



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 10015 . WILMINGTON, NC 28404 . WWW.SENCLAND.ORG

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JANUARY 2024

SENTINEL

Happy New Year!

Message from SENCLAND Chapter President
Allan Turner – turnerjao6@outlook.com



Greetings and Happy New Year!

A Happy 135th Birthday (04 Jan) to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and Happy Birthday to all our January-born members; may you have many more happy, healthy years ahead.

My thanks to the SENCLAND members for having confidence in me to serve as your Chapter President as well as in the other new officers that will be installed in January. I am truly humbled to be taking

the helm of one of the finest MOAA Chapters in the country. My goals are to continue our role of service to our JROTC students and veteran community through scholarships and financial aid, to provide you, our members, with meetings and other activities that are informative and relevant, and to continue to promote camaraderie among our ranks. We will also work to support the comprehensive legislative initiatives of MOAA to maintain a strong quality of life for active duty and veteran military service members and their families. Lastly, we will continue to use our media platforms: newsletter, website, and Facebook page to keep current communications and items of interest in front of you. I ask for your prayers and support for not only myself, but for all the new leadership as we begin 2024.

As the former editor of the SENCLAND newsletter, I am proud to pass this role onto LtCol Dianne Jinwright, USAF (ret). You are reading the *Sentinel* in a totally new format that I hope you will find interesting and informative. I am excited for Dianne and thank her for taking on this role!

We are pleased to welcome new member CAPT Sean Sullivan, USN (ret) and his wife Adreinne.

Chapter Awards



Level of Excellence Chapter



Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communication Award

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LEADERS

Our Mission

The mission of the SENCLAND Chapter is to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.



Chapter Leadership

Below is a list of Officers, Board Members, and Service Directors that comprise the SENCLAND Chapter's leadership. You can contact chapter leaders by emailing senclandchapter@gmail.com

Officers

Allan Turner, CAPT USNR (ret), President, SENCLAND Chapter
Tom Welke, CAPT USN (ret), 1st Vice President
Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (ret), 2nd Vice President
Mike Apicella, COL USA (ret), 3rd Vice President

Board Members

Joe Irrera, COL, USMC (ret) Immediate Past President
Ken Klassen, CDR USN (Ret), Past President
Bob Doleman, MAJ USA (Ret), Secretary, Veteran Benefits & Resource Support
Anna Marie Allegretto, ITC USNR (Ret), Treasurer
Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (Ret), Legislative Affairs Chair
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), Newsletter Editor, Sponsorship Coordinator
LeeRoy Hanna, LTC USA (Ret), JROTC Scholarships & Leadership Awards Chair, Historian
Leon Rooks, MAJ USAR, Wellness Chair
Tim Johnson, CPT, USMC, Veteran Scholarship Chair
Irene Glaeser, COL USA (Ret), Programs and special Events Chair
Albert H Schroetel, COL USAF (Ret), Membership Chair
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), Public Affairs, Facebook, Media Publicity
JoAnn Doleman, LTC USA (Ret), RSVPs for Meetings and Email Distro
Sandi Adams, Surviving Spouse of David Spetrino, CAPT USN (Ret), Surviving Spouse Coordinator
Mike Apicella, COL USA (Ret), Outreach
Allen Allegretto, CDR USNR (Ret), Webmaster for SENCLAND.org
Sandy Klassen, Social Committee

Service Directors

Greg Cook, CAPT, USN (ret) US Navy Service Director
David Renquist, CAPT USPHS, Public Health Service Director
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), USAF Service Director
Thomas C. Jones, BG USA (Ret), US Army Service Director
Doug Holdstein, COL USMC (Ret), USMC Service Director
Frank Roberts, LCDR USCG (Ret), USCG Service Director

Membership Updates

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapter member:
Sean D. Sullivan, CAPT., USN (Ret.). Sean and Adreinne live in Compass Pointe, Leland.

We love guests! This is a great time for members 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.

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 or text me at 910-352-4378.

