



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 7

## United States of America's 250th Birthday

250 years ago, the Second Continental Congress declared independence from Great Britain on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 by passing the Declaration of Independence. Independence Day is commonly known as the Fourth of July.



# America's Birthday



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 4th Independence Day**

**July 7th Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

**July 18th Annual Baseball Outing**



[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:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, USA! 250 years old.** The great and wonderful nation that we served and continue to serve has defied the dire predictions of many and exceeded the wildest dreams of others. Still here and going strong - a beacon of freedom that celebrates the dignity of all people who cherish the ideals of those who penned the Declaration of Independence stating, "... all men are created equal . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We, Cape Fear Chapter, celebrate the hard-fought freedoms won by our forefathers, and we band together enjoying the fraternal bonds of those who have served to preserve those freedoms. Our mission as a chapter and in conjunction with MOAA National is to preserve the earned rights and benefits of those who serve and have served our nation. These honorable men, women and their families need our collective support to remind our nation's leaders of the cost to preserve freedom in a world hostile to liberty and the "unalienable Rights of all people."

One of our annual fraternal events is an evening together at the ball game. We have a time to enjoy fellowship, fun and watching a game of baseball. Bill Bell reserved a section of seats for us at the Woodpeckers game on July 18th. There's also good news for surviving spouses. An anonymous donor is purchasing your tickets for the game. Hope to see you there!

Finally, remember our annual golf tournament. Donations and all contributions go to our scholarship and grant fund that supports ROTC and JROTC programs in our catchment area along with several other service member support entities including: Red Cross, USO, Fisher House, YSMCA and Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build. So, please give generously as needs grow in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Never Stop Serving.

*Gregory K Williamson*

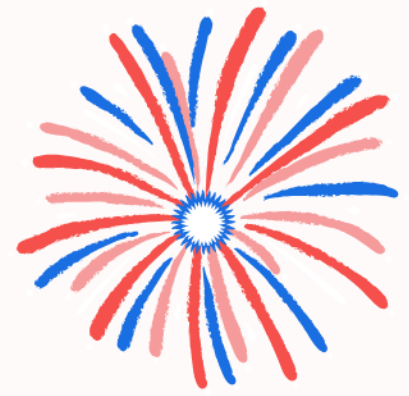
Gregory K. Williamson  
Colonel, USA Retired





SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

By  
Bill Bell



**SAVE THE DATE**

Cape Fear Chapter's  
**ANNUAL  
BASEBALL  
OUTING**

with the Fayetteville Woodpeckers

**July 18, 2026**  
6:00 pm  
Segra Stadium, Fayetteville

**“Take Me Out to the Ball Game”**





**Take Me Out To The Ball Game**



**Fayetteville Woodpeckers**

**vs**

**Augusta GreenJackets of Augusta, Georgia**

**Segra Stadium  
Downtown Fayetteville**

**6:00 PM, Saturday, July 18, 2026**

**Cost: \$50.00 Per Person**

*Ticket price includes Club Seating and Plank Buffet on the Party Deck (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Mac & Cheese, Chips, Potato Salad, Watermelon, Non-alcoholic drinks, Cookies)*

**Drawing for prizes and 50/50 raffle!**

**RSVP NLT July 16, 2026**

**Mail reservations and check**

**Reservations Request**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(payable to CFC MOAA) to:**

**Bill Bell**

**6408 Cottesmore Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28311**

**Email: [zvp@cfcmoaa.org](mailto:zvp@cfcmoaa.org)**

**or**

**Scan QR Code to RSVP & pay online**



**Let's Play Ball**



## SECRETARY

By

Steven Cage

**Chapter Life Membership Update:** Four of the first tranche of 25 distinctive metallic Chapter Life Membership cards have already been presented to Lois Ives, Carol Ivey, Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret.) Joe Tcich, and LTC (USA, Ret.) Tim Atkinson by President Greg Williams at CFC events so far this year. He expects to present the remainder to the other Life Members listed below at upcoming Chapter events, including those coming up in July - either the 1 July USA 250 Smith Lake Picnic or the 18 July Woodpecker Game. Life Members with cards waiting for them are COL Rudolph Baker, Mrs. Ilse Bass, CW3 James Fleming, MAJ Phil Flynn, LTC John Hazlett, COL John Hermann, MAJ Henry Simpson, LTC Dennis Franken, COL David Baggett, Mrs. Tammy Beshlin, LTC Bruce Brown, LTC David Cheney, COL John Dunnigan, MAJ Tim Fitzpatrick, LTC George Glann, Mrs. Michelle Lame, LTC Art Macal tao, MAJ Warren "Ron" O'Brien, LTC Frank Stump III, CW4 Don Talbot, and MAJ Byron "Lee" Young.

