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**November 2023 Message from President Joe Irrera - [jaiiraq06@yahoo.com](mailto:jaiiraq06@yahoo.com)**

Greetings!

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our 3 October meeting and am looking forward to seeing everyone at our 7 November meeting at the Bluewater Grill. We need to have a good headcount by **Monday 30 October** and ask that you **please RSVP** via our new process contained in the email that delivered this newsletter. This deadline set by the Bluewater is to ensure they have the correct set-up, staff and meals on hand for our meetings.

We are pleased to welcome Chad Kimes, PE and Caitlin Melvin, PE from the NC Department of Transportation for our November meeting. They will talk about the current state of projects in our areas.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of longtime chapter member COL David D. (Dave) Igelman, USAF (ret) on 1 September 2023.

Please be aware that the Board of Directors has approved the following list of elected officer nominees for 2024-2026. This is to notify SENCLAND members that voting by membership will be an agenda item at the annual business meeting on 7 Nov 2023. Installation of officers for 2024-2026 is scheduled during the January 2024 luncheon.

**Officer Nominees:**

**President: Allan Turner, CAPT USN (ret)**  
**VP-1: Tom Welke, CAPT USN (ret)**  
**VP-2: Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (ret)**  
**VP-3: Mike Apicella, COL USA (ret)**

**Service Director Nominees:**

**US Army: Thomas Jones, BG USA (ret)**  
**US Navy: Greg Cook, CAPT USN (ret)**  
**US Air Force: Dianne Jinwright, LtCol, USAF (ret)**  
**US Marine Corps: Doug Holdstein, COL USMC (ret)**  
**US Coast Guard: Frank Roberts, LCDR USCG (ret)**  
**US Public Health Service: Dave Renquist, CAPT USPHS (ret)**

Additionally, LtCol Dianne Jinwright has agreed to take over as SENCLAND Sentinel Newsletter Editor effective 1/1/2024.

For this month's member profile, we decided to feature a couple of articles. One put together by Membership Chair Al Schroetel on a recent Memorial for Relocated Families to Build Camp Lejeune, and

another article that recently appeared in Coastal Review.org on Hedy Lamarr and a close associate of hers on their development of the technology that eventually led to Wi-Fi.

**USCG Boat and Facility Tour** – on October 26th with thanks to Irene Glaeser, we had 15 SENCLand Chapter MOAA members participate in a tour of the Oak Island Coast Guard Station which included a ride out into the ocean on one of their patrol craft. We hope everyone who participated had a great time!

**Heartfelt Thanks** to Wrightsville Beach Alderman Zeke Partin for her update on the upcoming Blue Star Memorial dedication. Reminder that this will take place on Thursday 11/9/23 at 2:00 PM at the parking lot beside the Wrightsville Beach Redix

Thanks also to New Hanover County Sheriff Ed McMahon, Captain Eric Edwards, and Detective Peter Woodin for their informative and sobering presentation on the ravages of Fentanyl on our area.

**Happy Birthday to all our November members; May you have many more happy, healthy years ahead.**

**A Happy 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday (10 November) and a big Semper Fi to our United States Marine Corps and all her men and women who have and are serving our Nation so well.**

On 28 October, the local chapter of Irreverent Warriors is sponsoring a “Silkies” Hike as part of their efforts in preventing veteran suicide. Please see Tim Johnson’s report under **Chapter Community Programs**.

Everyone is seeing updates on the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, more commonly referred to as the PACT Act which was passed last year. To follow up from the article from October, we have reprinted an article originally from Military.com listing what survivors of Veterans should know about the PACT Act. This is under **New Hanover County Veterans Council Section**.

My continued thanks to those of you who have generously contributed to the several programs we are fortunate to support each year including the BG Jim Carper Scholarship Fund. We use these funds for JROTC and Veterans Scholarships and continually support Veteran Outreach programs throughout the year thanks to your generosity.

**Programs** – Submitted by Irene Glaeser, COL, USA (ret) Programs Chair

**New Email System** – Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster

The new Chapter email system was *successfully* implemented in September. We really appreciate that the majority of RSVPs for October’s luncheon were made using the new system. *We hope that even more Chapter members will use it in the future.* It’s easier for you and simplifies event management for the Chapter. Be sure to click your RSVP option in the center of the green box as that is the active click region (see illustration below). You can also change your RSVP by clicking a different option.



**Exception:** If you plan to bring more than one guest or a prospective members, please send your RSVP text, phone, or email to Irene Glaeser @ [703-229-2743](tel:703-229-2743) or [irene.v.glaeser@gmail.com](mailto:irene.v.glaeser@gmail.com).

**The Importance of RSVP's** - Submitted by Irene Glaeser, Chairperson, Programs and Special Events

Thankfully, our Chapter luncheon and special event attendance numbers are climbing annually.

We have all done it – that is, forgotten to RSVP. I am guilty of it too!

But have you noticed event staff and MOAA volunteers running around to make sure there are enough tables, chairs, and food? Did you know that our events require 1-2 weeks' final headcount by the venue and not by us? Our new RSVP system will help take away hours of last minute, sometimes frantic coordination by MOAA volunteers as up to the minute RSVPs continue to come in.

