



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER

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April 2024

SENTINEL

April 2024 Message from President Allan Turner
sencland.president@gmail.com



Hello Spring!

Happy Birthday!

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

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Peter Bazzel, COL, USA (Ret.).

George F. Keenan, LTC, USA (Ret.).

Our Condolence:

We were saddened to learn of the recent loss of Bruce Mills, son of Rosalian (Roz) Mills in March.

My thanks to LtCol Gary Green, USAF (ret) for his excellent presentation at the March luncheon, on "The Battle of Moore's Creek." I enjoyed the background and historical significance of this battle and how it played into the outcome of the American Revolution, even though it was early in the conflict. His level of detail was impressive and I also appreciated his period uniform and the period weaponry he brought with him.

Continued on next page.

Chapter Awards



Level of Excellence Chapter



Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award

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Hello Spring



President's Message (Continued)

Submitted by President Allan Turner

For the April luncheon, we are honored to have E'beth Goad, Director of Programming; and Tricia Ross, Director of Communications for the Rosie Network – an organization dedicated to empowering military spouses and veterans to build fulfilling lives through entrepreneurship.

LtCol Lee Hanna has established award presentation dates for the JROTC Programs the Chapter supports. We rely heavily on volunteers within SENCLand MOAA to make the presentation of the MOAA Leadership Award to these deserving cadets. Please contact Lee if you're interested in helping out. See more details and available dates under [JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program](#)

Many thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to the several programs we are fortunate to support each year. In addition to our BG Jim Carper Scholarship Fund we also support the JROTC, Veterans Scholarships, and Veteran Outreach programs. Please consider a donation if you haven't already.

Avoid Unsubscribing from SENCLAND Email

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster



CAN-SPAM Act

Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography And Marketing Act

Email Tip

The CAN-SPAM Act is a law enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (FTC) that sets the rules for commercial email and gives recipients the right to stop emailing them.

Therefore, the SENCLAND Chapter's email contains links to easily unsubscribe. BE VERY CAREFUL to make sure you do not accidentally unsubscribe as it is difficult to restore your subscription.

Chapter Members should only click on "unsubscribe" when they absolutely do not want to receive any further e-mails from the Chapter. If you accidentally unsubscribe, please contact the membership committee Al Schroetel (downeast@bellsouth.net) or Leslie Roberson (lesliecotu@hotmail.com) to restore your email subscription.

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

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

Karen Murphy, 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



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.

Hello Spring





MEMBERSHIP

Hello Spring



Membership Update

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapter members:

- Peter Bazzel, COL, USA (Ret.). Pete and Tammy live in Ocean Isle Beach.
- George F. Keenan, LTC, USA (Ret.). George lives in Wilmington



Condolence

We have learned that long time member Rosalian “Roz” Mills’ son Bruce, who lived in Delaware passed away recently and we send our deepest condolences to Roz and her entire family for their loss.

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.

The Chapter’s membership roster is available in the password protected section of the Chapter’s web-site. 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 or Allen Allegretto at allegrettoa@yahoo.com.

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.

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

All eyes were on LtCol Gary Green, USAF (ret) as he gave his presentation on the Battle of Moore's Creek during the March 5th SENCLAND luncheon.

LtCol Green was dressed in an American Revolutionary War Continental Army's uniform, and he brought with him a musket and spon-
toon weapon used for close-quarters

March 5, 2024 Luncheon/Meeting



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

Hello Spring



The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was fought in Pender County, North Carolina, on February 27, 1776. The victory at Moore's Creek was a turning point in the Revolutionary War.





LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

Hello Spring



April 2024 Luncheon/Meeting

The next MOAA SENCLAND luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 April 2024, 1130, hrs. at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill on Wrightsville Beach. Our featured presenters will be E'beth Goad, Director of Programming; and Tricia Ross, Director of Communications for the Rosie Network