-Cards for the next group of Life Members will be ordered later. Newer Life Members include CW4 Harold Thacker, CPT David Vroom, COL Stan Dodson, COL Eli Ballard, and COL Steve Cage.

-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 or Surviving Spouse members. 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. Life membership payments can also be paid by check per the annual dues directions below.

**Annual Dues Reminder (please skip if you're a Life Member or current through at least 2026):** By the time you see this newsletter, 2026 will be half over and we still have a sizeable number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written in mid-June, that includes 60 officer and Surviving Spouse members who are in arrears 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. Those members currently behind on dues may also wish to consider renewing for 2027 (or further in the future) at the same time to guarantee doing so at the current dues prices (\$20 or \$10). Reminders will continue to be sent as needed while you're on our membership rolls unless you advise us that you've moved out of the area or otherwise changed your mind about being a CFC member. Please update us at [capefearmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:capefearmoaa@gmail.com). (Continued on next page.)



# Red, White, & Boom

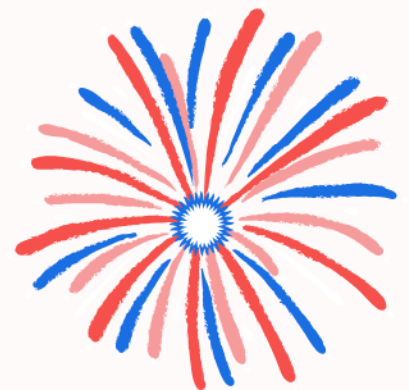
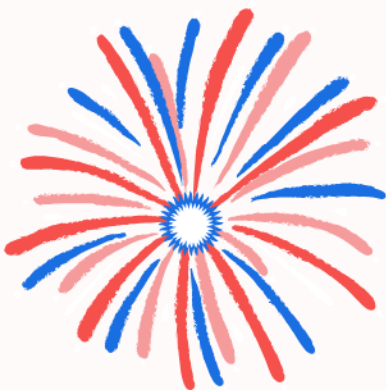
Secretary (from previous page)

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.

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MOAA Surviving Spouses  
by  
Sylvia James

I have been a surviving spouse since 2005 and a MOAA member since 2009. I'm a mother of three adult daughters (ages 36, 32, 26) and grandmother to one grandson, age 3. I have found that military benefits and entitlements while having been a dependent of an active duty officer were readily offered and explained to me, but often the moment your spouse passes away that immediate connection is lost. I have found MOAA to be a tremendous resource in learning and maintaining my benefits as a widow. I encourage you to keep your membership current and have an active subscription to the monthly MOAA magazine. Changes to your surviving benefits change more than you know and it is important to stay active and vigilant. To stay up to date please check out the MOAA website [www.MOAA.org/spouse](http://www.MOAA.org/spouse).





**CHAPLAIN**  
By  
Timothy Atkinson



Celebrate Freedom "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

Celebrating 250 years of freedom is a huge milestone. The United States has the oldest government under the same constitution. I remember the US's Bicentennial, some of you do as well. God has, indeed made us the land of the free and home of the brave. He has given us a fine land, and a wonderful people.

Our verse talks about where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. The Holy Spirit is the key to that liberty. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of holiness. Some Bible scholars have said that holiness and wholeness are very related. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. He is a person. When we have the Holy Spirit working in our life through Jesus Christ we find true Liberty. It is also true as a nation. Although we have not been perfect as of people, or as a nation, we have had a Judeo-Christian background that recognizes the Holy Spirit.

Our founding fathers and the early colonist, fought hard for our freedom, but they also prayed and believed God to help us become free. These freedoms aren't to be taken for granted that's why we celebrate 250 years. That is also why MOAA is fighting for our benefits for veterans and the military.

