



May 2025

SENTINEL

May 2025 Message from President Allan Turner –
sencland.president@gmail.com

It was a real treat to have Shane Fernando, CEO of Thalian Hall, for our 1 April meeting. He provided us with a fascinating history of this



important Wilmington historical resource and landmark. He also gave told us about their extensive renovation project. We had a total of 80 members in attendance and all of us walked away with a new found appreciation for this venue and its extensive history.

We received two pieces of great news in late April:

First, the SENCLAND Chapter has once again received the MOAA Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award and Harris Communications Award,

both at the Five-Star Level for 2024. This represents the 6th consecutive year row we have won the LOE at this level, and the 7th for the Harris Award at this level. My thanks to each of you for your contributions in making our chapter a truly great organization.

The second piece of great news is that we have been awarded a \$1,750.00 Outreach Grant from MOAA. Outreach Chair Mike Apicella applied for this grant earlier this year. We will immediately start putting this money, along with your generous donations, to work in helping those in our community in need. Two examples of this are outlined a couple of paragraphs below and in Mike's section on [Outreach](#).

Our May meeting will be on Tuesday 6 May at the [Island Way Restaurant in Oak Island](#). **We need to have a good headcount by Tuesday 29 April and ask that you please RSVP by then.** This is to ensure the Island Way will have the correct set-up, staff and meals on hand for our meetings. Please, please send in your RSVP in as early as possible. It really does help our planning and makes your check in process go a lot smoother.

Please see additional details for these events on the [Programs](#) page.

Chapter Awards



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued



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

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

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mom's out there!

Condolences

We were saddened to just have learned of the passing of long time member CDR Jack Fetner, USN (ret) on 10 May 2024.

Many Thanks

Once again, thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to our Scholarship and Outreach programs. Our JROTC, Veterans Scholarships and Veteran Outreach programs, in addition to our BG Jim Carper Scholarship Fund are doing great work in our catchment area. Next month, we will see that in action when we present our JROTC Scholarships to some very deserving graduating High School Seniors. In March, we were able to quickly help out a disabled U.S. Army Veteran student at UNCW. In April, we helped out a Marine Veteran with money for basic necessities. Without your generosity and continued support, we would be unable to help these deserving individuals.

Thank you again so much for your support!

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! You can find more MOAA news throughout the newsletter. Check-out our other events in the [SENCLAND News section](#), and this month's [Member's Profile](#).

SENCLAND Challenge Coins

The SENCLAND Challenge Coin will continue to be offered for \$5.00 each at chapter luncheons/meetings and other functions.



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

Mark Steelman, CAPT, USNR (ret), Programs Chair

Greg Cook, CAPT, USN (ret), Special Events Chair

Albert H Schroetel, COL, USAF (ret), Membership Co-Chair

Leslie Roberson, LtCol, USAF (ret), Membership Co-Chair and Nametags

Dianne Jinwright, LtCol, USAF (ret), Public Affairs, Facebook, Media Publicity

Marco Vialpando, MAJ, USA (ret), Surviving Spouse Coordinator

Mike Apicella, COL, USA (ret), Outreach

Allen Allegretto, CDR, USNR (ret), Webmaster, Member Communication System Manager

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 Updates

Submitted by Al Schroetel and Leslie Roberson, Membership Co-Chairs



Condolences

We regret reporting the passing of long-time Chapter member, Lawrence “Jack” Fetner, Commander, USN (Ret.). Commander Fetner passed away on May 10, 2024. Unfortunately, we did not learn of this until this month. A copy of his obituary is available at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church->



We try to keep abreast of the current status of all Chapters Members. In that regard, please let us know of major changes such as relocations, major illness or deaths by sending an e-mail to Al at downeast@bellsouth.net or Leslie at lesliecotu@hotmail.com

Membership Roster: The chapter’s membership roster is available in the password protected section of the chapter’s website. This roster is updated every month so you will always have the most current list. If you would like assistance accessing that section, please contact me at downeast@bellsouth.net or Allen Allegretto at allegrettoa@yahoo.com

Invite a friend or neighbor to a chapter luncheon! 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



Membership Updates (Continued)

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Member Communication System Manager

New Payment System Coming Soon

National MOAA has partnered with digital payment company **Cheddar Up** to provide a free and easy payment system for all MOAA chapters. Our SENCLAND chapter has successfully tested and plans to roll out this improved system during 2025 to collect payments for events, dues, and donations.