About E'beth Goad

E'Beth Goad is currently serving as the Director of Programming at The Rosie Network. She is also an active duty Navy Spouse of over 25 years. Following a career as a litigation adjuster in the insurance industry, she began her personal styling business in 2011, while attending the paralegal program at Duke University. Her husband, Dean, was on a year long deployment to Afghanistan and she thought this would be a good transition year to figure out how to make her career work while still being so transient. She had hoped to turn her skill set with the law into another, more portable, career. It was then that she realized that entrepreneurship was the way of the future for military spouses. She had grown tired of starting over and over again with no traction in her career. She sat in class and realized that she felt compelled to go in another direction, completely away from the law. She also found that there were very few free resources available to teach one how to start a business without investing her savings. In March of 2018, she was first introduced to The Rosie Network and attended the Service2CEO program in San Diego. Doors began to open for her professionally and she realized that she needed to be a part of a program that does so much to enrich our community and support military spouses. Recognizing the organization's commitment to enriching the military community and supporting spouses, she felt compelled to contribute. After relocating to the DC Metro area, E'Beth seized the opportunity to lead the Fort Belvoir chapter, driven by her passion for helping fellow military spouses and veterans succeed in business. E'Beth is dedicated to empowering military spouses and veterans to build fulfilling lives through entrepreneurship. Her story reflects resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to fostering success within the military community.

April 2024 Luncheon/Meeting (continued)

About Tricia Ross



Tricia Ross serves as the Director of Communications for The Rosie Network, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting the next generation of military-connected entrepreneurs. As a proud military wife of 21 years, Tricia has been working on behalf of military families for more than two decades. She is passionate about connecting military families to resources that alleviate hardships commonly associated with frequent moves experienced throughout a military career. Throughout her life Trish has served as a dedicated advocate and captivating spokesperson. With her wealth of knowledge and personal insights, Tricia is a force for positive change when it comes to bettering the lives of military members and their loved ones. Her heart for service and leadership expertise as well as her dedication to improving the lives of military families make her uniquely suited this work. Tricia brings valuable experience working with national nonprofits in volunteer and program management, as well as marketing and communications to the table. She also volunteers as the Marketing Director for Partners in PROMISE, an organization dedicated to protecting the rights of military children in special education. In addition to actively fighting for military families, Tricia is also an effective educator. She instructs English as a Second Language Business & Entrepreneur Classes at Coastal Carolina Community College. Trish holds a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science from Wilmington University and a Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University. She currently lives in Jacksonville, North Carolina with her husband and four children.

The Rosie Network, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting the next generation of military-connected entrepreneurs.



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

Hello Spring





LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

Hello Spring



PROGRAMS



2024 Luncheon Menu Choices and Price

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

- ♦ Classic Chicken Caesar Salad
- ♦ Fried Oyster Salad (**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 Submitted by Irene

- **2 April, Blue Water Grill** - E'beth Goad and Tricia Ross – The Rosie Network (military spousal entrepreneurship program).
- **7 May – “Southern Meeting,” Island Way Restaurant, Oak Island, NC** - Ron Henderson, RDML (Ret) “Bay of Pigs”

SAVE THE DATES

- **7 June Seaspray Clubhouse**, Annual “Pig Pickin” Picnic
- **20 July Hanover Seaside Club**, Annual Evening Social

JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

Submitted by LeeRoy Hanna, LTC (ret) USA,
Leadership Awards/Scholarship Chair

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.

JROTC Scholarship Program

I have received four applications for our scholarships. They have some more time to apply so I am checking with all programs again.

JROTC Leadership Awards Support

All awards and certificates for presentation at all 19 schools this spring are on hand. The following schools have given me their presentation dates:

School	Date	Time	Presenter
Ashley High School	May 13	TBD	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
Hoggard High School	May 1	1800	CAPT (Ret) Frederic Kuhm
North Brunswick HS	April 15	1730	CAPT (Ret) Allan Turner
South Brunswick HS	April 24	1800	
West Brunswick HS	May 8	1800	
Lejeune HS	May 15	1600	CAPT (Ret) John Stewart
Northside HS	May 24	1730	
Heide Trask HS	May 1	TBD	
Topsail HS	May 15	1700	
New Hanover HS	April 24	TBD	

If you would like to make the presentation at one of these schools please let me know by email (machanna@aol.com). I hope to have the remaining dates in the next couple of weeks.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Hello Spring





SCHOLARSHIPS

Hello Spring



OUTREACH



Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Coordinator

The Veteran's Scholarship Program for 2024 continues to be well-funded thanks to generous contributions. Contributions from the Jim Carper BG NG Memorial Fund as well as a generous SENCLAND MOAA budgeted contributions have grown available funds.

As with last year, the program will include award ceremonies at the respective colleges we support. Please follow the SENCLAND chapter notices and this newsletter for more information. It would help to better highlight our veterans' scholarship program if several members attended the college awards ceremonies that will be held in November 2024.

