Up" button in the upper right corner. You may participate in the various legislative actions available to you. Participating is always your choice.

Second, I ask that you share with me your volunteer hours serving various Veterans and Military members organizations. You may send them to me at: [president@cfmoaa.org](mailto:president@cfmoaa.org). The chapter celebrates our awards ceremony in March, tentatively scheduled on the 21<sup>st</sup>, so we want to recognize those who are continuing to serve in various ways in our communities.

Third, let me or a board member know if there are chapter members, Veterans or Active Duty who are in need of assistance. It behooves us to help those who may have needs among us. Let's assist as we are able so to do.

Finally, all are welcome to join us for a casual lunch in February. The date, time and location will be published at a later date; it is a time for us to enjoy a bit of friendly fellowship with our chapter members. It is also a great venue to bring a friend or guest who may also be interested in MOAA.

Thank you, again, for your service to one another and our larger military community. Never Stop Serving.

Gregory K. Williamson  
Colonel, USA Retired

## 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.

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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!

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## WHY JOIN?



As champions of the uniformed services community, MOAA is dedicated to protecting your hard-earned benefits while providing resources, programs, content, and other support to make an active, impactful difference in your life and the lives of your family.

Our identity is defined by getting results on Capitol Hill, and we invite all officers and surviving spouses to join us in this critical fight. By becoming a dues-paying MOAA member, you will help fuel our ongoing advocacy efforts on your behalf.

For state and local issues, MOAA chapters lead the way. Find camaraderie with a purpose by joining your local chapter. Scan the QR code for more information or reach out to your local chapter.



### A LEGACY OF ADVOCACY SUCCESS

Worked to establish TRICARE For Life in 2001 and to defeat multiple enrollment fee proposals since

Championed a historic pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers in 2024

Helped secure needed support for veterans and caregivers via passage of the Dole Act in 2024

Other legislative wins we have played a critical role in accomplishing over the years — further demonstrating why MOAA has been named a Top Lobbyist by *The Hill* 18 years in a row:

- Modernized the GI bill for the 21st century
- Expanded benefits for veterans harmed by burn pits through the PACT Act
- Repealed the SBP-DIC Offset ("Widows' Tax")
- Enhanced protections for families residing in military housing
- Secured back pay for federal recognition of promotions
- Defeated the "COLA minus 1 Percent" reduction in retired pay
- Halted military treatment facility downsizing
- Boosted compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability or greater

### STAY INFORMED ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND MORE

#### Legislative Action Center

Our Legislative Action Center empowers you to engage with your lawmakers on issues impacting the uniformed services and veteran communities. Learn more at [moaa.quorum.us](https://moaa.quorum.us).

#### MOAA Newsletter & Military Officer Magazine

MOAA offers a weekly e-newsletter with updates on legislation, benefits, finance, and more, plus a monthly magazine featuring in-depth coverage of military life and policy issues.

### CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER:

CHAPTER NAME

CHAPTER LEAD

CHAPTER WEBSITE

CHAPTER LEAD CONTACT

Military Officers Association of America | 201 N Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314 | (800) 234-6622 | [www.moaa.org](https://www.moaa.org)

## YOUR LOCAL MOAA CHAPTER



CHAPTER NAME

### A place for MOAA members.

MOAA has an established presence in our nation's capital, but the heart of our association is in local chapters. Across the country, local chapters bring together servicemembers from every branch of service—active duty, former, retired, and Guard and Reserve.

At every stage of your life and career, you'll enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow officers and their spouses, with the opportunity for local networking, community service, advocacy at your local level, special events, and much more.

### Connect with fellow members at the next MOAA chapter meeting.

To attend, please RSVP by emailing the Chapter Lead. Their contact information is listed on the front page.

