



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 10015 • WILMINGTON NC 28404 • [WWW.SENCLAND.ORG](http://WWW.SENCLAND.ORG)

EDITOR: DIANNE JINWRIGHT • [SENCLANDSENTINEL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SENCLANDSENTINEL@GMAIL.COM) • (910) 859-1475

April 2026

# SENTINEL



April 2026 Message from President Mike Apicella – [sencland.president@gmail.com](mailto:sencland.president@gmail.com)

## Greetings!



We had a very informative meeting on March 3rd with Retired Marine Corps Major General Joe Shrader. MG Shrader discussed plans for the Carolina Museum of the Marine a new National landmark at Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The museum is scheduled to open on June 8, 2026. For further information please visit the website at [www.MuseumoftheMarine](http://www.MuseumoftheMarine).

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday April 7th at the Bluewater Grill. We need to have a good headcount by Sunday, March 29th. We ask that you please RSVP by then. This deadline is set by the Bluewater to ensure they have the correct set-up, staff and meals on hand for our meetings. 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. For our April 7th meeting, we are pleased to have Major General Rob Tempel, Former US Army Dental Corps Chief. He will be talking about leadership values in both Military and Civilian organizations. Please see additional details for these events in [Programs](#).

Please welcome our newest members, Terri Medlin, LCDR, USCG Reserve, and Alexander S. Leanos, CAPT, USNR.

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

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 these deserving individuals.

**Thank you again so much for your support!**

**Continued on next page.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[From the President](#)

[Chapter Leadership](#)

[Membership Updates](#)

[Donations Update](#)

[Last Month's Luncheon](#)

[2026 Programs](#)

[This Month's Luncheons](#)

[JROTC Scholarships](#)

[Veterans Scholarships](#)

[Community Outreach](#)

[Surviving Spouses](#)

[Wellness Committee](#)

[Legislative Affairs](#)

[Membership Benefits](#)

[SENCLAND Website](#)

[SENCLAND Facebook Page](#)

[MOAA National and NC Chapters Websites](#)

[MOAA National Newsletter](#)

[About the Sentinel](#)

[Statement of Affiliations](#)

[Embroidered Apparel](#)

[SENCLAND Nametags](#)

[Topics of Interest](#)

**[FEATURED PROFILE](#)**

## President's Message (Continued)

Submitted by President Mike Apicella

The Mission of MOAA and SENCLAND is preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service, fulfilling MOAA's promise to "Never Stop Serving."

For those who have a Basic MOAA membership, please consider becoming a Premium Member. Additional benefits include: Access to Member Books & Guides, Financial Education & Consumer Advice, Scholarships, Interest-free Loans & Grants, Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits, Career Transition Resources, and Subscriptions to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications. Please see the [MOAA website](#) for details.

A special thanks to Alex Graham, Maynard Henry, and Ritt Schiano for recently completing our Financial Audit Report. I am happy to report that SENCLAND is maintaining all material respects internal control of its financial accounting and reporting.

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! In particular, read the [Topics of Interest](#) submitted by Allan Turner and Al Schroetel, and the [SENCLAND Member's Profile](#) for the month, Brigadier General Thomas C. Jones, US Army, Retired.



### ***SENCLAND Challenge Coins still available.***

The SENCLAND Chapter now has its very own Challenge Coin! Initial sales have been strong but we have many left and will continue to offer them at \$5.00 each at upcoming 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](mailto:senclandchapter@gmail.com)

## Officers

**Mike Apicella**, COL, USA (ret), President, SENCLAND Chapter  
**Sean Murphy**, MajGen USAF (ret), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Barry Coyle**, CAPT USN (ret), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
**Fred Kuhm**, CAPT, USN (ret), 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