A simple click of the green button is all it will take. Please help us by paying close attention to RSVP dates- your MOAA volunteer leaders will be very grateful as we aim to maintain great relationships with our venues. And keep on bringing in guests and new members!

If there are questions about this process, please contact Al Schroetel at [downeast@bellsouth.net](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or Allen Allegretto at [allegrettoa@yahoo.com](mailto:allegrettoa@yahoo.com).

**7 November Chapter Meeting:** The Chapter's November program will feature a presentation by Chad Kimes the Division Engineer for NCDOT's Division 3, and the Division's Deputy Division Engineer Caitlin Melvin. In these positions they manage the planning, project development, maintenance activities, and construction projects for roads & highways in Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Onslow, Duplin, and Sampson Counties.



Chad Kimes, PE

Caitlin Melvin, PE

Chad Kimes, PE was born and raised in Franklinville, NC, and currently lives in Surf City, NC. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1994 in Civil Engineering. Chad is also a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of North Carolina. He began work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in 1989 while attending college and began a fulltime engineering career with the Department in 1994. He was promoted to Division Engineer for Division 3 in November 2019. Chad is very grateful for being able to make needed improvements to the transportation system in our region.

Caitlin Melvin, PE, graduated from North Carolina State University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a minor in Business Administration. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Caitlin began her career in Edenton, NC as a consultant for the Department of Transportation under the Bridge Preservation Program. Caitlin moved to Wilmington when she accepted a position with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Caitlin has served Division 3 as the Division Project Manager, Division Planning Engineer, Assistant Division Maintenance Engineer and her current role as Deputy Division Engineer. Caitlin is passionate about working to obtain funding for much-needed transportation improvements in our area and building strong relationships with our community partners.



#### **Bluewater Grill Menu Choices:**

1. Classic Chicken Caesar Salad
2. House Salad with Fried Oysters
3. BW Cheeseburger with seasoned fries
4. Chicken Salad Croissant

Priced at \$27.00 - includes soft beverages (water, sweet and unsweet iced tea, soft drinks), cookies for dessert, taxes and gratuities. Beer, wine and cocktails are available for purchase. Entrée choices are made once seated at your table (no pre-orders).

PLEASE NOTE: Payment is made at check-in using **cash or check only**.

Please click on your **Email RSVP link NLT Monday, 30 October**. If you need to, you may contact Irene Glaeser. Email preferred: [irene.v.glaeser@gmail.com](mailto:irene.v.glaeser@gmail.com) or call (or text) her if necessary at [\(703\) 229-2743](tel:7032292743).

We need everyone to help out by being conscious of this deadline, both for the Bluewater staff and the SENCLAND team that puts these events together. Thanks so much and looking forward to seeing you there!

**3 October Meeting**: Our October meeting was held on Tuesday 3 October 2023, 1130, hrs. at the Bluewater Grill on Wrightsville Beach. We had two speakers for a capacity crowd: First, a brief presentation on the New Blue Star Memorial Marker by Wrightsville Beach Alderman Zeke Partin. Our keynote speaker was New Hanover County Sheriff Ed McMahon who with two members of his Vice and Narcotics Task Force: Captain Eric Edwards and Detective Peter Woodin who spoke on how the deadly and illegal version of the drug Fentanyl has ravaged our area.



Capacity Crowd at our 10/3/23 Meeting





Wrightsville Beach Alderman Vivian “Zeke” Partin speaks about the upcoming Blue Star Memorial

Reminder: The Harbor Island Garden Club is very pleased to bring this memorial to the Town of Wrightsville Beach on **November 9, 2023 at 2:00PM at the parking lot beside Redix**. Free Parking will be available near the dedication site.



New Hanover County Sheriff's Deputy Captain Eric Edwards delivered a very frank and detailed discussion on how illegal Fentanyl has become a deadly scourge to our national drug problem. He, Detective Sergeant Woodin and Sheriff McMahon also took the time to field many questions.



Anna Marie and Allan Turner, Sheriff Ed McMahon, Captain Eric Edwards, and President Joe Irrera at the end of our 10/3/23 meeting.

### **Upcoming Programs for 2023**

- 9 November- Blue Star Memorial Dedication 2:00 at the parking lot next to the Wrightsville Beach Redix store near the Bluewater.
- Nov 11-16, 2023 Veteran's Day 2023 cruise to Nassau on Carnival's "*Sunshine of the Seas*"
- 5 December- Bluewater Grill, Special Holiday Program/Menu

### **Chapter Website Updates**– Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster

Our website (<http://www.sencland.org>) can help you stay informed about upcoming chapter events and current activities. It is easy to access and requires no logon. Our website provides Membership information, News and Events, calendar of chapter events, Legislative Information, updates on chapter programs including outreach, scholarships, and JROTC leadership awards, newsletter and meeting minutes, and a page honoring Fallen Heroes. It shows how to make donations and online payments. You can also read about our chapter mission and view current leadership.

**Important News:** may appear at the top of the website indicating time-sensitive information is available.

Our chapter Membership Roster is also available on the website. This is the only page that requires logon to access. If you need help logging onto the website to view the chapter roster, please email or call Allen Allegretto ([AllegrettoA@yahoo.com](mailto:AllegrettoA@yahoo.com), or call: [910-617-2307](tel:910-617-2307)).