NEXT MEETING DATE

VENUE NAME

START TIME

ADDRESS

MEETING TOPIC/PROGRAM

ROOM/BUILDING

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By  
Bill Bell



SAVE  
*the*  
DATE

FOR

ANNUAL CHAPTER  
AWARDS LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

*Rudolph Jones Student Center  
Fayetteville State University*



## SECRETARY

By  
Steven Cage

**Annual Dues:** Despite having sent out a few reminders, we still have a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written in mid-January, that includes more than 50 officer and Surviving Spouse members from 2025 who have not updated theirs as well as 60 plus members who have not renewed in two or more years. The Chapter membership year goes from January through December, so those who prefer to pay annually and who haven't yet renewed for 2026 already, please renew NOW (see Renewal Options below)! Annual dues for 2026 remain \$20 for officer members and \$10 for Surviving Spouses. If you are one of our members who has fallen two or more years behind on dues, please take advantage - if you haven't already - of the latest (approved in January 2026) Board of Director approved offer to achieve paid up/"caught up" status through 2026 (regardless of how many years behind you are) with one annual dues payment. Reminders will continue to be sent as needed for as long as you wish to remain a member. As with most organizations that serve and advocate, keeping an active 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. An active membership also helps with our various Chapter service projects and other activities.

**Life Membership:** This recently approved option may be of interest if you expect to remain in the Sand Hills and/or no longer want to get dues reminders. Our Chapter life membership program is tiered (by 10 year age groups encompassing ages 40-89) with a gratis life membership for Chapter members who join or renew their membership at age 90 (or more). As of this writing we are closing in on twenty Chapter Life members, with six being at least 90 years old. Those interested can access the Chapter website ( <https://cfmoaa.org/> ) and go to membership renewal or go directly to <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cape-fear-chapter-payments/items> and find the appropriate age payment button for Officer members or Surviving Spouses. Once there, follow the prompts to pay. One note: if you have (or think you have) previously paid annual dues in advance (including 2026) and want to apply that to a life membership send a note to [capefearmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:capefearmoaa@gmail.com) to help clarify how much you will owe before making the payment.

**Renewal Options:** There are two ways to renew. 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.

**Chapter Constitution and Bylaws:** If you haven't done so lately, feel free to refresh yourself on our foundational document. The most recently approved version (six pages) from November 2025 can be found under CFC Documents here: (<https://cfmoaa.org/documents/>).







## CHAPLAIN

By

Timothy Atkinson

"Going with the Flow in God's River of Life"

Scripture Focus: Revelations 22:1-5 and Ezekiel 47:3-9

Hey everyone,

In the above scriptures we have a gorgeous picture of heaven. When we're dealing with life's challenges, the best thing to do is jump into the river of life—that is, the presence of God's Holy Spirit. If we "swim" in His flow, we'll be doing the Father's will and His kingdom will really show up!

First, Dive into the Crystal-Clear River Flowing from God's Throne

- Check out Revelations 22:1-2: This river is clear as crystal and comes right from the single throne shared by the Father and the Son.
- The river is the Holy Spirit's power and presence (John 7:37-39). In John Jesus talked about the living water of the Holy Spirit coming out of our innermost being. Here, notice, it's a "main street" river, flowing right down the middle! That tells us that God's kingdom has to be the main focus of our lives. (Think Psalms 27:4). On the presence of God I like the following verse in Psalms.
  - Psalm 48:2 (KJV): "Beautiful for situations, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Here the Ezekiel passage also talks about the river starting from God's temple: "There was water flowing from under the threshold of the temple towards the east, for the temple faced east. The water was coming down from under the south side: of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar." (Ezekiel 47:1). This is the same beautiful picture of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—that John saw. The flow of God's presence and power, His river, comes to us from heaven at God's very throne.

Second, Let's Worship the Lamb and See His Face to Swim Deeper

When we worship Jesus, the Lamb, we bow down to His incredible power, and then we get to see His face. He places His name on our foreheads. Forget the mark of 666—we get God's holy name there!

- God's presence is so huge that we really have to swim, and the Holy Spirit's current will carry us along. (Ezekiel 47:3-9). Remember how Jesus said you can't tell where the person born of the Spirit is coming from or going? (John 4).