## Board Members

**Allan Turner**, CAPT USNR (ret), Immediate Past President, and Membership Co-Chair  
**Joe Irrera**, COL, USMC (ret) 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  
**David Everett**, CDR, USNR (ret), JROTC Scholarships & Leadership Awards Chair  
**LeeRoy Hanna**, LTC, USA (ret), Historian  
**Leon Rooks**, MAJ, USAR, Outreach Chair  
**David Foster**, CWO2, USCG, 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  
**Tim Johnson**, CPT, USMC, USMC Service Director  
**Wayne Gibson**, CAPT, USCG, (ret), USCG Service Director

## 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, Leslie Roberson, and Allan Turner Membership Co-Chairs



# Welcome

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

- Alexander S. Leanos, CAPT, USNR, Alex and Anne live in the Mayfaire section of Wilmington
- Terri Medlin, LCDR, USCG Reserve. Terri lives in the Pine Valley section of Wilmington.



# Condolences

We regret the passing of two Chapter Members:

**Robert J. Foley, COL, USA (Ret.)** Colonel Foley passed away on 22 Feb 2026. He graduated from the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (RN), Providence College. He was commissioned into the United States Army, served in a Field Hospital in the Republic of Vietnam. His service culminated in 1999 as the first and longest-serving Chief Nurse of the Army Reserve Command. After his military career, COL Foley held positions at the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. He is survived by his wife Colonel Barbara Jo Foley, USA (Ret.).

Obituary: <https://www.andrewsmortuary.com/obituary/joseph-foley-colonel-retired-united-states-army>

**James J. Watkins, COL, USA (Ret.)** Colonel Watkins passed away on 25 Feb 2026. He served his country for 27 years on active duty in the United States Army in the Infantry and then the Finance Corps, where he rose through the ranks to retire as the Commandant of the United States Army Finance School and Chief of the Finance Corps. After his Army retirement he served as Chief Financial Officer for the Dominican Sisters of Peace before being called back to government service at the Pentagon, where he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Operations (DASA-FO). After retiring from civil service, he became the Financial Officer at Georgia Military College. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Bailey Watkins; Obituary: <https://www.andrewsmortuary.com/obituary/james-joseph-watkins>

## Membership Updates (continued)

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

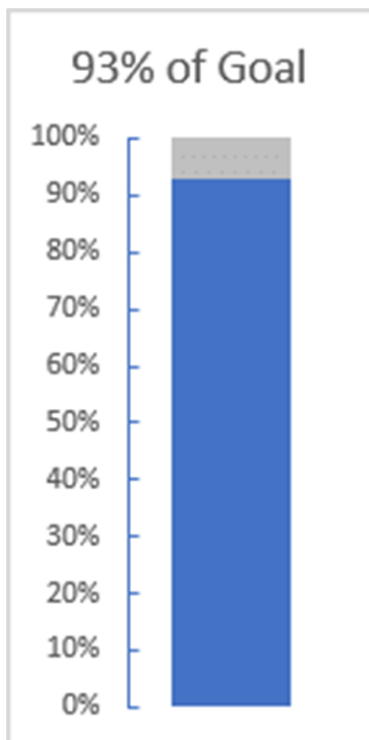
**Invite a friend or neighbor to a Chapter Luncheon!** Please invite a friend to one of our monthly meetings or special events. Not only are guests always welcome, but this is also how we can make potential members aware of the benefits of Chapter membership.

**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](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or Leslie at [lesliecotu@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or Allen Allegretto at [allegrettoa@yahoo.com](mailto:allegrettoa@yahoo.com)

## Membership Dues Update

Submitted by SENCLAND Treasurer, Anna Marie Allegretto



To date, the SENCLAND Chapter has sourced 93% of its JROTC Scholarships, Veterans Scholarships, and its Community Outreach budget from member donations. The total budget for these programs includes additional monies committed from the Chapter. We will continue to accept donations to do additional good in our community.

**Thanks to you all for your donations!**

Without your generosity and continued support we would not be able to continue to help serve our communities.

