



June 2025

SENTINEL

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

My heartfelt thanks to Bill Kawczynski and Louis Bourgault for the extremely interesting talks they presented at the May luncheon/meeting. Bill spoke about the veteran's student program he and his team administer at UNCW. Louis talked about his time in the Marine Corps during the WWII battles in the Pacific. Louis was just a couple of days away from his 100th birthday! If you follow the local news, you will have seen that the cake and birthday wishes we presented to him (Thanks to Irene Glaeser and Apple Annie's), was just one of several to commemorate an auspicious milestone of this American hero.



For our June 6 picnic at Long Leaf Park, Shelter #6, we will see your generosity in action when we present our JROTC Scholarships to some very deserving graduating High School Seniors. As Allen Allegretto and I mentioned during the May meeting, this event is being catered by Mission BBQ. You should have received your invite from Leslie Robeson on Friday (5/9/25). You will need to **RSVP and Pay for this event by Thursday 5/29/25** as we have to give a final number to the caterer by then. Reminder, this will be the debut of the Cheddar Up payment system that MOAA is providing to all of the Chapters and Councils. Allen Allegretto has been working very hard to make sure this system is working well and as he discussed, provides some additional functionality – all in an easy to use portal.

Please, please send in your RSVP in as early as possible. One more reminder – we will be unable to accept payment or RSVPs after the deadline date.

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

Chapter Awards



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President's Message (Continued)

Submitted by President Allan Turner



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued



Happy Birthday

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

*Happy 250th Birthday and a big "HOOAH" to the U.S. Army
- 14 June 1775. You have served this Nation well.*



Welcome

Welcome to our newest members:

- ◆ Mark Nabell, former Captain, USAF. and his wife Cheryl
- ◆ Robert "Bob" Odom, former 1st Lieutenant, USA

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. Without your generosity and continued support, we would be unable to help the deserving individuals in our community who sorely need our help.

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



Membership Updates

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



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the Chapter's newest members:

- ◆ Mark Nabell, former Captain, USAF.
Mark and Cheryl live in Wilmington.
- ◆ Robert "Bob" Odom, former 1st Lieutenant, USA.
Bob lives in Wilmington.



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.

Keeping Current: 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

Membership Updates (Continued)

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Member Communication System Manager

New Payment System Implemented!

Testing was successfully completed and SENCLAND is now using **Cheddar Up** as our official payment system. This new payment system is provided by National MOAA who partnered with **Cheddar Up** to provide a free and easy payment system for all MOAA chapters.

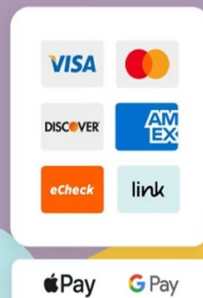
*You can use **Cheddar Up** to prepay meals for the June picnic and awards event.*

Credit cards can now be accepted at monthly luncheon events. You can also make donations, buy nametags, pay annual dues, and optionally set up automatic payments. Payment by cash or check will still be available as a convenience for our members.

Click to view our [“SENCLAND “store”](#)

Paying on Cheddar Up

 Cheddar Up



MEMBERSHIP





LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

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



Monthly Luncheon Meetings



May 6, 2025
Luncheon/Meeting
At the [Island Way Restaurant](#).

The SENCLAND MOAA May 6th luncheon/meeting was an incredible event. Our featured presenters were Bill Kawczynski, Director, Office of Military Affair (OMA) at UNCW who talked about the UNCW veterans student program and Iwo Jima Survivor, Louis Bourgault, who talked about his time in the Marine Corps. A big highlight was celebrating Louis Bourgault's 100th birthday with him. Happy Birthday Louis!





SENCLAND Annual Pig Pickin' Picnic

Date: Friday, 6 June 2025

Time: 5-8pm

Location: Long Leaf Park, Pavillon #6, 314 Pine Grove Drive, Wilmington, NC ([map](#)).

Parking: Parking is available adjacent to the Pavillon.

Price is **\$30** per person and includes the menu items listed.