SENCLAND Membership Statistics



Thanks to the loyal and strong support of our members, the SENCLAND Chapter remains the largest MOAA chapter in North Carolina with 259 members at present. With the exception of the newly formed

Space Command, our members come from all of the Uniformed Services, including the US Public Health Service (USPHS). We also have the continuing support of our Surviving Spouses. The table below shows the distribution of our membership by category at the end of 2023.

| Component | Number | % |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| USA | 87 | 33.6% |
| USN | 61 | 23.6% |
| USAF | 38 | 14.7% |
| Surviving Spouses | 30 | 11.6% |
| USMC | 27 | 10.4% |
| USCG | 11 | 4.2% |
| Honorary Members | 4 | 1.5% |
| USPHS | 1 | 0.4% |
| Total | 259 | 100.0% |



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Rosters

Membership rosters (updated monthly) are available on the Chapter's website (<https://sencland.org/>).

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 need assistance accessing the roster please contact:

Al Schroetel at
downeast@bellsouth.net
or 910-686-6905 or Allen Allegretto at
AllegrettoA@yahoo.com
or 910-617-2307

2024 Chapter Membership Dues & Donations

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair

2024 Annual Membership Renewals are DUE IN JANUARY

Annual Chapter membership dues are required each January.

Dues are waived for the following two categories of members:

- All members 90 years of age or older.
- New chapter members for the remainder of the calendar year in which they join.

If you have a question about your payment status, please contact Al Schroetel at downeast@bellsouth.net or 910-352-4378 or Anna Marie Allegretto, at sencland.treasurer@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP & OUTREACH PROGRAMS DONATIONS

While paying your dues, please consider donating to the Chapter's Junior ROTC Scholarship, Outreach Program and Veteran Education Assistance Programs.

HOW TO MAKE A PAYMENT: There are three ways to make dues & donation payments:

(1) At a Chapter Luncheon or Event:

Check or cash

(2) On-Line:

Open the Chapter's website, <http://www.sencland.org>

Click on the word "Membership" on the left side of the home page

On the new page, scroll down to "Dues" section.

There are two choices; one is to pay chapter Dues, the other is to make a Donation.

Continue by clicking on the "Buy Now" button and follow the prompts. (Note: There is a \$1.00 convenience fee for on-line payments)

If you have questions about this process, please contact the Chapter Treasurer, Anna Marie Allegretto, at sencland.treasurer@gmail.com or (910) 617-2220.

(3) Mail in a Hard Copy:

Please print form on the following page and mail it and the payment for your dues and donations to the SENCLAND Chapter's mailing address.

2024 Chapter Membership Dues & Donations



Dues & Donations Payment Form

Rev Nov 8, 2023

Please print this form and fill in the appropriate boxes. Mail your dues and/or donations check to:

SENCLAND CHAPTER MOAA
P.O. Box 10015
Wilmington, NC 28404

Your Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate where there are changes from the current roster such as address or telephone number.

| SENCLAND CHAPTER MOAA ANNUAL DUES | | |
|--|-------------|---------|
| Description | Annual Dues | Payment |
| REGULAR MEMBERSHIP | \$20.00 | |
| OR | | |
| SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP | \$15.00 | |
| CHAPTER MOAA DONATIONS If you would like for your donation to go to a specific program, please specify the amount below. Junior ROTC _____ Veteran Education Scholarships _____ BG Jim Carper Legacy Scholarships _____ Outreach _____ | | |
| TOTAL | | |

Please contact Al Schroetel (downtown@bellsouth.net) or Leslie Roberson (lesliecotu@hotmail.com) for questions regarding membership.

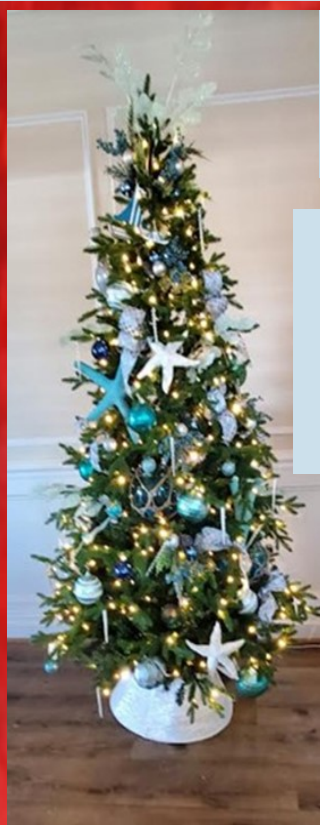


LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS



Monthly Luncheon Meetings

**December 5, 2023
Luncheon/Meeting**



The Bluewater Waterfront Grill Was beautifully adorned in Christmas décor.



