



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 8

Summer Heat Continues

As the summer continues here in the Cape Fear Region, the temperature and humidity continue to remain steadily high across the area. So, remember to hydrate yourself with a tall glass of water or a piece of watermelon as you go about your daily business.



Editor - Retired Army CW4 Harold Thacker



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4th Chapter Board of Directors Meeting



 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,

I hope that your Independence Day celebrations were enjoyable and that you were able to find time to remember our service members who are currently deployed serving our nation in order to preserve our liberty and hard-fought freedoms. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones in recent combat operations, and we, too, remember their ultimate sacrifices.

Cape Fear Chapter took a break, too. We went to the Smith Lake Outdoor Recreation Center to celebrate our nation's birthday. We did so with great gusto. We had pulled pork and chicken sandwiches. Southern Coals did a great job putting our picnic lunch together, but the biggest accolades got to Eli Ballard. Eli brought copious amounts of watermelon for us to enjoy. Thanks Eli! And, we must recognize our trivia winners, "The Three Amigos," for their in-depth knowledge of our revolutionary history. Steve, David and Dennis crushed it.

Preserving the earned benefits of our men and women who are or who have served is our primary mission, and I ask you to continue checking the MOAA Legislative Action Center for the latest legislation that congress considers. You may click on this link: <https://moaa.quorum.us/> in order to see the most recent issues that we ask you to support as you deem appropriate.

Our night out at the ballpark was a most enjoyable evening. Thirty-one folks gathered on the party deck for the evening to enjoy a bit of stadium food, fellowship and watch the Woodpeckers chalk up a win over the Augusta GreenJackets. Thanks to our team for putting together the event – Bill Bell and Teresa did the heavy lifting – great work.

Finally, I ask your generous support of our Golf Tournament on September 19th. By now, most if not all of you, should have received a direct mailing requesting your support of our tournament. Your donations make our scholarship and grant programs work. You may visit our website for more details at: <https://cfmoaa.org/golf/>.

Thank you for all that you do.

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.

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



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:
1st Place Team, 2nd 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

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/>



"Four"





SECRETARY

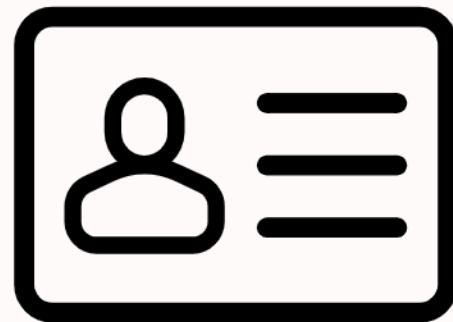
By
Steven Cage

Chapter Life Membership Update: The most recent Chapter Life membership card was presented by President Greg Williamson to LTC (USA, Ret.) John Hazlett, who received his at the 18 July Chapter Woodpecker game. He joins LTC (USA, Ret.) Dennis Franken and CW4 (USA, Ret.) Don Talbot who received theirs at the 1 July MOAA USA 250 Picnic. Earlier recipients of these distinctive metallic cards included Mrs. Lois Ives, Mrs. Carol Ivey, Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret.) Joe Tcich, and LTC (USA, Ret.) Tim Atkinson. President Williamson expects to present the remainder to the other Life Members listed below at upcoming Chapter events. Those Life Members with cards waiting for them are COL Rudolph Baker, Mrs. Ilse Bass, CW3 James Fleming, MAJ Phil Flynn, COL John Hermann, MAJ Henry Simpson, COL David Baggett, Mrs. Tammy Beshlin, LTC Bruce Brown, LTC David Cheney, COL John Dunnigan, MAJ Tim Fitzpatrick, LTC George Glann, Mrs. Michelle Lane, LTC Art Macalao, MAJ Warren "Ron" O'Brien, LTC Frank Stump III, 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, Dorothy Hinrichs, 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 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): In a few months we'll begin sending renewal reminders for calendar year 2027 to our annual members. Believe it or not, however, 2026 is more than half over and we still have a sizable number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. As this is written in mid-July, there are 55 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.