## **Membership Update** – Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair

We are saddened to report the passing of Colonel David D. Igelman, USAF (Ret.) on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He was predeceased by his wife Phyllis.

During his 30-year Air Force career COL Igelman flew various fighter and interceptor aircraft. During the Vietnam War he was a "Thud Driver", flying 100 missions over North Vietnam in the F-105D. For his actions in SE Asia, he received a Silver Star and a Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters. Link to his obituary: <https://www.starnewsonline.com/obituaries/pwlm0565308> (Note - may need to copy and paste this link into your search browser.)

We try to keep abreast of the status of all of our members, so please let me know any significant life events or relocations of our members. Just send an e-mail to [downeast@bellsouth.net](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or text me at 910-352-4378.

The Chapter's membership roster is available in the password protected section of the Chapter's website. This roster is updated every month so you will always have the most current list. If you would like assistance accessing that section, please contact me at [downeast@bell-south.net](mailto:downeast@bell-south.net) or Allen Allegretto at [allegrettoa@yahoo.com](mailto:allegrettoa@yahoo.com)

We love guests! This is a great time to invite a friend to one of our monthly meetings or special events. Not only are guests always welcome, but this is also one of the ways that we can make potential members aware of the benefits of Chapter membership.

## **Chapter Community Programs**

### **JROTC Support, Veteran Scholarships, & Veteran Outreach**

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the scholarship/outreach programs and ask you to keep these important programs in mind. Please consider a donation to these worthwhile projects now. We are always accepting applications for outreach support. Thank you again to all our generous contributors.

### **Veteran Outreach** – Submitted by COL Mike Apicella, Outreach Chair

This year SENCLAND Community Outreach Program awarded \$1,500 dollars to deserving individuals in need of financial assistance. I will once again be requesting funds from the National MOAA organization for FY 2024.

If you know of any Veterans that may benefit from one of these Community Outreach Grants, please contact Mike Apicella, Chairperson, Community Outreach Committee. In addition, donations can also be made to the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter to help support the Outreach Grant Program. Thanks for your support.

Mike Apicella, COL (ret) USA  
Chairperson, Community Outreach Program



**Veteran Education Assistance Scholarships** - Chrissy Sanford, COL, USA (ret) Scholarship Coordinator, Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Assistant

Thanks to your generous contributions, we have arranged for the SENCLAND MOAA and Jim Carper, BG, USA Memorial scholarships to be distributed in November. The breakdown is as follows: Brunswick Community College- SENCLand MOAA- \$400 (2 students at \$200 each; Jim Carper, BG, USA, Memorial Scholarship- \$100 (one student, preferably having served in the USA National Guard). Cape Fear Community College- SENCLand MOAA- \$1800 (4 students at \$450 each), Jim Carper, BG, USA, Memorial Scholarship- \$700 (2 students at \$350 each, preferably having served in the USA National Guard). UNC Wilmington- SENCLand MOAA- \$1800 (4 students at \$450 each), Jim Carper, BG, USA, Memorial Scholarship- \$700 (2 students at \$350 each, preferably having served in the USA National Guard). One of the UNC Wilmington scholarships reflects a \$500 donation from the Air Force Association and we requested that one go to an Air Force Veteran.

We are presenting the scholarships as follows- Brunswick Community College- 8 Nov 2023, 1100-1300, Odell Williamson Auditorium; Cape Fear Community College- 9 Nov 2023, 1030-1230, Union Station Auditorium; UNC Wilmington- 8 Nov 2023, 1400-1500, Office of Military Affairs.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating in these ceremonies. It is an honor to present these deserving, qualified students with our awards. We will meet you at the designated buildings at the respective colleges.

**Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area**- Chrissy Sanford, COL, USA (ret), Veteran Coordinator

The Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area is scheduled for 20 April 2024. Applications for Veterans, Guardians, and Volunteers are now available on our website, <https://www.honorflightcfa.org/>. Currently, the 75 Veteran and 75 Guardian slots are filled but we continue taking applications. I encourage you to submit your application with the necessary paperwork (copies of your DD 214 and driver's license or military ID) as soon as possible. We anticipate changes between now and April 2024 in Veterans status, alternative plans, etc. which will open up flight slots. Remember, we ALL deserve to go on the flight. We ALL contributed to our country's safety and freedom and you deserve to be recognized for your service and commitment. Let me know if you have any questions. Please email me at: [veterans@honorflightcfa.org](mailto:veterans@honorflightcfa.org)

**Get Involved – Local Chapter of Irreverent Warriors** – Capt. Tim Johnson, USMC



The mission of Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. Their vision is to unite the veteran community and drive a healthy culture within its members.

Irreverent Warriors knows that the best support network for veterans, is other veterans. They bring a community of warriors together through therapeutic events across the country. They also work with other veteran organizations who provide services such as job placement, training, housing, service dogs and more.

How can SENCLand MOAA Members help? The local chapter of Irreverent Warriors is sponsoring a “Silkies” Hike on Saturday, 28 October 2023 and would love to have our chapter members participate. These hikes are between 4-10 miles, paced at 2-3 miles per hour. There are frequent stops for fellowship and food/beverages. Rucks, weight and boots are optional.