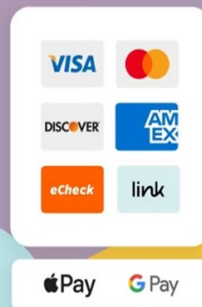
Cheddar Up provides a payment system similar to online shopping that you are familiar with. Other benefits include: save your payment info, recurring payments, and ability to pay by credit cards and mobile devices at Chapter events. Payment by cash or check will still be available as a convenience for our members.

You can preview this system using this link: <https://sencland-items.cheddarup.com> The first live use will likely be for the June JROTC scholarship presentations picnic. **Stay tuned for more information.**



MEMBERSHIP

Paying on Cheddar Up





LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

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



Monthly Luncheon Meetings



Shane Fernando, CEO, Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc., gave a fascinating presentation during the April 1st SENCLAND Luncheon/Meeting. It was filled with fascinating history about the Thalian Hall Center. Shane also discussed the vision for the Hall's \$25M renovation to a 300 seat "technologically sophisticated" venue expected to be completed in 2028. You





SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

Date: Tuesday 6 May 2025

Location: Island Way Restaurant, 1407 East Beach Drive, Oak Island ([map](#)). This is a gorgeous venue on the beach.

Time: Please arrive at 11:30am (restaurant opening time) to allow for registration, menu selections and limited parking. The program

Price: \$30.00

1. Includes water, sweet and unsweet iced tea, soft drinks, cookies for dessert, taxes and gratuities.
2. Beer, wine and cocktails are available for purchase.
3. Payment is made at check-in using cash or check only

Menu Selection:

1. Philly Cheesesteak w/pepper and onions on a hoagie bun/fries or chips
2. Coconut Shrimp/Roasted Pepper or Marmalade/fries or chips
3. Grilled Chicken Salad
4. Salmon Champagne Salad

Menu Choices are made at event, at your table (no pre-orders).

Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, 29 April

Upcoming 2025 Programs

- May 6: Island Way Restaurant, Oak Island – Bill Kawczynski, UNCW Director of Military Affairs
- June 6, Chapter Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards (Need volunteers for planning committee)
- July (TBD) Annual Social at Sea Spray Clubhouse
- September 2: Blue Water Grill, CAPT (Ret) Frank (Tank) Michael, MOAA National Update



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

PROGRAMS



May 2025 Luncheon/Meeting



Bill Kawczynski

Director of Military Affairs, UNCW

The next MOAA SENCLAND luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 May 2025, 1130, hrs. at the at the Island Way Restaurant in Oak Island. Our featured presenters will be Mr. Bill Kawczynski, Director, Office of Military Affairs (OMA) at UNCW and Louis Bourgault, Iwo Jima Survivor. Bill will provide an update on initiatives that OMA is taking to honor our local veteran community and keep it connected, and Louis Bourgault will discuss history, past, and present.

Bio: Bill Kawczynski

Bill Kawczynski was named the director of the Office of Military Affairs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington back in 2016. He had previously been serving as the university's Community Partnerships program specialist. Bill also worked as the assistant director of UNCW's Science and Mathematics Education Center from 1996-2008. Bill is a Marine Corps veteran who served at Camp Lejeune from 1991 through 1996.

In his role as Director of the Office of Military Affairs, Bill provides university-wide leadership to support the military community. His office also collaborates with academic and university departments to provide support services to individuals transitioning into UNCW. As part of his responsibilities, Bill develops and coordinates a comprehensive program of support services for military-affiliated students and advocates for

student veterans, active-duty personnel, and dependents. He also serves as the university's liaison with outside agencies and offices, whose work advocates for and impacts the lives of veterans, members of the military and their families.

Other current interests include Co-Chair of the Cape Fear Purple Heart Dinner, Board member of the following organizations: Cape Fear Veterans Resilience Project, E4M Designs Drone Company, Cybersecurity and IT Advisory Board, Workforce Learning and Development Program, Community Engagement and Advisory Board. He is currently pursuing his master's in healthcare administration.