It was "beginning to feel a lot like Christmas" at the SENCLAND December 5th Luncheon and Meeting that featured a special holiday program of patriotic and seasonal music by the Coastal Christian High School Acapella Choir.



"What an Excellent Program!"

2024 Luncheon Menu Choices and Price

With the new year, we have some new menu items.

- ♦ Classic Chicken Caesar Salad
- ♦ Fish Tacos with seasoned fries (**new**)
- ♦ BW Cheeseburger w/seasoned fries
- ♦ Grilled Chicken Club w/seasoned fries

Priced at \$30.00, the menu 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. Entree choices are made once seated at your table (no pre-orders).

PLEASE NOTE: Payment and entree selection are made at check-in using cash or check only.

We need everyone to help by being conscious of RSVP deadlines, both for the Blue Water staff and the SENCLAND team that puts these events together.

Thanks so much and we look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming 2024 Programs

- 6 February – Elizabeth Goad – The Rosie Network (military spousal entrepreneurship program) , Blue Water Grill
- 5 March – Sara Johnson, NHC Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator, Blue Water Grill
- 2 April – Rossi Nance; Chairman, Region 3 of the Vietnam Veterans of America “Revisiting Vietnam,” Blue Water Grill
- 7 May – TBD “Southern Meeting,” Island Way Restaurant, Oak Island, NC

SAVE THE DATE: In lieu of the usual picnic location this year, we will gather at the Sea Spray Community Clubhouse off Military Cutoff on 7 June. More details will follow.



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

PROGRAMS





PROGRAMS



January 2024 Luncheon/Meeting

The next MOAA SENCLAND luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 January 2024, 1130, hrs. at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill on Wrightsville Beach. Our featured presenter will be retired four-star admiral Karl Schultz.

Bio: Admiral Karl Schultz

Karl Schultz is a retired four-star admiral who last served as the 26th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard from 01 June 2018 to 01 June 2022. His tenure as a flag officer spanned 12 years, and prior to becoming Service Chief, served as the 3-Star Atlantic Area Commander responsible for execution of all Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains



engagement with Congress, the media and other external stakeholders. Over the course of his 39-year ca-

...prior to becoming Service Chief, [Admiral Schultz] served as the 3-Star Atlantic Area Commander responsible for execution of all Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains east to the Arabian Gulf.

east to the Arabian Gulf. Other flag assignments included Department of Defense (DoD) joint duty as Director of Operations (J-3), U.S. Southern Command; Commander Eleventh Coast Guard District; and Director, Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs overseeing Service

reer, Admiral Schultz held command at 7 paygrades spanning 17 years, including 3 multi-mission cutters, one of the Service's most dynamic multi-mission Sectors, and as a flag officer at the District, Area and Service Chief levels.

Bio: Admiral Karl Schultz (Continued)

A hallmark of his tenure as Commandant was his bold vision and purposeful execution of a comprehensive 4-year strategic plan that optimally positioned the Service to protect the Homeland, enhance the Nation's economic prosperity, and advance America's maritime interests across the globe, all while championing efforts to forge a more inclusive Service increasingly reflective of the Nation's demographics.

Of note, he led through a period of unprecedented demand for Coast Guard services from both the Administration and DoD Geographic Combatant Commanders, and through the unique challenges presented by the most active hurricane seasons on record, a 35-day partial government shutdown that left all Coast Guardsmen unpaid, and a protracted global pandemic.

Admiral Schultz is a 1983 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy and earned a Master of Public Administration

degree from the University of Connecticut in 1992. He also completed a one-year National Security Fellowship at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2006. His staff assignments include Congressional and State Department liaison tours of duty, as well as assignments in both personnel management and operations.

His personal awards include the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and multiple awards of the Legion of Merit. Beyond his military service, Schultz serves in limited roles as a Senior Fellow at National Defense University (NDU) for their "Capstone-Keystone-Pinnacle" programs, as a Service Fellow at the University of North Carolina research and education Institute for Defense and Business (IDB), and as a Defense Advisory Board member for a company working in the maritime realm.

Of note, [Admiral Schultz] led through a period of unprecedented demand for Coast Guard services from both the Administration and DoD Geographic Combatant Commanders, and through the unique challenges presented by the most active hurricane seasons on record, a 35-day partial government shutdown that left all Coast Guardsmen unpaid, and a protracted global pandemic.