Please visit their website at <https://irreverentwarriors.com/>, click on the “Events” tab at the top of the page, then click on “View All Cities”, and then click on the map pin near Wilmington, NC. You can also call Tim at: [910-538-4740](tel:910-538-4740) or email: [tim.johnson27@gmail.com](mailto:tim.johnson27@gmail.com) for more information.



## **Sandi Adams, Surviving Spouse Coordinator**

### **Surviving Spouse Corner –**



Sandi Adams and Anna Rigo on the 10/16/23 Outing on the Cape Fear River

Several of the surviving spouse members had an outing and went on a Wilmington Water Tours trip

down the Cape Fear River on October 16<sup>th</sup> and had a lovely time. FYI - they also offer a military discount. Photo of their brochure and card are below. Any surviving spouse member who have ideas, questions, needs, please reach out to me.



Also, MEMBERS- it is open season to sign up for Spousal Benefit Plan. Now that the offset is over, should you pre-decease your spouse, they would get 55% of your annuity. I'm always available to help members and their spouses talk about post-life issues.

Sandi Adams  
Surviving Spouse Liaison  
[earlsandi@gmail.com](mailto:earlsandi@gmail.com)  
[910-443-0470](tel:910-443-0470)

**Wellness Coordinator's Corner** – Leon Rooks  
From The Wellness Corner...

Welcome to "Fall!" Yes it is the fall season and I like it, I hope you do too. Hot weather is gone and we are enjoying cooler days. It is Saturday football time and the weather is perfect for golf. But there is more...for me this time of the year is special....we have one of nature's greatest gifts at this time in our calendar. The gift of viewing a true portrait of nature, the beauty of watching the tree leaves changing colors. What a spectacular event, by the way, it is "free"! But, fall brings even more. Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks for the many blessings we have received, and we are so grateful to live in the greatest country in the world. So fall is important, I hope you agree...

Unfortunately this is not the case around the world. Troubles in Ukraine and the Middle East should be a concern. At this writing our country is moving troops and air support to the region. Naval ships are in the area already on station. This is a serious period for our country. We all need to be in prayer for our country and for those who may be heading into harm's way.

Finally, I ask that you keep our chapter and its members in your thoughts as we have some members dealing with illness, and those who are recovering at home.

SENCLAND MOAA cares very strongly for its members. We need your help to make sure that your chapter is informed of any illness or other incidents so we can send our thoughts and prayers, provide

help or just reach out to let you know we care.

Happy Halloween and look forward to seeing everyone in November...

Leon Rooks

Wellness Chair

[leon.rooks@hotmail.com](mailto:leon.rooks@hotmail.com) or [910-799-2488](tel:910-799-2488).

## **Legislative Affairs November 2023** - by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

### **2023 Municipal Elections**

Reminder: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 is Election Day for North Carolina Municipal governments.

Please take the time to vote if you live in one of the municipalities holding an election. Don't forget to bring photo identification. Important dates for this election:

13 October – Deadline for new voter Registration

19 October – 4 November – One-Stop (early) voting period, except in Bladen County, which is not holding early voting this year.

31 October – Absentee Mail-in Ballot request deadline

7 November – **ELECTION DAY**/ Mail-in Absentee Ballots due

Detailed information on Election activities, including early voting locations, sample ballots and I.D. requirements can be found on the websites of the State and County Boards of Elections.

### **Open Season Information**

It's Open Season time again for many Federal Programs. During Open Season, you can make desired changes to your Federal health care and insurance plans. These plans are specific to individuals, so please take time to review your current coverages and contact your provider prior to the deadline. This year, there is a one-time opportunity to change your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) elections, if desired. You can either start SBP if you did not do so at retirement or discontinue SBP. See the DFAS website for more information at <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23>.

Open Season dates are:

- MEDICARE: 15 Oct -7 Dec
- TRICARE/Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP): 13 Nov – 11 Dec
- SBP: ends 1 Jan 2024

### **In Washington**

Congress did manage to pass a Continuing Resolution late on the 30 September deadline day. This legislation will keep Government agencies funded at this Fiscal Year's level only until 17 November. Hopefully, the House will begin working on this legislation since they have finally elected a new Speaker of the House. Meanwhile, President Biden has submitted a Supplemental Budget Request for additional funding for Ukraine, Israel, and border protection, which is also likely to be contentious. So, we are most likely looking at another Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown scenario in the coming

weeks. The FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) also did not pass before the beginning of the new Fiscal Year. There are still significant differences between the two Chambers' versions of this Bill which have not been resolved by the Joint Conference Committee. We will have to keep waiting to see how all this plays out in an increasingly dysfunctional Congress. MOAA is urging Members to contact their elected officials through the Legislative Action Center at [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center) to ask them to pass full Authorization and Appropriations Legislation quickly.