The Holy Spirit, the Bible says, helps us to pray. We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit helps us to intercede. We want to pray for United States as it goes forward, we want to pray for righteousness and justice to prevail in our land. We want to pray for each other as a chapter. True freedom comes from the Lord.

I appreciate so much your service for our military. I appreciate your service to our country. It's because people like you stood up and answer the call that we are free. And it's because God has given us a Spirit of liberty. The song says "America America, God, shed his grace on thee and crowned thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea." As I have said before, there's always a God part, there is also a human part we too have to play. God has given us human beings that have made such a difference; and I pray we still pray, and stand for freedom, and stand for justice and liberty.

The Bible says that God has given earth to the sons of men, so to a certain degree it's up to us what we do with the gift He has given. If we use our leadership for good then people will be blessed. If the leadership is evil the Bible says to people mourn. I'm thankful for those who have made the decision to be good leaders and to bring justice and righteousness. Sometimes those decisions are very hard. I remember the old army saying, "Take the hard right over the easy wrong." In the Alamo fight the one rallying the troops said, "Think about what you want this land to be and in to be fight for that." America is an idea and an ideal, and I think God that we have this country. Those that have traveled to other places in other parts of the world appreciate the United States so much more. It is so worth our prayers and always worth fighting for.

So in closing, I would say it is indeed right to celebrate, and to also pray for our nation, and pray for ourselves, that we will lead forward in good ways not only for us, but for our children, and our children's children, that we may have a land that is free and fair, and a land that is worthy of God's Spirit. Worthy not because we are perfect, but because we trust in God. Our national motto, In God We Trust, should always be in our hearts and minds. May the Lord bless us, and keep us and grant us, His help in all of our endeavors, as we look to Him our source, in Jesus' name. Amen. May God bless America and Happy 250th Birthday.



**2026 Cape Fear Chapter Annual Golf Tournament**  
**September 19, 2026**  
**Gates Four Golf and Country Club**

**DETAILS FOR ALL PLAYERS:**  
**Green/Cart Fees and Range Balls + SWAG**  
**Lunch and On-course beverages and snacks**

**Supporter:**  
**Donor but not playing**  
**\$450 Bronze. Foursome and Hole Flag**  
**\$320 Foursome**  
**\$150 Hole Flag**  
**\$85 One Player**

**Participating Supporter:**  
**\$450 Bronze. Foursome and Hole Flag**  
**\$320 Foursome**  
**\$150 Hole Flag**  
**\$85 One Player**

**AWARDS AND PRIZES:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team**  
**Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin**

**Supporters may mail your check to:**  
**CFC, MOAA**  
**ATTN: Golf**  
**PO BOX 53621**  
**Fayetteville, NC 28303**

**Questions? Email: [golf@cfmoaa.org](mailto:golf@cfmoaa.org)**

**PLAYING GOLFERS:**

**PLAYER #1** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYER #2** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYER #3** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYER #4** \_\_\_\_\_

**POC PHONE#** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**

**CHECK-IN TIME IS 11:00 am, September 19,2026**

**Buffet opens at 11:30 am, September 19,2026**

**SHOTGUN START AT 1:00 pm, September 19, 2026**

**AUTOMOBILE TAGS MUST BE CURRENT TO ENTER**

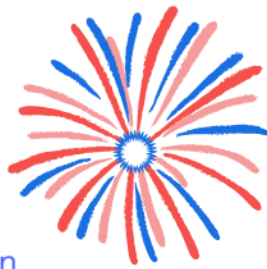
**WANT TO PAY ONLINE? SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW**



**Details at the link below:**

**<https://cfmoaa.org/golf/>**

**WEBMASTER**  
By  
**Joe Tichich**



## **BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!!**

July Cape Fear Chapter Member 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.

COL (USA, Ret.) David Baggett  
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Jerry Croll  
LTC (USA, Ret.) Don Gersh  
Mrs. Carol G. Ivey+  
LTC (USA) Jarold T. Johnston, Jr.  
Mrs. Michelle Lavigne Lame+  
LTC (USA, Ret.) Art Macaldao+  
GEN (USA, Ret.) Dan McNeill  
COL (USA) Andrew C. Moreshead  
COL (USA, Ret.) Rich Underwood  
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Ira M. Watkins  
LTC (USA, Ret.) James E. Wilde  
LTC (USAR, Ret.) Marty Williams  
CW4 (USA, Ret.) William (Justin) Fann  
Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret.) Joe Tichich

+ Cape Fear Chapter Life Member

\*If your birthday is in July 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.