## March 2026 Meeting/Luncheon

March 3, 2026  
Luncheon/Meeting  
At the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#)



Major General Joe Shrader, USMC (Ret), President and CEO, of the *Carolina Museum of the Marine*, gave an inspiring presentation about the museum during the March 3rd SENCLAND meeting/luncheon. The museum is planned to open in June 2026 and will be located in Jacksonville, NC. General Shrader's descriptions of the architecture of the building, artifacts, exhibits, and display items, peaked interest in visiting and supporting the museum.



After Major General Shrader entertained several questions from the audience, SENCLAND Chapter President, Mike Apicella, thanked him and presented him with a SENCLAND Challenge Coin and a gift from the chapter.

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



## SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Location: Bluewater Waterfront Grill, 4 Marina St. Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

Bluewater Map [Bluewater Map](#)

Time: Please arrive by 11:15am to allow for registration and menu selections.

The program will start at 11:30.

### 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, check or credit card.

### Menu Selection:

1. Classic Caesar Salad w/Chicken
2. Atlantic Salmon Wrap w/seasoned fries
3. BW Cheeseburger w/seasoned fries
4. Grilled Chicken Club w/seasoned fries

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

**Please RSVP no later than Sunday, 29 March**

## Scheduled 2026 Luncheons/Programs

**Apr 7, 2026 , Bluewater Grill:** Major General Thomas (Rob) Tempel on Dental programs

**May 5, 2026, Island Way Restaurant, Oak Island:** 1776 Recognition – Hunter Ingram, Historian, Burgwin-Wright House

**Sept 1, 2026 Bluewater Grill:** Eric Kozen - Superintendent of Oakdale Cemetery

**Oct 6, 2026 Bluewater Grill:** Mike Kozlosky, WMPO Wilmington Transportation Planning

**Nov 3, 2026 Bluewater Grill:** LTGEN Tom Conant – Pacific Rim Geopolitics

**Dec 1, 2026 Bluewater Grill:** TBD – Holiday program

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, June 5, 2026** — Join us for our SENCLAND MOAA Summer Picnic at Long Leaf Park.

## April 7, 2026 Meeting/Luncheon

### Major General Thomas R. Tempel, Jr. , US Army (Retired)

The featured presenters for the April 7th SENCLAND MOAA meeting/ luncheon will be Major General Joe Thomas R. Tempel, Jr. (Ret). General Tempel will provide an energetic talk about leadership from military and civilian perspectives, and discuss dental services, including satellite dental clinics in North Carolina and the nonprofit Smiles for Vets.

#### BIO: Thomas R. Tempel, Jr.

Major General Thomas “Rob” Tempel, Jr. served as the Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices at the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine after retiring as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Regional Health Command – Central and the 27th Chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps. He previously served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Western Regional Medical Command on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Commander of the U.S. Army Dental Command on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Walter Reed Dental Activity, Washington, D.C.; Northern Regional Dental Command on Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and as the Northern Regional Medical Command Readiness Director also on Fort Belvoir.



General Tempel received his Bachelor of Arts degree, and was a Distinguished Military Graduate from Gettysburg College in 1987. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps and then attended the University of Maryland Dental School, where he received his dental degree in 1991.

General Tempel attended the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, after which he served as the Fort Meade Dental Activity Commander on Fort Meade, Maryland. He is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. He completed the Special Forces Detachment Officers Qualification Course; Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School; Combat Casualty Care Course; Jumpmaster School; Dental Clinic Management Course; Inter-agency Federal Healthcare Executives Course; and the Medical Capstone Course. He wears the Special Forces Tab, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Royal Thai Airborne Wings.

He is now retired living in Swansboro, NC with his wife Kathy. His daughter is a Captain in the Army Dental Corps stationed at Fort Campbell, KY.



## JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

Submitted by David Everette, JROTC Coordinator

***We would like to thank everyone who donated to the JROTC Scholarships and Leadership Awards programs and ask you to keep these important programs in mind. Please consider a donation to these worthwhile projects now. Thank you again to all our generous contributors.***

I am notifying all members and soliciting volunteers to attend the various end of the year high school JROTC Awards Ceremonies. I need members to confirm with me that they will be able to volunteer this year. I am gathering the dates for the individual unit awards ceremonies. Thanks to our 2025 volunteers.



## Veteran Student Education Scholarship

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

We are looking forward to our 2026 Veteran Grant/Scholarship Program. Thanks to all donors for your help. We are working with a budget shortfall and are always looking for additional funding. Please reach out to your friends.

Below are pictures from the annual Cape Fear Community College Donor Appreciation Dinner, held on March 12th. Close to 150 people were present in the Union Station building on Front Street, downtown Wilmington. Chapter President Mike Apicella met and spoke with some of SENCLAND's previous grant recipients as well as the CFCC President, Mr. Jim Morton. One of our recipients, Faith Hommel (pictured), an Air Force veteran is now working locally for Cape Fear Hospice. She extended her thanks for SENCLAND's contribution to her success.



***The CFCC veteran community is quite large and SENCLAND's impact, though small, is greatly felt by those we help.***

## **Community Outreach**

**Submitted by Leon Rooks, Outreach Committee Chair**

This year SENCLAND's Community Outreach program awarded \$500 to a deserving family that needed financial assistance. Our mission is to provide assistance to qualified veterans and families. With the help of Veteran Organizations in our area we have a partnership in finding veterans who are in need.

We started with a budget of \$2,000 by the "Grace" of our members. Thank you for your support of the Community Outreach Program. But, the mission field is rich, and once again we have requested a grant through National MOAA for additional funds to widen our ability to serve more veterans.

**If you know of any veteran that is in need please contact me or any Outreach Committee member.**

### **Outreach Committee**

**Leon Rooks – Chair**

**Hondo Davids – Committee Member**

**Fred Kuhm – Committee Member**

## **Surviving Spouse Corner**

**Submitted by Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison**

I continue providing the Surviving Spouses information that is relevant to them that I glean from various sources.

I also developed an email distribution list for all the Surviving Spouses; it helps me rapidly get information to them.

**Marco Vialpando**

**SENCLAND Surviving Spouse Liaison**

910-530-4025, [vipp6@yahoo.com](mailto:vipp6@yahoo.com)

## Wellness Committee

Submitted David Foster Wellness Chair - Email: dwfcwo2@msn.com Cell: 910-604-0034

***“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”  
Isaiah 41:10***



One of our great patriots, Jim Watkins, is now with the Lord. Jim was an active SENCLAND Chapter member who gave selflessly to his community. Jim's legacy goes far beyond his 27 years of active duty. Our prayers for peace go out to his wife, Kim, and their family. May Jim's memory always bring a joyful smile.

**James J. Watkins, COL, USA (Ret)  
(January 13, 1948 - February 25, 2026)**

Spring 2026 is here! Praise the Lord, we made it through the winter. Now is the time for new beginnings as we celebrate Passover and Easter. What a wonderful time to be alive and living in coastal North Carolina! May we all feel God's eternal love. This world is rapidly changing. Our country needs us! We each have a special gift we can give freely to our service members and leaders. Prayer.

***Our prayer is that God protects those standing the watch. Thank you Lord, for giving our leaders the wisdom they seek so they can make the right decisions in peacetime and war. Amen.***

We encourage you to let us know about any members in need who may enjoy an uplifting visit, prayer, or card. Your SENCLAND MOAA family is active and available to provide support to you and your family.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like a word of prayer, a home visit, or if you are called to serve on the Wellness Committee.

***Thus says the Lord in Jeremiah 29:12-13, “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart.”***

### **Wellness Team**

**Wellness Chair — David Foster  
Stephen Bird  
Mike Burrous**

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

## Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Sean Murphy, Ray Pelletier and Jeff Morgan

### In Washington

I am sure you have heard that temporary funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expired on 13 February. Some members of Congress are using the appropriations process to try to limit the tactics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol officers during immigration enforcement operations. So now DHS is mostly shutdown (ICE is fully operational, having been funded through 2026 in the “Big Beautiful Bill”). This means the Coast Guard, TSA and other agencies will not be paid for the duration of the shutdown.