Menu: Catering by Mission BBQ

- Pulled Pork & Chicken
- Cole Slaw, Macaroni & Cheese, and Baked Beans
- Slider Rolls & Cornbread
- Cookies & Brownies
- Water, sweet tea, lemonade, soft drinks, beer, and wine

RSVP & Payment must be made **NLT Thursday, 29 May.**

No payments will be available at the picnic

Upcoming 2025 Programs

- June 6, Chapter Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards (Need volunteers for planning committee)
- July-August Mid-Summer Social, dates and details forthcoming
- September 2: Blue Water Grill, CAPT (Ret) Frank (Tank) Michael, MOAA National Update



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

PROGRAMS





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 Scholarships Program— Here are our 2025 Scholarship recipients. These students will be recognized at the June 6 picnic.

Student's Name	High School	College/University
Valeria Alvarado	North Brunswick HS	NC State
Brayden Griffith	West Brunswick HS	The Citadel
Margaret Heppner	Ashley HS	NC State
Katlynn Iddings	Pender	NC State
Colette Oldham	Lejeune	Pending
Sara Peterson	Wallace-Rose Hill	Sampson Community College

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	May 28 th , Scheduled	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 , Completed	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 , Completed	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
West Brunswick HS	May 7 th , Completed	COL (Ret) John Klotsko
Ashley High School	May 13 th , Completed	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
East Duplin HS	May 16 th , Completed	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
Lejeune HS	May 15 th , Completed	CAPT (Ret) Stephen Bird
Topsail HS	April 30 th , Completed	ADM (Ret) Karl Schultz
James Kenan HS	May 16 th , Completed	COL (Ret) David Benton
Northside HS	May 16 th , Completed	CAPT (Ret) Stephen Bird
East Columbus HS	TBD, Pending	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
West Columbus HS	May 29 th , 1000	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
South Columbus HS	May 22 nd , 1800	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
Wallace-Rose Hill HS	Mar 13 th , Completed	COL (Ret) David Benton
Laney HS	May 8 th , Completed	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.

Veteran Student Education Scholarship

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

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



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





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), but at a slower pace. Legal challenges to many of these E.O.'s are proceeding through the courts, with mixed results. The news this month is mostly dominated by attempts in Congress to develop a Budget Reconciliation Bill (the "Big, Beautiful Bill") which will adjust the FY 2025 Continuing Resolution budget to align with Trump administration priorities. At this writing, the Bill has an uncertain future, with contentious negotiations continuing. The Bill would increase Defense spending by \$150B, including additional funding for MOAA-supported programs such as: improved unaccompanied military housing; tuition assistance; increasing Temporary Lodging Allowance during PCS moves; and childcare fee assistance for active-duty families.

FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act is in early stages of development, with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees beginning to hold hearings regarding future Defense policies and priorities. The Trump administration submitted the 2026 President's Budget Request on 2 May 2025. This is three months later than required by law. These late submissions have become commonplace, especially for the first Budget Request of a new administration. The FY 2026 Appropriations process is further delayed because the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are fully engaged in developing and revising the FY 2025 Reconciliation Bill discussed above. This very late start to the Appropriations process virtually guarantees another Continuing Resolution at the end of FY 2025 in September.

In North Carolina

As reported in March, one of the priorities in this session of the North Carolina General Assembly was to expand property tax relief for disabled veterans. Unfortunately, progress has been limited. The General Assembly has now passed the crossover deadline, the point by which most bills must have cleared their originating chamber to be considered by the other. Of the key veteran tax relief bills introduced, only one remains active. Local governments - counties, cities, and towns - raised concerns about the potential loss of tax revenue, which likely influenced the outcome. That means the current law remains unchanged, for now. That is, a veteran must be 100% disabled, as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to qualify for the disabled veteran homestead exclusion. This provides a \$45,000 deduction from the appraised value of the veteran's primary residence for property tax purposes.