PROGRAMS





SCHOLARSHIPS



Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Submitted by Chrissy Sanford, COL, USA (ret) Scholarship Coordinator

This is my last submission to the Sencland Sentinel newsletter concerning our Veteran Student Education Grants. This program started in 2017 when we were granted \$1,000 from New Hanover Regional Medical Center. The money was cited for a scholarship for a student majoring in Allied Health. Sencland MOAA contributed \$1,100 from our budget and we granted 3 scholarships to Veteran students at UNC-Wilmington (UNC-W), Cape Fear Community College (CFCC), and Brunswick Community College (BCC). The program quickly took off and we've been able to grant scholarships to the Veteran Students at UNC-W, CFCC, and BCC. What started as scholarships for those majoring in Allied Health mushroomed into including Veteran students in any major that granted a degree or technical certificate. The Presidents and Directors of Military Affairs at the 3 colleges were invaluable in facilitating the process and augmenting the program's success. Since 2017, we have dispersed ~\$40,000.

We received donations from many local organizations and National MOAA, but the majority of donations came from within our organization. Your generosity and commitment to Veteran students pursuing their educational and career goals enabled us to continue these

scholarships over the past 7 years. Some of you helped present the awards at the different colleges and got to experience the recipient's pride and joy. It has been quite a journey for me and very satisfying to see this program come to fruition.

Last year we established the Jim Caper, BG, USA, Memorial Scholarship in memory of Jim Carper, Sencland MOAA's former president. Currently, this scholarship is a line item in our budget so we can continue his legacy and commitment to Veteran students and Sencland MOAA.

Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC worked diligently with me this year and was committed and involved in every aspect of the process. He is taking over the Sencland MOAA Veteran Student Education Grant program and I am confident that everyone will support Tim as I "pass the baton" to him. Although we did not have a formal "Change of Command" ceremony, the transfer of responsibility and authority occurred after the award presentations in November 2023.

Thanks to everyone who supported me. I truly appreciate it. I will continue to see you at our monthly luncheon meetings.

JROTC Scholarship Program

Submitted by LTC LeeRoy Hanna, Leadership/Scholarship Chair

We will be notifying all schools of the scholarship application period that will start in January 2024. Application forms will be sent to all 19 schools we serve and posted on our website. JROTC Leadership medals and

certificates are ordered and we will start to take input from schools. I hope we can make presentations at all 19 schools this spring. If you are interested in helping please let me know by email.

Veteran Outreach

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

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.

The Community Outreach Committee makes awards to qualified individuals that have been honorably discharged or retired from the Military and meet the following criteria: Housing, Food Assistance, Employment, Health (including Behavioral Health), Family Support, Community Reintegration, Financial Assistance, Legal Assistance, Transportation, and Crisis Relief.

If you know of any Veterans that may benefit from one of these Community Outreach Grants, please contact Mike Apicella, Chairperson, Community Outreach Committee, or committee members Hondo Davids and Leon Rooks. In addition, donations can also be made to the SENCLAND Chapter to help support the Outreach Grant Program. The [Outreach Program section on the SENCLAND website](#) contains the grant application that used to determine eligibility for a Community Outreach Grant.

Thanks For Your Support.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the scholarship and outreach programs. Please keep these important programs in mind and consider donating to these worthwhile projects now. We are always accepting applications for outreach support.



SCHOLARSHIPS

OUTREACH





LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



www.moaa.org/takeaction



Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

In Washington

As I write this note on 12 December, Congress is planning to adjourn for its Holiday recess from 15 December to 8 January. This will leave important legislation of interest to MOAA members in limbo until next year. Included are: the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); final appropriations acts for the entire government; and the President's Supplemental Funding Request for Ukraine, Israel, aid to Palestine, and border security. The NDAA was approved by the Conference Committee on 6 December, so it is possible it could be passed by both houses before the break.

The existing Continuing Resolution will keep some Government agencies, including Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funded at this fiscal year's level through 19 January 2024. DoD and other major cabinet agencies are funded through 2 February. This sets up a high-pressure attempt to pass full appropriation bills early next year, most likely leading to another Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown scenario. The President's Supplemental Funding Request was not passed due to disagreements over U.S. border security provisions. Negotiations for a revised bill are underway, but unlikely to be successful prior to the break. MOAA plans a strong lobbying effort in the new year to get these and other important bills passed quickly.