### **In North Carolina**

As previously reported, no bills of interest to active-duty service members, retirees or veterans have been passed in this Long Session, which is about to come to a close. But we have not been completely forgotten. The budget recently passed by the General Assembly contains funding for NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs programs and the operation and maintenance of state Veterans' Homes and Cemeteries. Having overridden most of the Governor's vetoes, the General Assembly is now finalizing revised voting district maps intended for use in the 2024 General Election. You can keep up with progress on NC legislation using the Bill Tracker on the SENCLAND website at [SENCLAND: Legislative Information](https://www.sencland.com/) or the excellent NC General Assembly website at [North Carolina General Assembly \(ncleg.gov\)](https://www.ncleg.gov/).

**New Hanover County Veterans' Council (NHCVC)** – Bob Doleman, Chapter Representative

### **What Survivors of Veterans Need to Know About the PACT Act**



The VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System held a "Summer VetFest" event at Walnut Street Church of Christ in Dickson, Tenn., Aug. 20, 2023, to provide information about PACT Act toxic exposure benefits to veterans and the survivors of deceased veterans. (VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System via Facebook)



Editor's Note: This article originally appeared 31 Jul 2023 on Military.com by Amanda Miller. Link to original article: <https://www.military.com/benefits/what-survivors-of-veterans-need-know-about-pact-act.html>

Surviving spouses, dependent children and some parents of deceased U.S. military veterans may have become newly eligible for compensation following Congress's creation of the PACT Act in 2022. Survivors may even qualify for backdated compensation if they filed a claim following the death of their family member from a now-"presumptive" medical condition that was originally denied.

Here are some of the most important things survivors need to know if they think they may qualify:

### **New Conditions Considered 'Presumptive' Under the PACT Act**

The PACT Act linked a variety of medical conditions with some toxins common during specific eras or circumstances of military service.

Rather than require veterans or their survivors to prove that a toxic exposure took place, the law assumes that some illnesses are service-connected if the person served in certain places during specific time frames. If a veteran exposed to burn pits in Afghanistan, for example, died because of kidney cancer, a condition not previously covered, their survivor could now be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

The following burn pit- and other toxic exposure-related conditions became presumptive under the PACT Act:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer of any type
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)

- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

The following conditions related to Vietnam-era Agent Orange exposure became presumptive under the PACT Act:

- High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

## **Survivors May Be Entitled to Retroactive Benefits**

In two instances, survivors of veterans who died of a newly presumptive condition may be able to recover some backdated compensation.

**Previously denied Dependency and Indemnity Compensation:** The DIC benefit pays monthly allowances to survivors of military members who die while on active duty or while training, or veterans who die as the result of a service-related injury or disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs says it will try to contact survivors who filed DIC claims in the past and may be newly eligible. However, there is no reason to wait. Go ahead and [submit a new application here](#) to reapply.

**Previously denied accrued benefits:** If a survivor applied not only for DIC but also accrued benefits within a year of a veteran's death -- benefits the veteran would have received while they were alive had their condition already been covered -- a survivor may now be able to claim those accrued benefits as well. An [accredited VA claim representative](#) can help with filing.

## **When Does a Survivor Qualify for PACT Act Benefits?**

The VA supplied the following examples to Military.com to help survivors get an idea of whether they may qualify for compensation under the PACT Act:

- **Veteran A**, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2008, never filed for benefits but died of lung cancer in 2019. Veteran A's spouse did not apply for benefits at the time of the veteran's death. If Veteran A's spouse files a claim on or before Aug. 9, 2023, the spouse can be granted benefits back to Aug. 10, 2022. (Learn more about the Aug. 9, 2023, deadline for backdated benefits [here](#).)
- **Veteran B** deployed to the Persian Gulf in 2002 and died unexpectedly of brain cancer in 2017. Veteran B's spouse applied for benefits in March 2017 but was denied. The spouse can now reapply, elect a reevaluation of the previously denied claim, and can be granted benefits back to March 2017.
- **Veteran C**, who served in Iraq, filed a claim in November 2021 for glioblastoma, and the VA denied it. Veteran C died in February 2022 of glioblastoma. Veteran C's surviving spouse applied for DIC and accrued benefits on Oct. 6, 2022, within one year of the veteran's death. The spouse could be eligible for two benefits: 1) the accrued benefits from November 2021 to February 2022 -- what the veteran would have received; and 2) DIC back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date

President Joe Biden signed the PACT Act into law. (Learn more about the Aug. 9, 2023, deadline for backdated benefits [here](#).)

## Open Enrollment: How to Choose a FEDVIP Dental Plan



Editor's Note – this article originally appeared on Military.com 10/12/23 by Jim Absher. Link to original article: <https://www.military.com/benefits/retiree-benefits/open-enrollment-how-choose-dental-plan.html>

This year's open enrollment season for military retirees to choose a dental plan under the FEDVIP program runs from Nov. 13, 2023, through midnight EST on Dec. 11, 2023, for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2024.

Retirees currently enrolled in a Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) plan will automatically continue their current enrollment into 2024. Those wishing to cancel or change their dental plans in any way must make changes to their insurance during open enrollment.

With several dental carriers to choose from for 2024, how do you know which plan best fits your needs? Here are some factors to help you make the best choice.