Community Outreach

Submitted by Mike Apicella, Outreach Chair

This year SENCLAND Community Outreach Program has \$3,000 dollars to grant to deserving individuals in need of financial assistance. Please contact me if you know of any Veterans that may benefit from one of these Community Outreach Grants, Mike Apicella, Chairperson, Community Outreach Committee. The grant request form is in the Outreach Section of the SENCLAND Web page. I can be reached at endodoc97@gmail.com if you have any further questions about the program.

Grants are made to qualified individuals with the following needs: Housing, Food assistance, Employment, Health (including behavioral health), Family support, Community reintegration, Financial assistance, Legal assistance, Transportation, and Emergency relief. In addition, donations can also be made to the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter to help support the Outreach Grant Program.

Thanks for your support.

Committee Members

**Mike Apicella – Chair
Leon Rooks
Hondo Davids**

Wellness Coordinator's Corner

Submitted Leon Rooks Wellness Chair

leon.rooks@hotmail.com or 910-799-2488

Greetings SENCLAND MOAA.....

I hope all will have a blessed Easter. A season for all of us to seek a rebirth of our faith, and a time for our hearts to be made new in the hope that Easter brings. Thank Goodness For Easter. . .

I ask that you keep in mind these members who are currently in recovery in a rehab facility or at home..

- ◆ Lee Hanna had back surgery and is recovering at home.
- ◆ Roz Mills, fell and fractured her hip, fractured a couple of ribs, and has a hand injury. She is recovering at the Bradley Creek Health Center (Autumn Hall)
- ◆ Hew Wolfe had back surgery and is recovering at home.

Please let me know of any members who are ill, in the hospital, or recovering at home or at a rehab so we can reach-out with a phone call, a card or even a visit. SENCLAND MOAA cares for its members. I hope to see each of you all at the April 2nd Luncheon, and ... *Hello Spring!*

Wellness Team

Leon Rooks – Chair

Stephen Bird

Karen Murphy

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted Sandi Adams Surviving Spouse Coordinator

earlsandi@gmail.com 910-443-0470

For any interested surviving spouse members, there is a 'virtual' surviving spouse chapter. They have zoom meetings each month alternating between programming/informational meetings and social meetings. For more information, contact mssvco2@gmail.com. You can also find a MOAA surviving spouses Facebook group to stay up on current information and to connect with other MOAA surviving spouses around the country.

As always, contact me if you have any needs/questions.

Sandi Adams

Sencland Surviving Spouse Liaison

910-443-0470

earlsandi@gmail.com



WELLNESS

Hello Spring



SURVIVING SPOUSES



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Hello Spring



Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

In Washington, D.C.

The Government funding situation for FY 2024 continues to creep toward a final resolution. Final appropriations legislation for some Government agencies, including Military Construction and Veterans Affairs was approved in early March. As I write this on 19 March, it is being reported that the House has reached a deal to finalize appropriations for DoD and other major cabinet agencies. It's not clear that the legislative process can be completed in time to avoid a short shut-down or another Continuing Resolution when current funding authority expires on 23 March. It is also not yet clear if the proposed legislation includes the President's Supplemental request for additional funding for Ukraine and Israel. Meanwhile, the President has submitted (5 weeks late) his DoD Budget Request for FY 2025 to start this year's funding battle.

MOAA has announced the three focus topics for this year's Advocacy in Action campaign which will be conducted 17-18 April. They are:

1. Finally pass concurrent receipt of VA Disability compensation and Military Retired Pay for eligible personnel via the Major Richard Starr Act (HR1282/S344)
2. Increase Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for Active Duty service-members to 100% of local rent and utilities. BAH is currently capped at 95% of local charges. Full BAH would be funded by the BAH Restoration Act (H2537/S1283).
3. Protect Tricare For Life (TFL). Tell Congress not to consider a recent Congressional Budget

Office cost-reduction option that would enact hefty enrollment fees and cost-sharing requirements for TFL. MOAA is conducting a strong lobbying effort to get these, and other important bills passed quickly.

You can join this effort by contacting your elected officials to make your voice heard at MOAA | Legislative Action Center ([quorum.us](https://moaa.quorum.us/)).

MOAA's Legislative Action Center (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>)

Legislative Affairs (continued)

In North Carolina

The North Carolina General Assembly met for only two days in March and is scheduled for two days in April.

No military-related legislation was considered in March.

