



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER

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June 2024

SENTINEL

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



Greetings!

Memorial Day 2024 – Let us all be mindful of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday and remembering the sacrifice of our brothers and sisters in arms who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. There will be several local events commemorating this solemn occasion. There

will be two SENCLand members speaking at Memorial Day Events on Monday, 27 May 2024 . CAPT Tom Welke, USN (ret) will be the keynote speaker at the [Del Webb Riverlights Amenity Center](#) 0900 and ADM Karl Schultz, USCG (ret) will speak at the Wilmington NC National Cemetery ceremony at 1100. Details on the National Cemetery ceremony are on [page 18](#).

Happy Birthday!

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

Happy 249th Birthday and a big “HOOAH” to the U.S. Army – 14 June 1775. You have served this Nation well

Welcome to our newest members:

- Robert Patrick, Sr, LT, USN (Ret.)
- Ray Pelletier, LCDR (JAG) USN, (Ret.)

Continued on next page.

Chapter Awards



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President's Message

MEMBERSHIP



President's Message (Continued) Submitted by President Allan Turner

My thanks to RDML Ron Henderson, USN (ret) for his outstanding and detailed presentation on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis at our 7 May "Southern" Meeting at the Island Way in Oak Island. Seventy Chapter members and guests packed the restaurant to hear his talk.

I look forward to seeing you all at our **7 June Pig Pickin**. This year, it will be held at the Sea Spray Landing Clubhouse, located at 900 Sea Spray Drive Wilmington (just off Military Cutoff Road, north of Mayfaire). My thanks to COL Chrissy Sanford for facilitating this location. In addition to a lot of great food and camaraderie, we will present scholarships to several very deserving JROTC students who are preparing to graduate. As always, 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 making a donation if you haven't already.

Membership Update

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome our newest Chapter members:

- **Robert Patrick, Sr, LT, USN (Ret.)** Bob lives in North Topsail Beach
- **Ray Pelletier, LCDR (JAG) USN, (Ret.)** Ray and Rosemarie "Ro" live in the Porters Neck area of Wilmington.

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@bellsouth.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 how we can make potential members aware of the benefits of Chapter membership.

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.





MEMBERSHIP

WELLNESS



Membership Update (Part II)

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair

Chapter 's Membership Statistics

The table below is a summary of chapter membership gains and losses as of May 14, 2024. The chapter dropped a substantial number of members because they did not pay their annual dues, which were due in January. This is not an issue of major concern at this time because, as the table shows, the total number of members that resigned or dropped is consistent with past years. *It does mean that recruiting new members continues to be very important.*

	2021	2022	2023	2024 As of 14 May
Total Members (Incl. Honorary)	257	257	258	249
Gains	33	32	25	11
All Loses	24	32	24	20
Deaths	6	7	5	2
Moved away	6	5	2	4
Resigned	4	11	11	4
Dropped	7	8	6	10
Net Change	9	0	1	-9

Wellness Coordinator's Corner

Submitted by Leon Rooks, Wellness Chair

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

Thoughts from the Corner...

Here we are at the middle of 2024. It has been a busy six months for all of us. That includes SENCLAND MOAA.

Hope everyone has a great summer and please be safe...

Wellness Team

Leon Rooks – Chair

Stephen Bird

Karen Murphy

Let someone on the Wellness Team know of members or family that are in the hospital, home care, or ill.

June 2024 Annual Pig Pickin

SENCLAND MOAA will hold its Annual Picnic and Scholarship Presentations on Friday 7 June at 5:00 PM at the Sea Spray Landing Clubhouse. 900 Sea Spray Drive, Wilmington NC. Street parking is available throughout the Sea Spray community. Six JROTC Scholarship recipients will be recognized. The meal will be catered by Mission Barbeque.