MOAA has started a new advocacy education program using videos to cover current legislative events. You can view these videos at www.moaa.org/takeaction/ and then contact your elected officials to make your voice heard.

In case you haven't heard, MOAA was named to "The Hill's" Top Lobbyist list for the 17th consecutive year. Our advocacy efforts are definitely effective and recognized as such.

MOAA was named to "The Hill's" Top Lobbyist list for the 17th consecutive year.

The Veterans Administration recently announced that Veterans and Gold Star families now get free, lifetime passes to national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands. Learn the details at [Veterans, Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, other public lands— VA News](#)

Legislative Affairs (continued)

In North Carolina

The North Carolina General Assembly will meet briefly on 20 December, then recess until January, when the Short Session will convene. The Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) has published its key issues for 2024. Several of these priorities focus on protecting and improving the quality of life for military children. The North Carolina General Assembly has historically passed legislation that supports and implements DSLO recommendations. Our state advocacy efforts next year will likely focus on these issues.

The North Carolina General Assembly will meet briefly on 20 December, then recess until January, when the Short Session will convene.

New Hanover County Veterans Council

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING

Bob Doleman, Chapter Representative

- ◆ The NHCVC Veterans Day ceremony at Long Leaf Park was well done.
- ◆ Next year's Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Monday, 11 Nov at Long Leaf Park and the Parade will be held Saturday 9 Nov 2024 in downtown Wilmington.
- ◆ The Council voted to purchase 10 wreaths for the Dec 16th Wreaths Across America held at the Wilmington National Cemetery.
- ◆ The Lower Cape Fear Life Care New Hanover Veterans Memorial Garden dedication ceremony held Nov 9th was well done.
- ◆ The next Purple Heart Dinner will be held 21 AUG 24 at UNCW Burney Center.
- ◆ The Council is working on holding a 9/11 memorial ceremony in 2024, perhaps at the Life Care New Hanover Veterans Memorial Garden.
- ◆ The NHC Veterans Service Officer commented about free care for WW II veterans and that Parkinson's Disease has been included as "claimable" under the Camp LeJeune water action.
- ◆ The recent VEAC at the National Guard armory helped 632 veterans.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

NHC VETERANS COUNCIL





SURVIVING SPOUSES



Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted Sandi Adams Surviving Spouse Coordinator
earlsandi@gmail.com 910-443-0470

As we all begin another new year, here are some reminders for surviving spouses excerpted from an essay by Julie Thomason.

The 7 Crucial Life Lessons I Learned In One Year Of Being A Widow.

| | |
|---|---|
| | You can survive your darkest days. |
| 1 | When you're going through the grieving process, days can be unpredictable. Some are much harder than others. I've learned that although days can get dark, I have the tools and support to get through them. |
| | People matter most. |
| 2 | The experiences you have with those you love and the memories you make are all that matter in the end. |
| | God is in charge. |
| 3 | Faith is important to me and becoming a sudden widow taught me that despite the plans I make, I am not in control. |
| | I can do anything I want. |
| 4 | There are no rules to this. Everyone processes grief and trauma differently. Anyone dealing with the sudden loss of a loved one should be empowered to start rebuilding their life free of judgment in whatever way works for them. |
| | Deep sadness and joy can coexist. |
| 5 | I've learned there is only darkness, so you appreciate the light. Just because you're in a dark place grieving a loss, it doesn't mean your heart and mind need to become completely closed off to moments of joy and happiness. |
| | You just need one true friend. |
| 6 | If you've ever been unbelievably lonely in a room filled with people, then I'm talking to you. This is something I experienced for the first time during the past year. But having that one person who can give you comfort in those moments is key, whether they're around physically or a phone call away. |
| | Life is urgent. |
| 7 | Everyone is going through something. We're all going to encounter some adversity in life. When faced with it, the only one who can change you is you. So, take the trip and screw the chores. Go on a date and say what you mean. Eat dessert and buy the dress. Live for today because tomorrow is not promised. |

Wellness Coordinator's Corner

Submitted Leon Rooks Wellness Chair
leon.rooks@hotmail.com or 910-799-2488

"Happy New Year" SENCLAND MOAA!