Bio: Louis Bourgault

Louis Bourgault was raised in Worcester, Mass. While growing up, Louis worked on a dairy farm during the summers. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on June 1, 1942. Patriotism was the reason he signed up to join the military at 17. Bourgault served as a member of Company B, 21 Regiment, 3rd Division. He participated in multiple combat operations against Japanese forces which includes Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima. He was wounded twice but only received one Purple Heart. After the war, he went back to life as a civilian and later moved to Hampstead, NC. He now serves as an ambassador for Battleship North Carolina, assisting with tours and teaching WWII history to guests. Bourgault also spent 15 years in the Coast Guard auxiliary patrolling waterways and teaching boating classes. Bourgault has lived in North Carolina for over forty years.



PROGRAMS

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





SCHOLARSHIPS



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 & JROTC Leadership Awards Support

JROTC Scholarships Program

We received 10 scholarship applications. We are reviewing them and will make six presentations of \$500 each at the June picnic. Recipients will appear in the next newsletter.

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:

SCHOOLS	DATES & TIMES	VOLUNTEERS
New Hanover HS	TBD	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
North Brunswick HS	April 14 th , Completed	COL (Ret) John Melia
Whiteville HS	April 9 th , Completed	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
South Brunswick HS	April 30 th , 1800	COL (Ret) John Klotsko
Hoggard High School	May 20 th , 1800	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
Heide Trask HS	April 23 rd , Completed	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
Pender HS	April 29 th , 1400	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
West Brunswick HS	May 7 th , 1800	COL (Ret) John Klotsko
Ashley High School	May 13 th , TBD	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
East Duplin HS	May 16 th , 0800	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
Lejeune HS	May 15 th , 1600	CAPT (Ret) Stephen Bird
Topsail HS	April 30 th , 1800	ADM (Ret) Karl Schultz
James Kenan HS	May 16 th , 0830	COL (Ret) David Benton
Northside HS	May 16 th , 1700	CAPT (Ret) Stephen Bird
East Columbus HS	TBD	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
West Columbus HS	May 29 th , 1000	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
South Columbus HS	May 15 th , 1800	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
Wallace-Rose Hill HS	Mar 13 th , Completed	COL (Ret) David Benton
Laney HS	May 8 th , 1730	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette

Thank you to all who have volunteered to make the presentations. Please send photos to me at MACHanna@aol.com or call (910) 617-1829.



SCHOLARSHIPS



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



JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

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

JROTC Leadership Awards Support (Continued)



COL (Ret) John Melia presents MOAA Leadership Award to Cadet/MAJ Arianna Corbett at North Brunswick

CONGRATS!



CWO2 (Ret) David Foster presents MOAA Leadership Award to Cadet/MAJ Brienne Zapata at Heide Trask High School.

GOOD JOB!

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

Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Submitted by Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Coordinator



In March we were contacted by Bill Kawczynski, the Director of Military Affairs for veterans at UNCW. He presented us with a case involving a young soldier who was having some financial difficulties regarding his tuition. We were able to advance our student grant program to provide him with \$500 towards his deficit.

The young paratrooper's name is Levi Pinnix and he served with Charlie Company of the 1st Brigade Combat

Team "Red Devils" of the 82nd Airborne Division in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is currently enrolled at UNCW studying Exercise Science and is maintaining a GPA of 3.0. We thank him for his service.

Each year since 2017 the SENCLAND Chapter has, as an organization, endeavored to raise funds for this worthy cause and continue our tradition of taking care of the troops. We have done stellar work as an organization and will continue to do so. We should, though, recognize that the need far outstrips the funds.

If anyone has any good ideas to assist in adding to the war chest please feel free to speak up. No idea is too small.

Thanks, Tim



SCHOLARSHIPS



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



www.moaa.org/takeaction



Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

In Washington

President Trump continues to issue Executive Orders (E.O.'s) designed to reorganize and down-size the Federal Government while reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Congress is also working on various pieces of Legislation of interest to MOAA members, including the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act. The FY 2026 Appropriations process is delayed while the Trump administration completes the President's Budget Request.