Menu : Catering by Mission BBQ

- Pulled Pork & Chicken
- Cole Slaw, Macaroni & Cheese, and Baked Beans
- Slider Rolls & Cornbread, Cookies & Brownies

Price: \$30.00

1. Includes water, sweet tea, lemonade, soft drinks, beer and wine.
2. RSVP and Prepay **NLT Tuesday, 4 June**. Payment may be made online at the [SENCLAND website](#) or by mailing a check payable to "SENCLAND MOAA" to SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA, P.O. Box 10015 Wilmington, NC 28404. Mail it early to ensure your check is received by 4 June.

Upcoming 2024 Programs Submitted by Irene V. Glaeser

SAVE THE DATES

- 1 August Annual Social – Ft Fisher Rec Area (Tentative)
- 3 Sep Blue Water Grill –Sandi Adams: "Know Before They Go"
- 19 Sep Ft Fisher Museum Tour , TBD
- 8 October Bluewater Grill, TBD
- 5 November Bluewater Gril, TBD
- 3 December Annual Holiday Party, TBD



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."





LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

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Annual "Southern" Luncheon/Meeting

May 7, 2024
Island Way Restaurant



The MOAA SENCLAND chapter held its annual "southern" luncheon meeting on Tuesday, 7 May 2024 at the Island Way Restaurant in Oak Island, NC. The setting was beautiful and it turned out to be a beautiful day for the meeting.



The Island Way Restaurant was filled to capacity.

May 7th Annual "Southern" Luncheon/Meeting



**RDML Ron Henderson, USN (Ret.),
The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.**

RDML Ron Henderson, USN (Ret.), delivered an outstanding and detailed presentation on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis during the May 7th SENCLAND "southern" luncheon/meeting.

Special Recognitions



Sandy Klassen shows genuine excitement as she is presented with the MOAA Outstanding Service Award

SENCLAND Chapter President, Allan Turner presented Sandy Klassen with the MOAA Outstanding Service Award for her many years administering the 50-50 raffle and helping to set up table decorations for chapter meetings.



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

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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. Thank you again to all our generous contributors.

JROTC Scholarship Program

Listed below are the six outstanding cadets who will be receiving SENCLAND MOAA Scholarships this year. Each student will receive a \$1000 scholarship. We will recognize these students and their families at our June 7th picnic. We presented Hoggard students, Tyler Horak and Brianne Medlin their scholarships on May 23rd during the Hoggard Academic Awards program (See pictures below). Hoggard's graduation is the same time as the SENCLAND MOAA June 7th picnic.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Alannah Mintz
Tyler A Horak
Brianne O'May Medlin
Gracie Christianson
Madison Giddeons
Jaleiny Briana Laracuente Midence

North Brunswick HS
Hoggard HS
Hoggard HS
North Brunswick HS
Pender HS
Wallace-Rose Hill HS

Brunswick CC
The Citadel
The Citadel
East Carolina
Appalachian State
Cape Fear CC

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JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program (Continued)

JROTC Leadership Awards Support

We are completing the presentation of MOAA JROTC Leadership Awards to our 19 schools. Listed below are the schools, recipients, and presenters. Thank you to all members who helped with these presentations.

SCHOOL	RECIPIENT	PRESENTER
North Brunswick	Valaria Alvarado	CAPT (Ret) Turner
Heide Trask	Zahid Salas-Reynoso	CWO2 (Ret) Foster
New Hanover	Ja'vion Baldwin	BG (Ret) Jones
South Brunswick	Joseph Snapp	COL (Ret) Klotsko
Ashley	Kayli Ammon	CWO2 (Ret) Foster
Pender	Zoe Smith	CWO2 (Ret) Foster
West Brunswick	Giovanni Palmieri	COL (Ret) Klotsko
Laney	Lillian Gilb	COL (Ret) Sanford
Hoggard	Aurora Carrano Shepard	CAPT (Ret) Kuhm
James Kenan	Daffne Zaarate-Marcia	LTC (Ret) Hanna
East Duplin	Enrique Perez	LTC (Ret) Hanna
East Columbus	Gabriel Hutchings	LTC (Ret) Hanna
Northside	Brian Teague	CAPT (Ret) Bird
Wallace Rose Hill	Kimberli Gonzales	LTC (Ret) Hanna
Lejeune	Hope Houghton	LCDR (Ret) Roberts
West Columbus *	TBD	LTC (Ret) Hanna
South Columbus	Nathan Williams	LTC (Ret) Hanna
Whiteville	Tamaran Davis	LTC (Ret) Hanna
Topsail	Chrisalee Garofolo	LTC (Ret) Hobin

Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Coordinator

SENCLAND MOAA has been awarding Veteran scholarships since 2017. The Veteran's Scholarship Program for 2024 continues to be well-funded thanks to generous contributions. We have a total of \$5,500 to award this year. Contributions from the Jim Carper BG NG Memorial Fund, Air Force Association, Vietnam Veterans Association, and 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.



SCHOLARSHIPS

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

MOAA Southeast Regional Leaders Workshop

Chapter President Allan Turner, incoming Surviving Spouse Liaison Marco Vialpando, and Legislative Affairs Chair Barry Coyle attended the South East Regional Leaders Workshop, held in Greenville, SC May 17 – 18. see photo below. This was an excellent workshop with MOAA National HQ personnel providing updates on policies and procedures. There were breakout sessions for some particular areas of interest. Barry Coyle attended the Legislative Affairs session, which was outstanding. One consistent theme throughout the workshop was encouraging chapter members to join the Legislative Action center and participate in advocacy efforts. You can do so by signing up at MOAA | | [Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us).



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

Legislative Affairs (Continued)

In Washington, D.C.

Work on the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act is progressing. Early versions of the bill include several programs that support MOOA's Legislative goals. These are:

1. Reform the Basic Pay Table to give junior enlisted personnel (E-6 and below) a 15% pay raise.
2. A 4.5% pay raise for all Active-Duty Service Members
3. Expand coverage of the Basic Needs Allowance
4. Improve the military childcare system
5. Expand opportunities for military spouse employment

It is still early days in development of the NDAA. I will keep track and let you know where MOOA member advocacy and engagement are needed.

In North Carolina

The North Carolina General Assembly is having an unusually active Short Session this year. Many new Bills have been introduced in both houses.

One of particular interest is HB 681 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact/Military Licensure. This bill contains a section that permits expedited licensure of military physicians and physician assistants who enter North Carolina on orders. It passed 106-0 in the House in June 2023 and is now under consideration in the Senate Health Care Committee.

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



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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OUTREACH

"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."



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. I am pleased to announce that our chapter has received a Grant from the National MOAA organization in the amount of \$1,000. This Grant should help sustain the viability of the program. Thus far the Outreach Program has awarded \$1,200 this year to two deserving veterans 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 with this program that provides services for our Nation's Veterans in Need.

Committee Members

Mike Apicella – Chair

Leon Rooks

Hondo Davids

Surviving Spouse Corner

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

SENCLAND Surviving Spouses

A couple of SENCLAND Surviving Spouse Members, Gladys Newsom, Sandi Adams, Becky Nesbitt, and Ursula Lafond met for ice cream at [Boombalatti's Homemade Ice Cream](#) in May. It's always good to have a chance just to catch up. SENCLAND MOAA member, Irene Glaeser joined us and before taking our photo, we chatted with her about her book, [Choose Your Battles](#), our experiences, grand kids, and the cruelty of the world at times.

I am hoping to arrange a coffee and cocoa meet and greet with Marco Vialpando, (incoming surviving spouse liaison) sometime this fall.

Wishing everyone a good, safe summer.