All FEDVIP dental plans provide comprehensive dental coverage, including preventive services covered at 100% when you use an in-network provider. There are no deductibles when using in-network dentists. In addition, there is no waiting period for major services such as crowns, bridges, dentures and implants. Under most plans, there is no 12-month waiting period or age limit for orthodontic coverage, but some reimbursements may be limited during the first 12 months.

It is helpful to understand your specific dental needs in order to make an informed decision. FEDVIP offers standard and high-option plans.

If you know you will need major dental work, you might want a high-option plan that may cover more of the cost of major restorative procedures. If you need only preventive dental care, a standard plan may make more sense.

Also, look for limitations such as annual maximums or orthodontic lifetime maximums, to ensure you are not paying out of pocket after you've reached a plan's limit.

Finally, check whether the plan has any waiting periods that may be a barrier to receiving immediate dental care.

Verify that your dentist is part of your dental plan. If you're selecting a new dentist, review the plan's network to ensure the dentist's office is near your home or workplace. Most plans offer an online provider search. You also may want to confirm participation with the provider's office.

When choosing your dental plan, don't forget to look at other value-added services and discounts that may be available with your plan. For example, some plans offer discounts on teeth whitening procedures or invisible braces.

During open enrollment, it is important to compare the monthly premium for each plan. Oral health doesn't have to be expensive. Many insurance companies offer low-cost plans that entirely or mostly cover the costs for oral exams, cleanings, fillings and X-rays.

## **Upcoming Items of Interest**

### **MOAA SENCLand Nametags Available for Purchase** – Chris Morin, Nametag Program

The Chapter is offering the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost of the nametags are \$15 per nametag and they will be the same style and size as in the past (with a magnetic clasp).

We will order Quarterly or when we have at least 10 paid orders.

There are two ways to order:

- **ON-LINE:**

*Step #1:* Click on the following link <https://sencland.org/membership/index.php?id=1636387310>

- This will take you to a window where you can pay for your nametag or nametags. (If that link does not work, go to the SENCLAND Website (<https://sencland.org>) and click on the tab for “News & Events” on the home page and scroll down to “SENCLAND Nametags”).
- *Step #2:* Send an e-mail to Chris Morin at [villa\\_morin@hotmail.com](mailto:villa_morin@hotmail.com) including the information you want on the nametag (name, including nick name if you prefer, Branch of military service, rank and current duty status (Retired, former, active duty). Nametags for spouses only require the spouse's name and / or nickname if desired. [Use the form below as a guide.](#)

- **US Postal Service MAIL:**

*Step #1:* Complete the information on the form below and mail it with a check made out to SENCLAND MOAA (\$15.00 per ordered nametag) to:

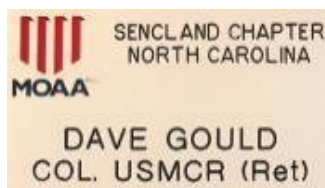
SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA, PO Box 10015, Wilmington NC 28404

	SENCLAND NAME TAG NAME/RANK/SERVICE BRANCH/STATUS
1	<p>FIRST/NICK NAME _____</p> <p>LAST NAME _____</p> <p>RANK _____</p> <p>SERVICE BRANCH _____</p> <p>STATUS _____</p> <p>Active Duty, Reserve or Guard, Retired, Former Officer (not retired)</p>
2 (Form for a spouse's nametag)	<p>FIRST/NICK NAME _____</p> <p>LAST NAME _____</p>

Orders will be placed as soon as we have enough completed orders to meet the minimum required by the supplier, but no later than each calendar quarter.

When the nametags are received they will be available for pickup at Chapter luncheons or other events.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris at [villa\\_morin@hotmail.com](mailto:villa_morin@hotmail.com) or 703-798-1754.



(Example of completed nametag)



## **Members in the News – And Other Interesting Items**

**Important Upcoming November Dates for the Armed Forces** - Submitted by: Gary O. Green, Lt Col, USAF (ret), 1st VP.

- November – Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month.
- Nov 9 – 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989).
- Nov 10, 1775 – Marine Corps Birthday.
- Nov 11 Veterans Day -This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is also a day to thank military Veterans for their service.

### **Memorial for Relocated Families to Build Camp Lejeune** – Al Schroetel, Membership Chair

In 1940 when the USA's involvement in the war in Europe was imminent the Commandant of the USMC directed that a new base be established on the East Coast to meet the increased training needs of the Corps. After searching the coast from Maine to Florida, it was decided that a large section of Onslow County on the New River was the best location for an East Coast amphibious training facility because of the proximity to ports at Wilmington and Morehead City and miles of coastline. The Department of the Navy purchased an initial 110,000-acre tract of land.

Unfortunately, this was not unoccupied land and more than 700 families had to be relocated in a matter of a few months. As a result of their sacrifice the USMC's 1st Marine Division set up camp in what is now Camp Lejeune in September 1941.

Much later, some of the descendants of the families that were evicted formed an organization to recognize the sacrifice so many people made to create Camp Lejeune. They held reunions at the Base and several years ago they formed a committee to create a monument to commemorate this loss of land, homes and livelihoods.

The monument dedication was held in May 2023 at its location in the Camp Lejeune Memorial Gardens. Two SENCLAND Chapter members, LtCol Gary Henderson, USAF (Ret.) and Mary Dexter Bagget, surviving spouse of Durwood Bagget, Major, USA (and a WWII decorated combat veteran) are descendants of evicted families.