When we're in God's presence, we'll be like the trees of life, producing twelve kinds of fruit for the healing of the nations. Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and be a healing agent as veterans still serving

The fruit will be there every single month—supernatural harvest! This is promised to us in this scripture. (Rev. 22:2)

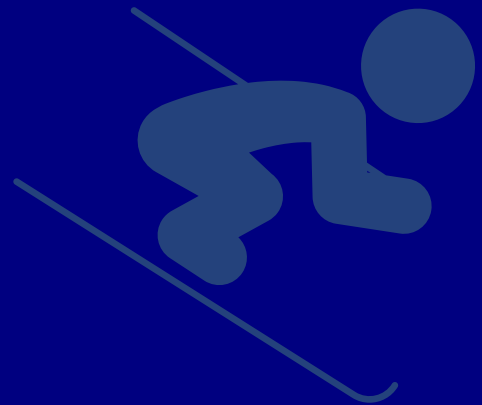
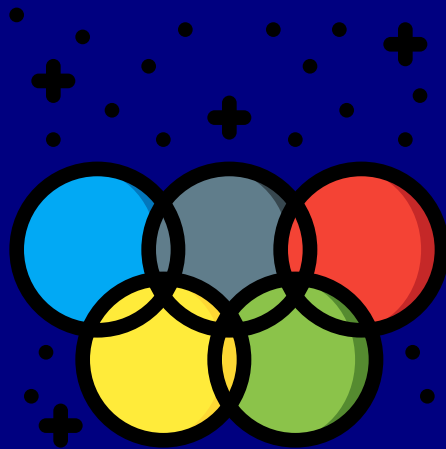
Lastly, Swimming in the River Breaks the Curse

Check out Psalms 1, and Ephesians 4:18-21. Life after the fall of humanity into sin seems like a curse and sometimes it is. However, in the return of Christ and even now as the Holy Spirit works in our lives, we can be free from the curse to live the abundant life and help others. Galatians 3:13 says: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" Jesus was crucified taking the curse so we could receive God's grace and peace.

Paul makes it clear in Galatians: if we live by the Spirit, we won't give in to our selfish desires.

Instead, we'll obey the Spirit and produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22f). That is the God kind of life.

Bottom Line: When you dive into God's river and go with the flow of the Holy Spirit, you get life in abundance, and Jesus is lifted up! So, are you ready to jump in today by submitting to the Lord as your Savior and King? As Cape Fear MOAA members we can and will continue to serve and make a difference each day. Amen?



## Winter Olympics: How (and When) to Watch Servicemembers Go for Gold

By: Kevin Lilley

February 03, 2026

To read this MOAA-published article, copy & paste the link below in your browser:

[https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/reads/winter-olympics-how-\(and-when\)-to-watch-servicemembers-go-for-gold/](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/reads/winter-olympics-how-(and-when)-to-watch-servicemembers-go-for-gold/)

## WEBMASTER

By  
Joe Tichich

## BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!

To access the MOAA Take Action (**Legislative Action Center**), go to the main MOAA website ([www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)) and log in to your account; this online portal lets members find legislators, track bills, and send messages to Congress about key military-related issues like healthcare, housing, and spouse employment. You'll need to be a Premium or Life Member for full access to these advocacy tools, as basic accounts have limited features.

### Steps to Access the Legislative Action Center:

**Go to MOAA.org:** Open your web browser and navigate to MOAA.org.

**Log In:** Use your credentials to log in to your MOAA account.

**Find the Action Center:** Look for links to "Legislative Action Center" or "Take Action" on the site, often found in the advocacy or membership sections.

**Start Taking Action:** Once logged in, you can use features like:

Sending pre-written messages to your representatives.

Finding your elected officials' contact info.

Tracking MOAA's priority legislation

### Key Things to Remember:

**Membership:** Most robust features require a Premium or Life membership, so upgrade if you're a basic member.

**Stay Logged In:** Enable cookies on your browser to stay logged in for easier access to campaigns.

### February Birthdays\*

COL (USA, Ret.) Juan Chavez

LTC (USA, Ret.) George Glann

BG (USAR, Ret.) William "Jay" Gothard

LTC (USA, Ret.) John "Mike" Hubbard

COL (USA, Ret.) Scott Kilgore

CW4 (USA, Ret.) Harold "Hal" Thacker, Jr.

MAJ (USA, Ret.) Robert Tiffany III

\*If your birthday is in February and you didn't see your name (or need to update your rank or status), please send a note to [capfearmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:capfearmoaa@gmail.com) so we can update our records.



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