Legislative Affairs (Continued)

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

Tax Relief Bills That Did Not Advance

Several bills aimed at expanding or improving benefits for disabled veterans failed to pass their originating chamber:

- H39 – Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exclusion

Would have exempted vehicles owned by 100% disabled veterans from property tax (effective January 1, 2026). **Failed in the House.**

- H299 – Disabled Veteran Property Tax Increase

Proposed raising the current homestead exclusion from \$45,000 to \$54,000. Failed in the House.

- S128 – Expanded Homestead Exclusion

Proposed increasing the exclusion to \$76,500 of the home's value. **Failed in the Senate.**

- S143 – Full Exemption Proposal

Proposed a total exemption of property tax on the primary residence for 100% disabled veterans. **Failed in the Senate.**

One Tax Relief Bill Still Moving Forward

- H94 – Disabled Veteran Homestead Prequalification Act

Passed the House unanimously (112–0) and is now under consideration in the Senate. This bill would allow a 100% disabled veteran, or an unremarried surviving spouse, to prequalify for the homestead tax exclusion before purchasing a home. This could assist with loan approvals and financial planning. The effective date would be for tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

50 Bills of interest to MOAA members were introduced in the General Assembly this year. 18 of those passed in one Chamber and crossed over to the other Chamber for continued processing. Many of these bills address MOAA NC Council of Chapters or Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) priorities. We will continue to monitor progress on H94 and the other bills and provide updates in future newsletters. You can see details of the progression of these Bills on the SENCLAND Website at this link: [SENCLAND: Legislative Information](#).



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 from the National MOAA organization to SENCLAND this year. Last month we presented a check for \$300 to a Marine Veteran to help with his transition to civilian life.

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 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

Happenings from the Wellness Corner...

Well...the first half of 2025 is almost here! Time has really flown by....but much work has been done in the first half of the year. The SENCLAND Board, the committee chairs, and many others have worked diligently to execute the SENCLAND MOAA objectives. As the Wellness Chair, I am pleased to be part of and work with this talented group. I feel confident that the second half of 2025 will be even better than the first.

I hope to see all of you at the June picnic. A "Kick Off" of a three month break, but more importantly we complete one of our major objectives. As in the past your chapter has awarded scholarships to local students in our community and the tradition continues in 2025. It is by your generosity that SENCLAND MOAA can once again provide Scholarships to students in our communities.

Wellness Team

Leon Rooks – Chair
Stephen Bird
Karen Murphy

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison

I am looking at various ways to get some of our Surviving Spouses that have limited mobility to our monthly meetings. I will keep everyone updated on my progress in the next newsletter.

With warm regards,

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

The New Hanover County Veteran Council's 2025 Memorial Day Program will be held on Monday, May 26th at the National Cemetery, 2011 Market Street, Wilmington, NC. The program starts at 11am. The guest speaker is USMC Sergeant Major, retired, Robert Tellez. The names of veterans who have passed away since Memorial Day 2024 will be read.



Memorial Day Ceremony
 May 26, 2025 | 11:00 am
 Wilmington National Cemetery
 Wilmington, NC

Hosted By:
 New Hanover County Veterans Council

Guest Speaker
Robert Tellez
 Sergeant Major
 USMC Retired

**PLEASE JOIN
 THE CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY
 VETERAN ENGAGEMENT BOARD**
for our
**VETERAN INFORMATION
 FORUM**

Veterans, family members, caregivers, and supporters are welcome.



REGISTER NOW

Three Breakout Sessions
**I. CAREGIVING
 II. BUDGETING & FINANCE
 III. EMPLOYMENT**

New Hanover County Government Center
 230 Government Center Dr., Wilmington NC
JUN | 18th | 2025
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM



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>

Stop Soldier Suicide



Memorial Day weekend is a time to remember those that have died fighting for this country but also a time to help Veterans. Over the weekend there will be an opportunity to view a documentary that discusses what many don't want to talk about, Veteran Suicide.

Written by Tim Stevens, who wrote for the News & Observer in Raleigh for over 40 years, **PTSD: The Invisible Enemy** will take dead aim at Veteran Suicide. The documentary will provide real data on the problem as

well as HOPE and resources that can help a Veteran dealing with PTSD.