The monument is in three panels to create the effect of a traditional "Downeast" farm barn, with a main structure and smaller sheds on both sides. The main part of the monument has a map of the land with the locations of the displaced families' properties. The two side panels have the names of all families that were displaced.



For pictures and stories of individual families go to: [www.marinebasehomes.smugwug.com](http://www.marinebasehomes.smugwug.com)  
 We also recommend the excellent video for more history and details on the decision to place Camp Lejeune on Onslow Bay. It can be seen on Facebook at:  
[https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1346054122639997&external\\_log\\_id=96373c01-ebac-4b4c-bc3e-8f37c29721f3&q=former%20landowners%20of%20camp%20lejeune](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1346054122639997&external_log_id=96373c01-ebac-4b4c-bc3e-8f37c29721f3&q=former%20landowners%20of%20camp%20lejeune)

If that link doesn't work put "Former Landowners of Camp Lejeune" in the Facebook search box.

## Hedy Lamarr's Invention Changed Communications. Here's why the Navy Rejected it During WWII

Editor's note: In the January 2020 edition of the Sentinel, there was a brief article about the actress Hedy Lamarr's work on "frequency hopping." Recently a more detailed article about her work was published on Military.com, written by Stephen Ruiz and is reprinted here.

Link to original article is at: <https://www.military.com/history/hedy-lamarrs-invention-changed-communications-heres-why-navy-rejected-it-during-wwii.html>



Hedy Lamarr autographs the cement court at the United Service Organizations (USO) Hollywood Canteen as servicemen surround the movie actress on Dec. 13, 1942. (AP Photo)

As an actress who achieved fame during Hollywood's Golden Age, Hedy Lamarr's acting credits have been largely forgotten outside the realm of film buffs. But as an inventor, Lamarr changed the way Americans today interact and consume information.

Along with a composer named George Antheil, Lamarr developed the technological concept of frequency hopping to address a crucial problem faced by the Allies during World War II. At the time, German U-boats were consistently jamming the signals of torpedoes that targeted their submarines, rendering them ineffective. Lamarr and Antheil solved that problem via a secret communication system of radio-controlled torpedoes, the precursor to what we now know as Bluetooth.

But when Lamarr and Antheil initially brought the technology before the U.S. Navy, the service responded with a hard no.

"The brains of the people are more interesting than the looks, I think," Lamarr -- whose studio dubbed her the Most Beautiful Woman in the World -- told Forbes reporter Fleming Meeks in 1990. "Then people have the idea that I'm sort of a stupid thing."

Despite little formal education, Lamarr was far from that. And while her pairing with Antheil seemed odd at first glance, especially in a scientific setting, a closer look reveals otherwise.

Indeed, Lamarr and Antheil shared an immigrant's mindset. Lamarr, who was Jewish, was born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler on Nov. 9, 1914, in Vienna, and Antheil (pronounced "AN-teil") was the American son of German immigrants. They were deeply affected after the Germans sank the *SS City of Benares*, a British passenger ship, in September 1940, killing 262 people (including 87 children). An eagerness to see the Nazis defeated also was ingrained in both of them, a feeling heightened in Lamarr after Germany annexed Austria in 1938, one year after she left for Hollywood.

And they both possessed curious minds and, perhaps most importantly, shared a basic knowledge of munitions. Lamarr accrued hers during the first of her six marriages, to Fritz Mandl -- a pro-fascist arms dealer unflatteringly called Austria's Merchant of Death. Although it was an unhappy union, Mandl allowed Lamarr to attend (but not speak during) business meetings, some including German military leaders. The information gleaned in those settings proved invaluable to Lamarr, as did Antheil's previous experience as an inspector of artillery ammunition at a U.S. armory.

Lamarr first met Antheil at a dinner party in 1940, and it was not long before the discussion turned to inventions and defeating the Nazis. Lamarr described a system where torpedo control would be synchronized, but she didn't have the technical expertise to make that happen. That's where Antheil came in; he had been familiar with synchronization for years, dating to the 1920s when he unsuccessfully tried to sync 16 pianos for a musical composition called "Ballet Mécanique."



Along with composer George Antheil, actress Hedy Lamarr was granted a patent, which was later revoked, for a transformative technology known as frequency hopping. (Wikimedia Commons)

Their collaboration resulted in a device, roughly the size of a pocket watch that would allow a signal, instead of traveling over a single wavelength to its destination, to hop between dozens of frequencies, thereby eliminating the possibility of jamming. "In essence, a nearly infinite number of devices can operate within a range of frequencies and never interfere with one another, because they are constantly, minutely, and dynamically changing the frequencies on which they are operating," an article in *Naval History* magazine explained.

Patent No. 2,292,387 was issued in August 1942. The Navy not only was not interested, but it also classified the design as top secret and seized Lamarr's patent, considering her "an alien with ties to a foreign adversarial power." The U.S. military even condescendingly suggested to Lamarr that she could best help the Allies' mission by showing her beautiful face during United Service Organizations (USO) appearances and using it to help sell war bonds.

