



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 5

Our Award Winning Chapter

Congratulations are in order for our beloved Cape Fear Chapter because the chapter recently earned the following awards. See more inside.

1. Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for the website
2. MOAA 5-Start Levels of Excellence Award for Chapter unity and excellence



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1st Annual ROTC Scholarship Luncheon

May 5th Cinco de Mayo Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

May 19th "Get2Know" Luncheon



info@cfmoaa.org



www.cfmoaa.org



MOAA's online Legislative Action Center:
www.moaa.org/takeaction

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cape Fear Chapter:

MOAA National headed to our Nation's Capital in April to visit lawmakers in order to advocate for our military members, Veterans, Families and surviving spouses. This, our central mission, is to preserve those earned benefits and sustain ongoing support of our US military members. We can all add to these activities by registering with LAC at the MOAA homepage. Every contact made with your senator and congressman supporting our targeted legislation matters.

May 1st we will celebrate our annual scholarship luncheon awarding eight young cadets scholarships. To date Cape Fear Chapter has awarded \$246,500.00 in scholarships, and we continue to give support grants to JROTC/ROTC, Red Cross, Fisher House, Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build, and the ASYMC programs. All these support our extended military families and Veterans.

In order to continue support of these programs, we host our annual golf tournament. This year the tournament is on September 19th at Gates Four. You'll soon see emails asking for your support of the tournament, and if you are able, I invite you to join our Golf Tournament Working Group. We want your ideas, lessons learned and insights into having a successful tournament. Please consider joining us the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am at the Panera on Skibo.

Finally, look for more information about our USA 250th birthday picnic the end of June. We'll gather together for a picnic lunch to celebrate our nation's birthday. Also, remember our Woodpeckers Baseball Outing in July. Bill Bell has put together another nice event for us.

I extend a special "thanks" to Sylvia James who has accepted to be our Surviving Spouse Liaison for one year. Sylvia, we appreciate your willingness to help our surviving spouses. I ask surviving spouses to reach out to Sylvia with your special concerns to share with our chapter.

I do wish all of you a most pleasant spring, and thank you for your ongoing support and participation in MOAA.

Never Stop Serving.

Greg

Gregory K. Williamson
Colonel, USA Retired

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By
Bill Bell

SAVE THE DATE

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*An Elegant Affair honoring high
achieving ROTC and JROTC cadets
and their families*

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 11:30 am

Smith Lake Recreation Center

2922 Smith Lake Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28311

THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER





SECRETARY

By
Steven Cage

Chapter Life Membership Update: The first tranche of 25 distinctive Chapter Life Membership cards have arrived! Look for them to be presented to our first group of MOAA Cape Fear Chapter Life Members at upcoming CFC events. These Life Members include COL Rudolph Baker, Mrs. Ilse Bass, LTC Dennis Franken, LTC Tim Arkinson, COL David Baggett, Mrs. Tammy Beshlin, LTC Bruce Brown, LTC David Cheney, COL John Dunnigan, MAJ Tim Fitzpatrick, LTC George Glann, Mrs. Michelle Lamb, LTC Arturo Macaldao, MAJ Warren "Ron" O'Brien, LTC Frank Stump III, CW4 Don Talbot, LtCol Joe T, and MAJ Byron "Lee" Young.

Becoming a Chapter Life Member: As our Life Membership program continues, cards will continue to be provided to those who achieve that status. Those who want to become life members before reaching their 90th birthday (when CFC Life Membership becomes free) 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 to help clarify how much you will owe before making the payment.

Annual Dues Reminder (skip if you're a Life Member or current through at least 2026): We've made some progress in this area, but as of mid-April we still have a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written, that includes more than 64 officer and Surviving Spouse members who are on our membership rolls. 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! Annual dues for 2026 remain \$20 for officer members and \$10 for Surviving Spouses. Reminders will continue to be sent as needed while you're on our membership rolls. If you've moved out of the area or otherwise changed your mind about being a CFC member, please update us at capefearmoaa@gmail.com. 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. 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.



CHAPLAIN

By
Timothy Atkinson

"Leadership for the Times"

When we look at our world we see that the Lord is so needed. He works through you and me. And the way He works is when we take action and do something. It doesn't matter if it is at home or in society, as we do something things can change for the good.

A friend of mine said, "We are in the world to solve problems." Truly other than the higher purpose of glorifying God, this rings true. We know problems arise in so many areas of life. We cannot solve them all, but the ones that God puts in our path and heart, we can tackle with His help. CFC MOAA is leading in so many areas and I'm so proud of its influence.

On a personal level, I think about a story of a family whose mom left the young daughters. The father has had mental issues, and the girls need guidance and nurture. When I first saw the man, he really turned me off, with tattoo on his neck. This man and daughters attend my church. What can a person do to help a family like this? I chose to stay involved and help where I can without just giving money, which would not empower the father to be the provider. I let the man help me in my small business, and even though I dislike being around him, I let the love of God work in me to love him and relate to him. So far he is keeping his head above water, and the daughters are growing and relating in a positive way. I pray for them to find more and more success.

We all have opportunities to be leaders by just letting God work in and through us. Leadership or influence can happen on both large and small capacities. Jesus said, "When you do it to the least of them, you have done it unto me." Leaders are those who stand up and make a difference. As officers, you know how important your leadership was and is each and every day. I pray that you do not stop being the leader God has called you to be. Stay inspired with His grace and continue to lead the way.

WEBMASTER
By
Joe Tichich

BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!

To access the MOAA Take Action (**Legislative Action Center**), go to the main MOAA website (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.

May Birthdays*

- LTC (USA, Ret.) Ken Chelf
- LTC (USA, Ret.) Marv Gordner
- LTC (USA, Ret.) Chris Kendziera
- COL (USA, Ret.) Earl "Fred" Klinck
- COL (USA, Ret.) Deena Pittman
- COL (USA, Ret.) Deogracia Quinones
- CPT (USA, Ret.) Joe Rodriguez
- CPT (USAR, Ret.) David Vroom
- CW4 (USA, Ret.) Richard Callaway

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



CFC CONTINUES TO EXCEL

By
Greg Williamson

For the thirteenth year in a row, the Cape Fear Chapter was awarded a MOAA 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for the year 2025.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who went above and beyond to make things happen and keep the string of excellence unbroken.

Congratulations and thanks to all our chapter members who so loyally supported everything the chapter undertook during the year. It was a total team effort!

It will be my privilege to pin the 5-Star medallion on the Chapter colors awards streamer at our annual meeting in November 2026.



2025 COL MARVIN HARRIS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD WINNERS

By
Greg Williamson

For the thirteenth consecutive year, our chapter has repeated as a 5-Star Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Award winner in the website category.

We can all be justifiably proud for another noteworthy achievement.

It will be a pleasure for me to add on the medallion to our chapter colors at our annual meeting in November 2026.

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