MOAA held the annual Advocacy in Action (AIA) event in Washington on 9 April 2025. MOAA AIA participants contacted most members of Congress on that one day. Neither our Representative, David Rouzer, nor a member of his staff were available for an in-person interview on 9 April. So, your Chapter President Allan Turner and 2nd VP Barry Coyle joined NCCOC Legislative VP Dana Tucker on a Zoom call with Mr. Rouzer's new Military Affairs Assistant, Alexander Blum, on 22 April. We briefed him on this year's AIA topics, which are: improved funding for unaccompanied military housing: reducing the wait time to receive benefits for toxic exposures: passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act; enhancing stability and accountability in the Military Health System; improving support for VA caregivers. MOAA is once again encouraging all members to sign up for the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. This site makes it easy to contact your elected federal officials and express your support for legislation of interest. You can help make Advocacy in Action a year-round activity while keeping these topics front-and-center for our elected officials.

A reminder that the deadline to obtain a REAL ID driver's license or identification card is 7 May 2025. After that date, Real ID credentials will be required to board airlines or access Federal buildings and properties, including military installations. It does not look like the deadline will be extended again. You can use other forms of identification that show citizenship, such as a passport, but a REAL ID card is more convenient. Detailed information can be found at: [Official NCDMV: N.C.REAL ID](#).

Legislative Affairs (Continued)

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

In North Carolina

Here's a recap of the 14 April 2025 Statement from NC State Board of Elections regarding the ongoing legal battle related to the NC Supreme Court election in November 2024:

"On April 11, 2025, the North Carolina Supreme Court issued a decision in the election protest brought by state supreme court candidate Jefferson Griffin. A day later, a federal judge ordered the State Board of Elections to begin implementing the Supreme Court order.

The Supreme Court decision removed from the protest voters whose voter registration forms did not include a driver's license number or last four digits of a Social Security number (and didn't check the box indicating they lacked these numbers). Those voters – the largest group of voters challenged by the protest – no longer must provide that information to their county boards of elections to ensure their votes for the supreme court contest count in the 2024 general election.

The Supreme Court decision, however, would require challenged military and overseas-citizen voters who submitted an absentee ballot to provide a copy of their photo identification, or a Photo ID Exception Form, to ensure their votes for the supreme court contest count in the 2024 general election.

The decision would also require certain county boards of elections to identify and remove from the count – in the Supreme Court contest only – the votes from U.S. citizen voters who have never lived in the United States but have parental connections to North Carolina.

As soon as possible, the State Board of Elections will provide detailed instructions to the affected counties and voters on how to comply with the decision."

So far in this legislative session, 51 Bills related to military/veteran/retiree affairs have been introduced in the General Assembly – 14 in the Senate and 37 in the House. All the Senate Bills are in various stages of review in committees. None have yet come up for a vote. In the House, 7 Bills have passed recently and been sent to the Senate where they are once again in the committee review process. None of the residential property tax relief for disabled veterans Bills have passed either Chamber. With the Cross-over deadline nearing on 8 May, it will be interesting to see how many more Bills advance to votes in each Chamber.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS





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 \$1,750 dollars to grant to deserving individuals in need of financial assistance thanks to a generous grant received from the National MOAA organization for the SENCLAND this year.

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.

This month a Community Outreach Grant was presented to Bradley Ginapp, a homeless Marine Veteran that needed financial assistance while waiting



to receive his employment check. At the time of his grant request, he was living out of his truck. Through the assistance of the Wilmington Veterans Service Office Bradley is now in the Ashley House, but he still needed assistance for food and gas.

Thanks for your support of this program that services our Nation's Veterans in Need.

Committee Members

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

Wellness Coordinator's Corner

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

Greetings from the Wellness Corner...

I hope this greeting finds you well and you enjoyed a wonderful Easter.

We're now on the cusp of May, a month dedicated to our Military. May is National Military Month, encompassing Armed Forces Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day and of course, Memorial Day and VE Day, which commemorates the end of World War II.

As a reminder our chapter takes a summer break. In June we hold our Annual picnic and scholarship award presentations and in July we have our Annual Social at the Sea Spray Clubhouse. However, please know that our care and support will continue. If you or family member is facing illness, surgery, or rehabilitation during this time please don't hesitate to inform me or any Board member so we can reach out with a card or a visit. We truly care..

I hope to see you at our May luncheon at Oak Island.