Despite the sting from the Navy's rejection, Lamarr raised millions of dollars for the war effort.

"When we began making this film, some scientists said to me, 'She was probably a spy. She probably stole this invention from the Nazis and brought it to the Allies as a spy. And we just don't realize it now. But doesn't that make a lot more sense to you than this movie star coming up with this incredible invention?'" Alexandra Dean, director of the documentary "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story," told PBS.

The Navy finally smartened up during the Cold War, when the service employed the technology in its ships' communication systems during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. And now look at where Lamarr and Antheil's invention has gone. It's everywhere. Also known as spread spectrum, frequency hopping is a foundational piece of so many wireless communications, including Bluetooth, cellphones, WiFi and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), among other technologies.

"I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a different planet. Who knows?" Lamarr said, laughing, in the interview with Forbes. "But whatever it is, inventions are easy for me to do."

Lamarr died in 2000 at the age of 85, and she and Antheil were inducted posthumously into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

### **SENCLAND Chapter Embroidered Apparel**

SENCLAND Embroidered LOGO Shirts, Caps, & Outerwear are now available at our Chapter Online Store hosted by Queensboro Shirt Co. You can access the store using:

**<https://senclandmoaa.qbstores.com>**

You can save shipping cost if you are willing to pick up at Queensboro Shirt Co at 1400 Marsteller Street in Wilmington. Call Queensboro at [800-847-4478](tel:800-847-4478) after you have placed your order and tell them you want to pick up when ready. They will credit back the shipping cost and call you when ready for pickup.

### **Membership Rosters** - Al Schroetel, Allen Allegretto

Several years ago the Chapter leadership due to cost of printing/mailing and constant revisions decided to change the Chapter's Membership Lists from a paper "hard copy" to an on-line version. The membership rosters (updated monthly) are available on the Chapter's website (<https://sencland.org/>). To ensure privacy the membership roster is in a password protected section of the website. If you need assistance accessing the roster please contact:

Al Schroetel at [downeast@bellsouth.net](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or [910-686-6905](tel:910-686-6905) *or*

Allen Allegretto at [AllegrettoA@yahoo.com](mailto:AllegrettoA@yahoo.com) or [910-617-2307](tel:910-617-2307)

### **SENCLAND Chapter Facebook Information** – Dianne Jinwright, Administrator

Dianne works hard to have relevant information and updates posted to our Facebook page. Viewing this page, "Liking" and "Sharing" the information helps to get it in front of other members and prospective members. If you are a Facebook user, simply enter "*Sencland Chapter*" in the search bar to view postings. If you don't have a Facebook account just google on "*Facebook Sencland chapter*".

**MOAA National and NC Chapters Website Information** Our national website ([www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org)) is a wealth of information for current, former, retired officers, and surviving



spouses. Every chapter member is encouraged to visit and explore this site and take advantage of the resources available. Similarly, the North Carolina Council of Chapters website ([www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org)) is also a great resource for what MOAA is doing at the state level as well as information on other NC Chapters.

**MOAA Newsletter** – MOAA National members can easily take advantage of this free email newsletter which publishes news and information that is taking place at the national level. If you would like to receive this go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), click on the “News & Info” pulldown menu on the upper right hand side and then click on “Newsletters”.

### **Editorial Policy and Comments**

The SENCLAND *SENTINEL* Newsletter is published by the SENCLAND Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations. As a part of MOAA’s efforts to advance legislation and budgets that would be in the best interests of military members, retirees, and their families, there is an ongoing initiative to create awareness on many important topics, and to provide members with easy ways to give their input to state and national legislators. The following link will take you directly to MOAA’s legislative activities and provide access to congress..... <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>.

### **SENCLAND Sentinel – Our Chapter’s Voice**

Our newsletter is published monthly (except July and August) in time to provide information on upcoming meetings. We want this newsletter to be of value, but we do not aim to compete with established media, and we do not simply distill what MOAA National is publishing in *Military Officer* each month. We want to keep you informed about the chapter and our SENCLAND efforts to stay connected with each other and support our local military and veteran communities. Our newsletter is distributed electronically by email to our members when published. Current and previous editions are also available on our website at <https://sencland.org/documents/>.

To that end, we encourage you to provide content for publication in our newsletter and online. Simply send your notices, letters, articles, and photos to our editor, Allan Turner, ([turnerjao6@outlook.com](mailto:turnerjao6@outlook.com)) by the 15th of the month to be considered for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter. All items are subject to editing.

**SENCLAND Sentinel** accepts sponsorships from our members and other supporters. If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities for yourself, your company, other veteran fraternal and support organizations, or anyone else that appreciates the mission of SENCLAND MOAA, please email Allan Turner [turnerja@ec.rr.com](mailto:turnerja@ec.rr.com) . **Whenever possible, please patronize our sponsors and let them know we all appreciate their support of our important initiatives.**

*Owning the facts is a prerequisite to leadership. But there are millions of technocrats out there with lots of facts in their quivers and little leadership potential. In many cases, what they are missing is empathy. No one is a leader who can’t put himself or herself in the other person’s shoes. Empathy and expertise command respect.*

**— Lieutenant General William Pagonis, USA (ret)**



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