**Advocacy in Action.** On April 15, leaders from among MOAA’s 350,000 members – representing a community of more than 22 million current, former, and retired uniformed services personnel – will bring four important issues to Capitol Hill as a part of MOAA’s signature annual advocacy campaign, Advocacy in Action. This year, MOAA’s efforts will center on four initiatives designed to uphold our nation’s commitments to our servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors.

#### **Major Richard Star Act**

Combat-injured servicemembers who are medically retired before reaching 20 years of service lose some or all of their earned retirement pay because it is offset by VA disability compensation. The [Major Richard Star Act](#) (H.R. 2102 | S. 1032) would correct this long-standing injustice for these wounded warriors. Nearly 54,000 combat-injured veterans are affected by this policy. The legislation has broad bipartisan support in both chambers, but passage has been blocked by procedural and funding issues in recent years. Correcting this injustice reinforces a simple principle: Retirement earned through service and compensation earned through sacrifice are not the same, and both should be honored.

#### **Shutdown Fairness Act**

Recent funding lapses have left approximately 41,000 Coast Guard servicemembers performing their duties without certainty of timely pay. This is the third shutdown within the last year, and during these funding gaps, active duty servicemembers, retirees, and their families are forced to grapple with the stress and hardships of missed paychecks. The [Shutdown Fairness Act](#) (S. 3168) would provide a permanent fix, ensuring members of the armed forces continue to receive pay and benefits during funding lapses while Congress resolves broader appropriations matters. Those who serve should not be asked to operate under the threat of financial uncertainty, especially when readiness and retention are already under pressure. This act will also enable reservists to continue performing drill functions, maintaining readiness, during future government shutdowns.

#### **GUARD VA Benefits Act**

Unaccredited companies are charging veterans thousands of dollars to assist with VA disability claims, a service which is legally available for free through accredited representatives. Weak enforcement mechanisms have allowed bad actors to exploit veterans navigating the VA claims process. The [GUARD VA Benefits Act](#) (H.R. 1732) would restore penalties for unauthorized fees and strengthen oversight. Veterans should never have to surrender a portion of their earned benefits to unregulated, for-profit intermediaries.

## Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Sean Murphy, Ray Pelletier and Jeff Morgan

### In Washington (continued)

#### **Military CARE Act**

Military families frequently encounter appointment shortages, referral delays, and other barriers to access at military treatment facilities (MTFs) – often with no clear, standardized way to elevate or track access-to-care concerns. The [Military CARE Act](#) (H.R. 6796) would establish a centralized digital platform allowing TRICARE beneficiaries to report access-to-care problems, route concerns to the appropriate patient advocate, and provide the Defense Health Agency and Congress with aggregated data to address widespread challenges.

#### **Join MOAA Legislative Action Center and Help Keep SENCLAND Chapter Strong**

MOAA has begun an incentive program to encourage members to join the Legislative Action Center and participate in advocacy efforts. Now the SENCLAND Chapter will receive 10 points towards Level of Excellence award for each 10% increase in Legislative Action Center participation. You can sign up for the MOAA Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us> and immediately participate in MOAA advocacy efforts by submitting the pre-written letters to your elected officials. You can also choose to receive weekly email newsletters that will keep you informed about current legislative issues.

Additional details are available in the Advocacy section of the MOAA website ([MOAA - MOAA Home Page](#)) or in *Military Officer* magazine.