# THE UNITED STATES ARMY OF AMERICA'S BEGINNING IN 1776

Enjoy the following articles regarding the beginning of the United States of America.

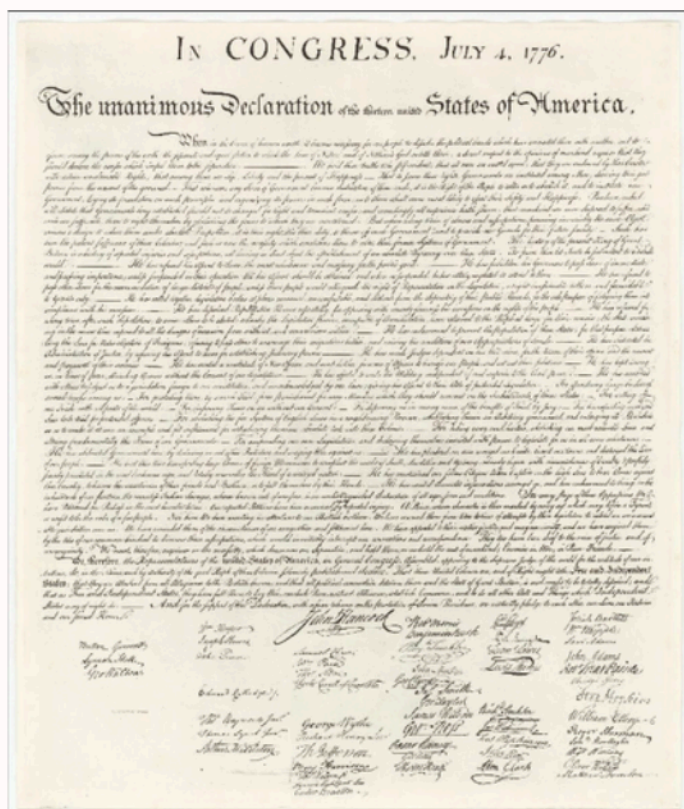
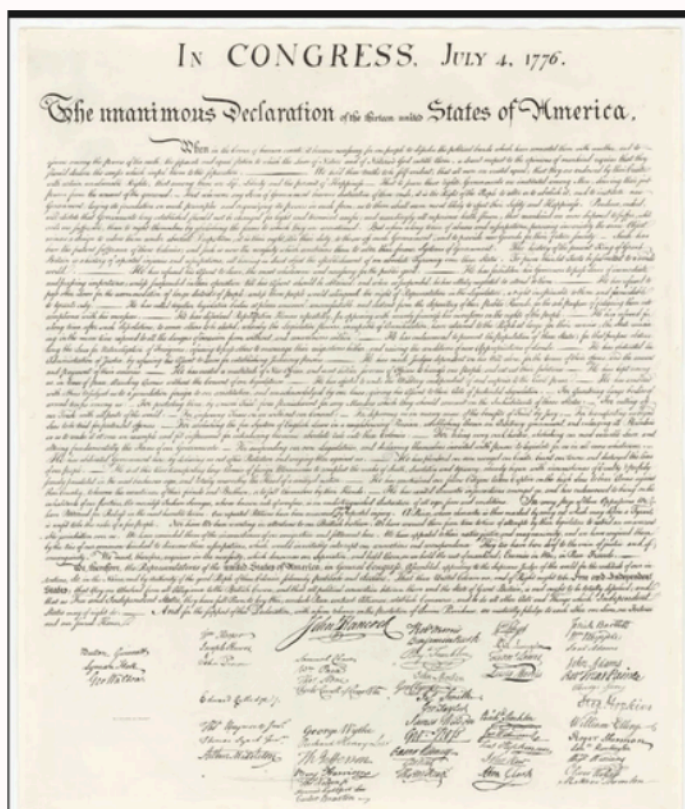


## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### Declaration of Independence: A Transcription

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Stone Engraving of the parchment Declaration of Independence (the document on display in

 National Archives / Feb 25



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