*Well, the new year is here and your Chapter
is positioned for a great 2024."*

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. So many things were accomplished in 2023 and we ended the year with a festive luncheon to start the holiday season. The Choral presentation was a wonderful start for the Christmas season.

As usual, please let us know if you know of any person in the Chapter who is ill, in the hospital, or just needs cheering up. We would like to send a card, make a phone call or even make a visit if they are in the hospital or rehab.

Finally, I would like to make plea..."Lower Cape Fear LifeCare" is seeking volunteers to assist Jason Clamme in daily activities at the Life Care Center. I think some of us have or are now volunteering at the hospital. Jason (a SENCLAND Honorary member) could use some help and asked if any of our members are interested in volunteering with his team. If you are interested, please contact him at 910-796-7943 or Jason.Clamme@lcfh.org.

Happy New Year, 2024 

"Lower Cape Fear LifeCare" is seeking volunteers to assist Jason Clamme in daily activities at the Life Care Center. Jason asked if any of our members are interested in volunteering with his team. If you are interested, please contact him at 910-796-7943



WELLNESS



SENCLAND MOAA Membership Benefits

The MOAA SENCLAND Chapter Offers Outstanding Programs to its Members and Community

The SENCLAND chapter has meetings with outstanding programs ten months of the year, usually the first Tuesday of the month. The chapter meeting in June is a picnic where we include our JrROTC Scholarship winners and their families. The May meeting is held in Southport and the December meeting is a Holiday social. All other SENCLAND Chapter meetings are held at the Blue-water Waterfront Grill in Wrightsville Beach. Our Board meets several times during the year.

The *Sentinel*, our monthly newsletter is available electronically and in hard copy. Our chapter supports 18 local JROTC programs and provides generous Scholarships to High School students each year. We also have scholarships for veterans attending local colleges and an Outreach Program that helps local veterans and their families. The Chapter also supports Honor Flights that take veterans on all-expenses-paid flights from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM) to Washington, DC for a day of remembrance as they visit memorials and monuments built in their honor.

Join SENCLAND

To join the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter, click on the “Join SENCLAND” button to download and print the application form. Then email the application form to the Membership Chair Al Schroetel at downeast@bellsouth.net or mail it to the chapter at **SENCLAND CHAPTER MOAA P.O. Box 10015 Wilmington, NC 28404**

SENCLAND Website

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster, AllegrettoA@yahoo.com, or call: [910-617-2307](tel:910-617-2307)

The SENCLAND 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.

Our chapter Membership Roster is also available on the website. This is the only page that requires log-on to access. If you need help logging onto the website to view the chapter roster, please email or call Allen Allegretto.

SENCLAND Facebook Page

SENCLAND Chapter Facebook Page - View “Like” and “Share” the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook posts with other members and prospective members. The web address for the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/sencland>.

MOAA National and NC Chapters Websites

MOAA national website (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) is also a great resource for what MOAA is doing at the state level as well as information on other NC Chapters.

MOAA National Newsletter

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, click on the “News & Info” pulldown menu on the upper right hand side and then click on “Newsletters”.

About the Sentinel

The SENCLAND Sentinel 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, our efforts to stay connected with each other, and our support of 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/>.

We encourage you to provide content for publication in our newsletter and online. Simply send your notices, letters, articles, and photos to our editor, Dianne Jinwright (senclandsentinel@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month to be considered for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. All items are subject to editing.

Statement of Affiliations

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.

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 Marstellar 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.

MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase

Submitted by 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: PayPal Payment can be made at: SENCLAND : Membership: (<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 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:

MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase (Continued)

| | 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 _____ 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 or [703-798-1754](tel:703-798-1754).



(Example of completed nametag)

FEATURE STORY— Happy Birthday US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps

Founded in 1889, on January 4th 2024, the US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps will celebrate its 135th Birthday. In their honor, they are featured in this issue of the *Sentinel*. The SENCLAND Chapter has one USPHS member, Dave Renquist, CPT(RET) SENCLAND Service Director, read is submission on frequently asked USPHS questions.

I often get questions about the USPHS. Following are some of the most frequently asked!

Credit for Answers are given to PHS policy documents.