[Advocacy in Action 2026](#)

### In North Carolina

The General Assembly reconvened 12 January 2026 for the Short Session and has been meeting a few days each month, primarily working on overriding Governor's vetoes and finalizing a budget. NC is the only state in the nation that has not passed a budget for the current legislative session. No proposed legislation affecting active-duty personnel, retirees, or veterans has been considered so far this year.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 Leslie Robinson at [lesliecotu@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliecotu@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
<b>1</b>	FIRST/NICK NAME _____ LAST NAME _____ RANK _____ SERVICE BRANCH _____ STATUS _____ Active Duty, Reserve or Guard, Retired, Former Officer (not retired)
<b>2</b> (Form for a spouse's nametag)	FIRST/NICK NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

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 Leslie at [lesliecotu@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliecotu@hotmail.com) or 703-470-3392



(Example of completed nametag)

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

This section includes information and insights that some SENCLAND Chapter members felt would be of interest to other SENCLAND newsletter readers.

### **The Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial in Washington, DC to be completed in 2026**— Submitted by Allan Turner, Immediate Past President

As a Veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I recently learned that an organization has been working on a Memorial to this 1990-1991 campaign for several years. This picture is an artist's



rendering of the Memorial on the National Mall. Construction of the different elements of the memorial off-site has been going on for several years. On-site construction has now begun. A Dedication Ceremony is planned for sometime in 2026.

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act - Authorizes the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor those who, as members of the

Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield. Construction of the Memorial is led by the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a 501(c)3 organization in Washington, D.C. The association is led by a Board of Directors comprised of veterans who served during Operation Desert Storm.

Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm were the first major foreign crises for the United States after the end of the Cold War. The successful completion of the war was one of the swiftest in history, however, the war took the lives of many service people. The goal of the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial is to create an educational, meaningful, and deeply moving sequential experience for visitors that:

- 1) Educates them about the historical events of Desert Shield and Desert Storm;
- 2) Identifies each of the coalition countries and illustrates the historical significance of the 34-nation coalition that united to liberate Kuwait;
- 3) Reflects the unique environmental and battle conditions experienced by servicemen and women in this war;
- 4) Leaves visitors with an enduring memory of the historical significance and accomplishments of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Since no tax dollars or government assistance can be used, the organization must solely rely on the generosity of citizens, companies, and organizations to make this mission a success. Please click on the following link if you would like to contribute to this lasting tribute to this campaign and add your name to the list of donors. Source: <https://www.ndswm.org/>

## TOPICS OF INTEREST (Continued)

This section includes information and insights that some SENCLAND Chapter members felt would be of interest to other SENCLAND newsletter readers.

### **Acquisition of Land to Build Camp LeJeune In 1941** — Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Co-Chair

In 1941 the US Government bought the land of nearly 700 landowners due to the construction of Camp LeJeune in Onslow County, NC. Displaced families often received slow, undervalued compensation as they relocated rapidly throughout the region. The acquisition covered roughly 161,000 acres, including several small towns and communities. Because the relocation was very rapid some families had to live in temporary, rudimentary shelter while relocating. The removal was traumatic for residents, many of whom were generational farmers or fishermen.

Recognizing the sacrifice of these families, many years later the Marine Corps hosted picnics and tours of the Camp LeJeune Base so they could see where their families' home had been. Descendants of the displaced families organized, raised funding, designed and built a memorial to these families' sacrifice.

**Two current SENCLAND Chapter members are among the decedents; Gary Henderson, LtCol, USAF (Ret), and Mary Dexter Baggett, Surviving Spouse of Durwood Baggett, Major, USA (Ret.)**



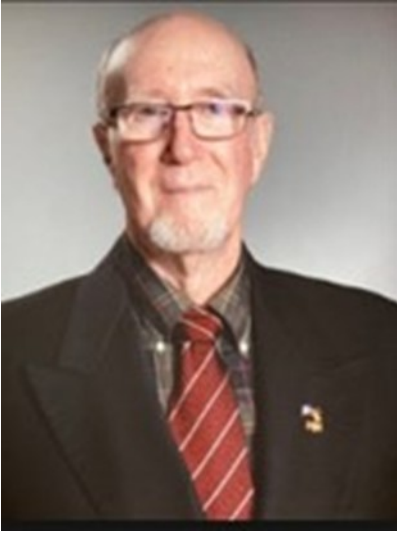
Follow these links additional information:

<https://www.lejeune.marines.mil/News/Article/Article/512782/before-there-was-camp-lejeune-there-were-landowners/>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/57697/annual-landowners-reunion-bridges-generational-gap>

## SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE

### *Thomas C. Jones, BG US Army (Retired )*



General Jones was commissioned in 1961 in the Army 'Military Police Corps from Boston College ROTC. After a two-year detail to the Infantry and stationed in Germany, he returned to the MP Corps as Commander, 287th MP Company in Berlin, one day before the historic visit of President Kennedy.

Upon his return to CONUS, General Jones attended the MP Officer Career Course and then graduate school at Michigan State, University followed by an MP Company Command tour in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN).

Returning to CONUS in 1971 General Jones attended Command and General Staff College and was then assigned again Vietnam as a Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) unit commander. Returning to Washington he served as a personnel staff officer at U.S. Army Headquarters (HQDA) during which he was selected and attended the FBI National Academy in 1975. He attended the Army War College 1979-80. He was reassigned to Germany as Commander, European Region CID. This command tour was followed by an assignment in Germany

as Provost Marshal, US Army Europe. He was promotion to Brigadier General while serving in his position. After 6 years in Germany General Jones again returned to Army Headquarters as Director, Human Resources, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (ODCSPER). He retired from the Army in October 1993.

**EDITOR:** Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *I initially joined The Retired Officers Association (TROA) since as a HQ Army staff officer I saw that it was an organization dedicated to representing the interest of all service members in the halls of power and an influence at the seat of government. I became a MOAA legacy and life member when it replaced TROA.*

**EDITOR:** Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *I was introduced to SENCLAND by colleagues who introduced me to Wilmington and who were also members of the Chapter. Enjoy meetings, collegiality, speakers, and the ability to make a difference. I am proud to serve as the chapter's Army Service Director.*

**EDITOR:** What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *In addition to MOAA I am also a member of the Wilmington Senior Men's Club, and the NC Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA).*

**EDITOR:** Do you have other comments to share with SENCLAND members or other newsletter readers? *I encourage fellow qualified veterans to join the SENCLAND chapter if they are MOAA members, and if not, to join MOAA if they are eligible and then join us.*



**Tom and wife Helga, relaxing at the US Army Edelweiss Lodge, Garmisch Germany**

## 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 Mike Apicella, [sencland.president@gmail.com](mailto:sencland.president@gmail.com).



**MOAA<sup>®</sup>**  
INSURANCE  
PLANS

**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

**1-800-247-2192**  
**[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)**

100392



---

*Whenever possible, please patronize  
our sponsors and let them know we all  
appreciate their support of our  
important initiatives.*

---

## SPONSORS (Continued)

Wilmington's premier bakery since 1985



Open 7 days a week



**APPLE ANNIE'S**  
BAKE SHOP

*Make Memories*

Proudly Veteran owned



University Square & The Forum

## Where Luxury Lives



**Anne Leanos**

*Navy Veteran | MBA | Broker | Realtor*

309-868-2245

[Anne@IJCoastal.com](mailto:Anne@IJCoastal.com)

[AnneLeanos.IJCoastal.com](http://AnneLeanos.IJCoastal.com)

SELL, BUY, INVEST

  
IVESTER JACKSON  
COASTAL PROPERTIES

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE




---

***Whenever possible, please patronize our sponsors and let them know we all appreciate their support of our important initiatives.***

---

# SENCLAND SENTINEL

SOUTHEASTERN NC  
CHAPTER



MOAA

Place Stamp  
Here

THE SENCLAND CHAPTER  
of the  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 10015  
Wilmington, NC 28404

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

April 2026