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

Sandi Adams

Sencland Surviving Spouse Liaison
910-443-0470, earlsandi@gmail.com



SURVIVING SPOUSES

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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:

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)

NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

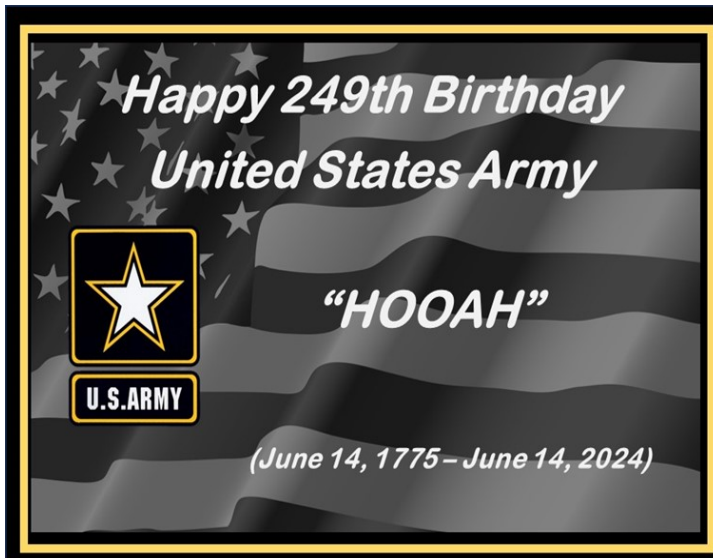
New Hanover County Memorial Day Ceremony



(Source: [New Hanover County Veterans Council - NHCVC](#))

The New Hanover County Veterans Council will host the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Wilmington, NC National Cemetery on Monday, May 27th. The public ceremony will start at 11am and feature retired Coast Guard Admiral Karl Schultz as the guest speaker. Retired four-star Admiral Schultz last served on active duty as the 26th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard from June 2018 to June 2022. The program will also include the reading of the names of New Hanover County veterans who died since the previous Memorial Day.

Happy Birthday United States Army — June 14, 1775 – June 14, 2024)



Source: <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/us-army-overview.html>

The United States Army was founded in 1775 by the Second Continental Congress; it is the oldest service of the United States military. Since its founding, the Army has evolved and grown into the world's premier fighting force.

The Army exists to serve the American people, defend the nation, protect vital national interests and fulfill national military responsibilities. Its mission is enduring: to provide necessary forces and capabilities to the combatant commanders in support of the national security and defense strategies.

Most of what the Army does, it does on land. It is the largest of the military branches.

Preserving Earned Burial Benefits



Lt. Col Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret), MOAA Director, Currently Serving and Retired Affairs, wants MOAA members to ask their representatives to co-sponsor H.R.1413 and ask their senators to introduce a companion bill. H.R.1413 – Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act of 2023, 118th Congress (2023-2024), was introduced in the House of Representatives 03/07/2023.

In a MOAA news article, titled MOAA’s Work Continues to Preserve Earned Burial Benefits, Lt Colonel Belinsky writes that “This election year, your messages to lawmakers about this legislation matter more than ever.”

(Photo: <https://www.military.com/memorial-day>)

Defense officials are looking for options to prevent a reduction in burial benefits directed by Congress in the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The reduction would be felt by many 20-year retirees, women veterans whose service came before many roles were open to all, and older veterans with plans in place for an Arlington Cemetery burial.

The proposed criteria focus on maintaining eligibility for those who received close-combat awards, limiting interment to those with a Purple Heart or Silver Star and above. There is no “grandfathering” statute to these proposals: Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam eras who have planned on the Arlington Cemetery burial benefit for decades would be subject to the new criteria.

H.R.1413, The Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act offers a long-term solution, authorizing DoD and the VA to transform an existing VA-run national cemetery into the next burial location that will afford interment with equivalent military honors as Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity. Transforming an existing VA-run national cemetery would eliminate the need for reduced eligibility.

“A Senate companion bill is required; outreach to senators could make the difference by making this legislation bicameral [both chambers], and bipartisan [both parties].”

Only 86 House members had co-sponsored the bill as of May 21, 2024. In his article Lt Colonel Belinsky outlines four steps you can take to amplify MOAA’s request for lawmakers to co-sponsor H.R.1413. You can follow this [link](#) to read the entire article.

You can follow updates on this and other MOAA advocacy campaigns at [MOAA’s Advocacy News page](#).

Submitted By President Allan Turner

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 President Allan Turner, sencland.president@gmail.com.



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SPONSORS (Continued)

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