Wellness Team

Leon Rooks – Chair
Stephen Bird
Karen Murphy

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Surviving Spouses: I have made positive contact with all of you either by email, telephone or have left a voicemail on your cell phone, thus verifying that I have your correct information on my spreadsheet. If you are reading this and you are a surviving spouse and have not been contacted by me, please contact me:

Marco Vialpando
SENCLAND Surviving Spouse Liaison
910-530-4025, vipp6@yahoo.com



WELLNESS

SURVIVING SPOUSES



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.gbstores.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 Leslie Roberson, Nametag Program. The SENCLAND Chapter offers the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost is \$15 per name-tag 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 the minimum number required by the vendor. Nametags are delivered at monthly luncheons and chapter events.

You can order your nametags either online, in person at a meeting, or by mailing a personal check and order form as follows. Pay for your nametags (s) in one of the following 3 ways:

1. **ON-LINE:** PayPal Payment can be made at: SENCLAND: Membership: (<https://sencland.org/membership/?tp=Nametags>) 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/membership/>) and click on the tab for “Membership” on the home page and scroll down to “SENCLAND Nametags”).
2. **In Person at a meeting** (cash or check), please print the page of the Newsletter with the SENCLAND NAME TAG boxes (below), complete it, and bring it with you to a meeting. You can turn it in and pay at check-in. The Treasurer will provide the POC your form.
3. **Mail Personal Check and Order Form:** Please print the page of the Newsletter with the SENCLAND NAME TAG boxes (below), complete it, and mail it with a check to SENCLAND MOAA to:

SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA
P.O. Box 10015
Wilmington, NC 28404

MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase (Continued)

After paying (on-line or via mail), send an e-mail to Leslie Roberson, lesliecotu@hotmail.com, include the information you want on the nametag (1) name, including nick name if you prefer, (2) rank, (3) military service, and (4) current duty status. Nametags for spouses only require the person's name and nickname if desired.

If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Roberson at the email above or (703) 470-3392.

	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>



SENCLAND NEWS

NHC Veteran Council News

Submitted by Bob Doleman, SENCLAND MOAA Representative to the Council



The American Legion Department of North Carolina, In partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, Is proudly sponsoring the 7th Annual **Veteran's Experience Action Center (VEAC)** **ALL Veterans & Family Members are Welcome.**

MAY 8 - 10, 2025

THURSDAY - FRIDAY - 9AM - 3 PM

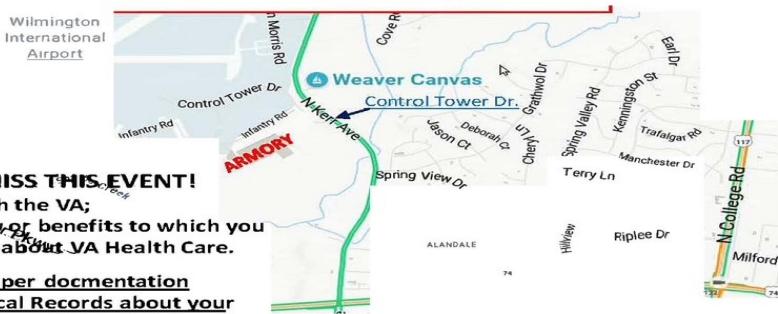
SATURDAY - 9AM - 2 PM

This is a Great & Unique opportunity for eligible Veterans & their Dependents To be assisted by a team that includes: Veteran's Organization Service Officers, Dept. of Veteran Affairs Benefit Officials and Healthcare Representatives.

These representatives can help Facilitate & Expedite your New or Existing VA Disability Claims, Appeals, or other healthcare problems.

**LOCATION – NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY,
2414 INFANTRY Rd., WILMINGTON, N.C.**

DIRECTIONS – HWY 40 E
To MARTIN LUTHER KING PKWY
Right on N KERR Ave.
Left on CONTROL TOWER DR.
Left on INFANTRY RD.
National Guard Armory on Left



YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT!