Showings: Saturday, 5/24, at noontime at the Elks Lodge on Oak Island

Saturday, 5/24, at noontime on WECT Bounce 6.2.

Sunday, 5/25, at 7:00am on FOX Wilmington (WSFX)

The Cape Fear Community Veteran Engagement Board will host an information forum on Wednesday, June 18 from 0900-1130 at the New Hanover County Government Center. The topics in this forum are Caregiving, Budgeting & Finance, and Employment. Register via the QR Code .

SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE

Frederick Kuhm, Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)

Captain Kuhm grew up in upstate New York and Southern Arizona, graduating from the University of Arizona in 1978. He entered the United States Navy through Officer Candidate School (OCS), was commissioned in November 1980, retiring after a 27 year career in July 2007. Graduating from Navy Supply School, Athens, GA and Navy Submarine School, New London, CT, his first assignment was a Supply Officer on the USS Haddock (SSN-621) a nuclear powered fast attack submarine, in October 1981. During his three year tour on board the Haddock, he completed a Western Pacific deployment including two special operation patrols, and achieved two Squadron Supply Excellence Awards. Subsequent sea tours included: Stock Control Officer and Submarine Support Officer on USS McKee (AS 41), a submarine repair tender; and Supply Officer on board USS Seattle (AOE 3), logistics support ship providing all at sea resupply needs from jet fuel and ammo/ordnance to repair parts and food stores. While on board he participated in Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf with the George Washington Battle Group, November 1997 to March 1998, and was Material Control Officer for the JFK Battle Group during deployment preparations in 1999. Shore duty assignments have included: Com-Projects, Washington, DC; Contracting and Business Financial terms Command; and staff duty tours at Submarine Force U.S. gence Support Center.



CDR Kuhm in Supply Office on board USS Seattle (19



Received Appreciation of Support plaque from DCMA Southern Afghanistan Office - Kandahar Air Base (April 2013)

manding Officer, Office of Special Officer tours at the Naval Sea System Pacific Fleet and the Naval Intelligence Support Agency. Captain Kuhm attained Supply Corps Warfare qualifications in both Surface Warfare and Submarines, with numerous personal awards to include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Medal, and Navy Meritorious Medal.

Captain Kuhm entered DoD civilian service after his naval retirement. His longest tenure was seven years as Deputy and Acting Commander for Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) International, a Joint Acquisition Command with civilian and military personnel stationed in over 20 countries, including Afghanistan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Those seven years were professionally rewarding and interesting, while logging more travel than in the Navy! Retiring again in 2020, he and his wife, Laura, reside in Leland, NC.



EDITOR: Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *While on active duty, a senior officer that I worked for explained that MOAA provided a vital advocacy role to the active and retired military community. The library of services whether it be retirement preparations, navigating through TriCare and health insurance, family and spouse benefits, or transition assistance and job fairs are great tools that provide a wealth of information. I initially used transition assistance and resume building. Webinars on understanding federal jobs and the application process, the health care insurance transition to Medicare, and legislative tax changes on a federal and state level have also been extremely helpful.*

EDITOR: Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *I joined the chapter after moving to Brunswick County a few years ago, having previously been a member of the local chapter in Richmond, VA. Being a member of a local chapter provided you with networking and contacts outside your work environment. The chapter's socials help introduce you to other military officers, you have a lot in common with, share some 'sea stories' and good camaraderie while gaining a better understanding of the local community and volunteer opportunities. I enjoy the SENCLAND luncheons, lectures, and information in the newsletter.*

EDITOR: What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *Since moving to the local area, I have taken an active role on our HOA board. This has given me the opportunity to help many of my new neighbors with landscaping, homeowners insurance and other projects within the community. Applying business acumen has saved maintenance costs while increasing reserve fund contributions. I enjoy most outdoor activities including biking, trap and skeet, and look forward to volunteering in the future with youth sports. I like to read and watch old 'westerns', football, college basketball, and NASCAR. Laura and I enjoy travel, vacations in Europe, and extended visits with the children and our granddaughters.*

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