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.

Renewals: 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.

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.





CHAPLAIN

By
Timothy Atkinson



"Faith in God Verses Mental Assent"

When a person joins the military, he/she puts his/her life on the line in order to defend the Constitution of the United States. When I was a chaplain I would often ask the young recruits in basic why they joined the Army. Many would tell me because of college money, or in order to get a bonus, or to get a good job. Hardly anyone would say to fight our wars or to defend the freedoms of our land. At this point they were not really warriors or veterans but trainees.

The same recruits formed into a unit that left for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. They trained hard and came back looking very different even though it was a short war. I was so proud of them but what they had seen and heard had aged them way beyond their years.

Faith in God is somewhat like this. The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God," Romans 10:17. Many times people hear the gospel, that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for their salvation, and they make a mental decision to become a Christian. They may get confirmed, baptized, or join the church. However, do they really know God in saving faith? If it was just a mental decision I'm not so sure.

Just like a Soldier may join the army and later realize what he/she was getting into, this type of Christian is one who needs to go deeper. The Soldiers who fought as engineers from Fort Leonard Wood in Iraq trained and became warriors. I prepared them as well as I could as their chaplain, but sometimes only experience can teach one to be a warrior. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Someone said that becoming a true Christian involved about eighteen inches. That is the distance between the head and the heart.

Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. When one confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in his/her heart that God raised Him from the dead he/she will be saved, Romans 10:9-10. My prayer is that all of us will live the heart type of faith that is required for a true experience. Jesus is calling warriors who will live the heart type of faith that moves mountains.

My favorite verse that illustrates this is Mark 11:24 in which Jesus said, "Whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will come to pass. He will have whatever he says." Just like those recruits we have faith battles to fight, but ours are already won, through Jesus' victory in the cross. When we make Jesus our personal savior and Lord then life changes. Oh what a glorious experience to have true heart faith and just mental assent. When we realize grace in this type of relationship then we change.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, thanks for supporting CFC MOAA, and hope to see you at the golf fund raiser or at a future event.



WEBMASTER

By
Joe Tichich

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.

BIRTHDAYS!!!!!!

August Cape Fear Chapter Member Birthdays*

MG (USA, Ret.) Rodney Anderson
MAJ (USA, Ret.) George Bond
LTC (USA, Ret.) Dave Cheney+
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Jerry Croll
Maj (former USAF) Erin Coughlin
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Tim Fitzpatrick+
CW5 (USA, Ret.) Stephen Graybill
MAJ (USA, Ret.) Makeba Jeffcoat
COL (USAR, Ret.) John Nowak
COL (USA, Ret.) Edward Schowalter
CW3 (USA, Ret.) Brian Shaw
Mrs. Catherine Wilt

+ Cape Fear Chapter Life Member

*If your birthday is in August 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.



ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION!!!!!!

Click the link below for a very interesting article about Scammers and their practices to be aware of.

https://www.usaa.com/support/security/identify-avoid-scams/?vurl=vurl_scams&emlink=cta1&TXID=EM:TX1:12FUSVC3GR&&akredirect=true



HEAT WAVE PRECAUTIONS

STAY COOL. STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.

Extreme heat can be dangerous. Follow these simple steps to protect yourself and others.

- 1. STAY HYDRATED**
Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- 2. STAY COOL**
Stay in air-conditioned places as much as possible. Use fans or cooling devices.
- 3. DRESS SMART**
Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing and a hat or sunglasses.
- 4. LIMIT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY**
Avoid intense outdoor activities during peak heat hours (11 AM – 4 PM).
- 5. NEVER LEAVE ANYONE IN A PARKED CAR**
Temperatures inside a car can rise dangerously in minutes.
- 6. CHECK ON OTHERS**
Look out for children, older adults, and people with health conditions. Make sure they stay safe and cool.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF HEAT ILLNESS:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Rapid heartbeat

FEEL UNWELL?
Get to a cool place and seek medical help if needed.



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