Submitted by Dave Renquist CAPT, USPHS (ret), USPHS Service Director

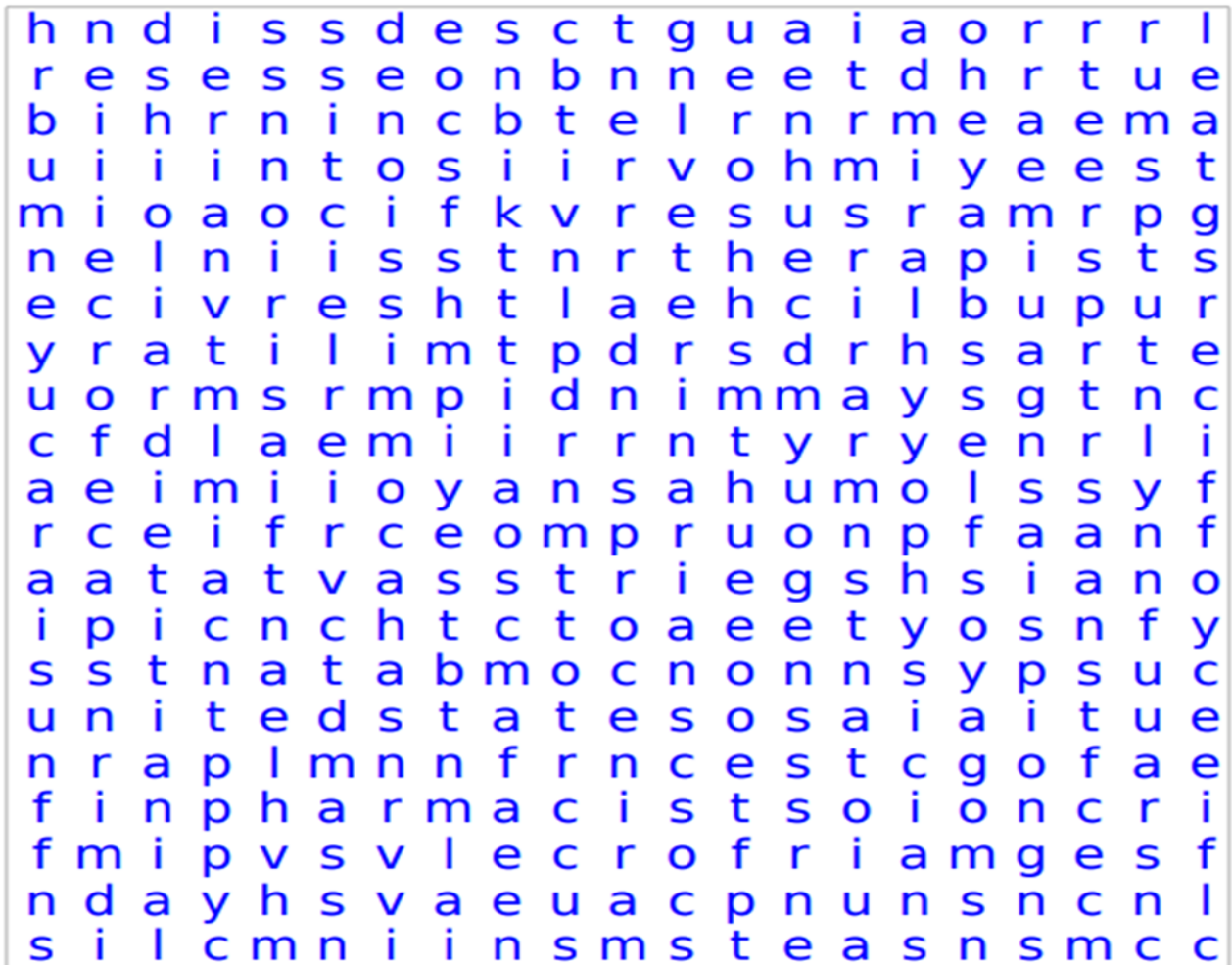
Frequently Asked Questions About the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHSCC)