New Hanover County Veterans Council

Bob Doleman, Chapter Representative

The New Hanover County Veterans Council is proud to announce the Veterans Tribute Banner Project. Family members, friends or businesses can sponsor customized banners honoring the service of their veterans, active-duty service members, or reservists. Banners will be displayed from utility poles in prominent locations in New Hanover County. To learn more about banner requirements, contact the Veteran Banner Project via email at bannersfor-vets@gmail.com, or visit https://www.sencveteransparade.com/home/veteran-banner-project/?fbclid=IwAR2J_JZXQnirWIBPg8Jy5GHpWy02LApfSwxLOANqcDvCaXEgazdwC0HH-sk



**New Hanover County
Veteran Banner Project**



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Hello Spring



NHC VETERANS COUNCIL



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

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:

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

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
April 5th, Gold Star Spouses Day 2024

Gold Star Spouses Day 2024

Gold Star Spouses Day will be observed on Friday, April 5, 2024. The terms Gold Star family, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Wives traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones.

The recognition of the sacrifices made by military spouses is a memorial for the fallen, a *Remembrance Day* for the survivors, and an appreciation for those who are sometimes overlooked for their support and service to this country.

The Gold Star is a tradition that began during World War I. Service flags were flown by military families during this time, with blue stars for every family member serving in uniform during times of conflict. The number of blue stars on the flag corresponds to the number of individuals who currently serve in the Armed Forces from that immediate family.²

If the loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star.



A Gold Star Family can display a Gold Star Service Flag for service members who were killed or died, while serving in the Armed Forces, from causes other than dishonorable. The number of gold stars on the flag corresponds to the number of individuals who were killed or died from that immediate family.

A gold star is placed over the blue star on a Blue Star Service Flag

so that the blue forms a border and creates the Gold Star Service Flag.²

The Department of Defense specifies that immediate family members authorized to display either service flag include spouses, parents, children, siblings, stepparents, stepchildren, stepsiblings, half-siblings, adopted parents, adopted children, and adopted siblings of a United States service member. The flag can be displayed in the authorized residence's window.²

The Service flag can also be displayed by an organization to honor the service members of that organization serving during a period of hostilities or war.²



FEATURE STORY

April 5th, Gold Star Spouses Day 2024

The Gold Star tradition later evolved to include the wearing of a Gold Star lapel button, awarded by the military to surviving family members. In 1947



Congress approved the design of the official Gold Star Lapel Button, allowing it to formally recognize the families of service members who lost their lives in combat. The official Gold Star pin has a gold star on a purple background.

An organization known as Gold Star Wives began operating before the end of the Second World War, and the Gold Star lapel button tradition was established in the summer of 1947.

Gold Star Spouses Day was originally named *Gold Star Wives Day*-the first of which occurred in December 2010. Two years later a Senate resolution codified Gold Star Wives Day, observed on April 5 each year.

The organization Gold Star Wives welcomes all Gold Star spouses but retains the original name. The organization welcomes membership applications from "Any surviving spouse of any person of the United States military who died while a mem-

ber of the United States armed forces, or who died after such service as a result of an injury or disability incurred during such service."

There is a large network of resources and assistance available to the loved ones of service members who died in the line of duty. An example is the United States Army's Survivor Outreach Services (SOS). SOS is an Army-wide program designed to provide dedicated and comprehensive support to survivors of deceased Soldiers". It is a program "designed specifically to meet the needs of our survivor population, with dedicated resources, and a commitment to providing first class service for as long as the family desires". The Air Force offers Gold Star military ID cards for surviving family members, giving them unrestricted base access to common areas where base events are held, but more importantly, it allows them easy access to Family Readiness Centers to get help and emotional support. The Navy and Marine Corps also have their own Gold Star programs.

By recognizing the significance of a Blue or Gold Star Service Flag and a Gold Star lapel pin you honor those who have survived,. It is important to honor the families of the our Fallen.

None of the SENCLAND surviving spouses are Gold Star Spouses, all their military spouses died in retirement.

Source 1: Gold Star Spouses Day 2024, <https://veteran.com/gold-star-spouses-day/>

SOURCE 2: AN HONOR **NO ONE WANTS: WHAT IS A GOLD STAR FAMILY AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM A BLUE STAR FAMILY?**

<https://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/blog-an-honor-no-one-wants-what-is-a-gold-star-family-and-how-is-it-different-from-a-blue-star-family/>

SPONSORS

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