1. If you would like to File a Claim with the VA; If you have questions about VA appeals, or benefits to which you may be entitled: if you have questions about VA Health Care.
2. **You MUST come prepared with proper documentation about your case: A DD-214, ALL Medical Records about your disability – both military & Civilian.**

Everyone who registers during the day will be seen. To avoid overcrowding – please adhere to the following Attendance suggestions. Thank you for your cooperation. **REGISTRATION at the DOOR.**

THURSDAY – MAY 8 – Those with SS# ending in 00-33 should register.
FRIDAY – MAY 9 – Those with SS# ending in 34-66 should register.
SATURDAY – MAY 10 – Those with SS# ending in 67-99 should register.

DONATIONS – May be made to AM. LEGION POST 551, PO BOX 10483, Southport, NC 28461
Please, make checks to POST 551 and add VEAC to the memo section of you check.

October 12, 2025, MOAA Sponsored Cruise to Bermuda

This six day cruise departs Norfolk, VA on 12 October 2025. Now is not too soon to reserve your stateroom. If you're interested and would like more information, please contact **Lorna Tiller**, our dedicated travel agent: at 910-343-1978 (Office) or 910-540-3390 (Mobile). Lorna's email is: ltiller-travels@gmail.com.



Set Sail for Paradise with MOAA: Early Bird Discounts on a 6-Day Bermuda Getaway!

<https://www.moaa-nc.org/journal/?id=1723050859>

SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE

Frank B. Gibson Jr., Captain , U.S. Marine Corps (veteran)



It just so happened that Captain Gibson grew up near Gibson, NC. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1967 with a degree in History, entered the Marine Corps through the Officer Candidate School (OCS) program, and was commissioned in December 1968. He started Naval Flight School at Pensacola NAS, Florida in January 1969. After graduation from flight school, Captain Gibson was stationed at New River MCAS, Jacksonville, NC for initial helicopter training. In WESTPAC, he was assigned to H&MS 36, MAG 36 at Futenma MCAS and Atsugi NAS. After WESTPAC, he joined HMM-262, MAG-24 at Kaneohe MCAS, Hawaii. He logged time in the UH-1D & E, CH-46D & E, and the OV-10A.



In addition to flying duties, Captain Gibson served in several other jobs during his Marine Corps career, including S-1 Officer, assistant aviation safety officer, and post-maintenance test pilot. Having received his Juris Doctor Degree from Vanderbilt in 1975 he also served as a squadron legal officer, and while at Kaneohe, he was assigned as a Trial Counsel in the office of the MAG-24 Staff Judge Advocate,



prosecuting special courts martial and administrative discharge proceedings. Captain Gibson left active duty in 1973 but remained in the USMC Reserve until 1977. He has maintained his commercial pilot's license and has served as a lecturer at FAA safety seminars, along with writing a regular column on aviation legal matters for an aviation newsletter.



Frank joined the law firm of Murchison, Fox, and Newton in Wilmington and remained with that firm and its successors for the rest of his career. He had many distinguished colleagues, especially his daughter and fellow lawyer, Faison. Frank practiced law for 50 years, working in the areas of corporate and business law, aviation law, estate planning, and real estate. Frank retired in 2025, he and his wife, Judy, are co-owners and operators of their family farms near Gibson, NC and Blenheim, SC.

EDITOR: Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *I decided that in my retirement, I would engage in some interests and activities that I did not have time for during my work years, including joining military and aviation related volunteer organizations. I have always been interested in military history and national defense issues. I joined MOAA to learn more about these issues and to support veterans.*

EDITOR: Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *I joined SENCLAND at the invitation of a friend and member, Ham Hicks. Although I did not make the Marine Corps my career, I enjoy the company of others who have served our nation, especially Marines, and find that the membership of SENCLAND is very welcoming to new members. I am interested in learning more about the other members, and I look forward to the monthly meetings, educational programs, and being involved in club activities. I have enjoyed the monthly newsletter.*

EDITOR: What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *I am a member of St. James Parish in Wilmington, and have served in many ways, including on the Vestry and as Senior Warden. Among other activities, I have been active with the New Hanover County Community Foundation, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, the Wilmington Civitan Club, and on the Board of the North Carolina Community Foundation. I also volunteer at the Good Shepherd Center. I love history, flying, good literature, family history and genealogy, golf, hunting, sailing and boating. Judy and I will soon celebrate our 56th wedding anniversary. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my wife and family.*

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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at every stage.**

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www.moaainsurance.com/plans**

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SPONSORS (Continued)

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

University Square & The Forum



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May 2025