| | |
|----|--|
| Q1 | When was the PHS commissioned Corp initiated? What careers are recognized in the Corps? |
| A1 | In 1889, President Grover Cleveland signed an Act into law that formally established the modern Public Marine Hospital Service under the Supervising Surgeon (later Surgeon General). At first open only to physicians, over the course of the twentieth century, the Public Health Service commissioned officers now recruits a wide range of professionally educated specialties (including physicians, dentists, engineers, veterinarians, occupational therapists, pharmacists, nurses, environmental health specialists, scientists, dietitians, and other allied health professionals). |
| Q2 | How does the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps differ from the Armed Forces of the United States? |
| A2 | The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps differs from that of the armed forces (i.e., Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marines, and Coast Guard) in that the focus is on delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science. The Corps is unarmed but wears a uniform. |
| Q3 | Why does the USPHS not have enlisted ranks? |
| A3 | Along with the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is one of two uniformed services that consist only of commissioned officers. The commissioned corps uses the same commissioned officer rank structure as the United States Navy and Coast Guard: from ensign to admiral (O-1 through O-10) with O1-O2, and O-3 reserved for warrant officers. |
| Q4 | What is the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Direct Commissioning program (PHSDCO)? |
| A4 | The PHSDCO program allows university-educated professionals, between ages 19 to 45 (or older, in some need-based cases), the opportunity to be appointed as an officer in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Most PHSCC DCOs hold advanced degrees and significant civilian work experience in their specialty. The Direct Commissioning Program has historically served the expanded needs of the PHS in certain officer skill areas. All DCO candidates must complete a two-week Officer Basic Course (OBC) now virtual, before entering active duty. |
| Q5 | What are the current personnel components of the USPHS Commissioned Corps? |
| A5 | Currently, <i>Selected Ready Reserve</i> (SELRES), <i>Individual Ready Reserve</i> (IRR), and <i>Retired Reserve</i> are the three personnel components of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. While these positions can be filled by civil servants, serving as a Public Health Service officer is an option for those eligible. Regular Corps and Direct Commissioned Officers have a Commissioned Service Obligation of 8 years, except for Physicians, Dentists, and Veterinarians who have an obligation of 4 years. New Ready Reserve officers have a Commissioned Service Obligation of 6 years. |
| Q6 | What did the CARES ACT Law, as extended, mandate? |
| A6 | The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which passed into law March 27, 2020, established a reserve component of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS). The reserve component consists of health professionals who would be responsible for providing PHS with additional capacity during public health and national emergencies. Benefits are comparable to the benefits provided to individuals who serve in the selected reserve of the U.S. Armed Forces. |
| Q7 | What will the modernization of the PHS USPHS reserve officer component cost (USPHS CARES Act provisions)? |
| A7 | The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the PHS would gradually hire 2,500 reservists by 2024, that an average of 500 incoming PHS reservists would complete the initial officer base course each year at a cost of \$10,100 per officer, and about 1,700 PHS reservists would undergo routine training of at least 30 days each year at an average cost of \$18,200 per officer. That's a total cost of \$133 million over the 2020-2025 period. PHS reservists would receive basic pay and benefits (such as health care, housing allowance, special incentive pay, and retirement) at a projected average cost of \$22,000 per officer. The CBO estimates basic pay, and benefit costs would total \$190 million and start-up, administrative, and recruitment costs would total \$37 million over the 2020-2025 period. |

FEATURE STORY— Happy Birthday US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps (Continued)

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Navigate upward, downward, and across to find the 27 US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps related topics.



uniformed services united states army navy marine corps
coast guard air force space force public health service
commissioned corps noncombatants military naval corps
ranks surgeon general admiral physicians veterinarians
dentist therapists engineers pharmacists nurses birthday
officers dietitian

[Answer on Page 25.](#)

Want More Puzzles?

[YES](#)

[NO](#)

Recent Events and Other News

Wreaths Across America 2023

Numerous people came out on a beautiful clear day for the Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath-laying event held on December 16th at the Wilmington National Cemetery. Wilmington Mayor, Bill Saffo said it was the largest attendance he has seen over several years.



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

- ⇒ VFW Post 8866 held its annual Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 PM at the Post home 573 Sabbath Home Road in Supply, NC.
- ⇒ The Hannah Block Historic USO- Community Arts Center hosted an event to commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 at 1:25 pm. There was a full program including Lieutenant Colonel John Weisz, US Army (Ret.), as the keynote speaker. The event was sponsored by the World War II Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition. The event was open to the public.

SPONSORS

The 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, support organizations, or anyone else that appreciates the mission of SENCLAND MOAA, please email Dianne Jinwright, senclandsentinel@gmail.com.



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Answer to the USPHS Commissioned Corps Word Search (Page 23)

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