



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER
 P.O. BOX 10015 • WILMINGTON NC 28404 • WWW.SENCLAND.ORG

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May 2026

SENTINEL

May 2026 Message from President Mike Apicella – sencland.president@gmail.com

Greetings!



It was a real honor to have the Major General (Retired) Thomas “Rob” Tempel, Jr. as our guest speaker at our April 7 meeting. MG Tempel 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. MG Rob Tempel gave an awesome presentation on leadership in the Military as well as the civilian sector. We had a total of 80 members in attendance and all of us walked away with a newfound appreciation for East Carolina University and its extensive history.

In addition, we had a short presentation by one of our SENCLAND members, Paul Niggel on the 2026 Veteran Tribute Banner Drive in Wilmington NC. It is a collaboration between the New Hanover County Veterans Council and the New Hanover County Community Remembrance Project. The plan is to honor Lieutenant Thomas J. Bullock. He was a Veteran of the Spanish American War and the Philippines but was Killed in action during the Second Battle of the Marne on 2 September 1918. He is buried at Pine Forest Cemetery in Wilmington. Donations and further information can be found at: <https://www.sencveteransparade.com/veteran-banner-project>.

Jay Garbus from the MOAA NC Council of Chapters presented the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Presidential Award to Past Chapter President Ken Klassen, CDR, USN (ret), for his contributions to North Carolina MOAA Council of Chapters, and the Cape Fear Community College Philanthropy Officer, Sydney Westmoreland and Army Veteran and SENCLAND MOAA scholarship recipient, Marcus Abraham, thanked the chapter and its members for their contributions to the CFCC veteran students.

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Chapter Awards



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President's Message (Continued)

Submitted by President Mike Apicella

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 2025. This represents the 7th consecutive year we have won the LOE at this level, and the 8th for the Harris Award at this level. My thanks to each of you for your contributions in making our chapter a truly great organization.

Our May meeting will be on Tuesday 5 May at the [Island Way Restaurant](#), 1407 East Beach Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465. Please arrive at 11:30am (restaurant opening time) to allow for registration, menu selections, and limited parking. The program will start at 12:00. We need to have a good headcount by Sunday 26 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 see additional details for these events in [Programs](#).

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!

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.

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! In particular, read the **Topics of Interest** and the SENCLAND Member's Profile for the month, CAPT Barry J. Coyle, US Navy, 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

Officers

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

- Robert M. Brady, Captain, USCGR (Ret.) Bob and Liz live in Carolina Beach
- Charles R. Kletz, CWO-3, USN (Ret.) Charles and Patricia live in Leland
- Eduardo San Miguel, Colonel, USAF (Ret.). Ed and Mary live in Sneads Ferry



We are saddened to announce that long time Chapter Member and former Chapter Treasurer **David W. Gould, Colonel, USMC (Retired)** has passed away. Dave served as the chapter's treasurer until 2022 when he and his wife moved to Tennessee. Colonel Gould graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1964 and began a distinguished career as a Marine Corps pilot and following that as a commercial pilot. He also served as a union domicile representative and vice president with the Allied Pilots Association. On December 18, 2001, retired as a Boeing 737-800 Captain having flown approximately 17,000 hours. A funeral mass was held on April 23, 2026 at noon at St. Therese Catholic Church, Wrightsville Beach, NC.

The full obituary is available at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/david-gould-obituary?id=61248421>



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 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

April 2026 Meeting/Luncheon



April 7, 2026
Luncheon/Meeting
At the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#)



It was a real honor to have the Major General (Retired) Thomas "Rob" Tempel, Jr. as our guest speaker at our April 7 meeting. MG Tempel 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. MG Rob Tempel gave an awesome presentation on leadership in the Military as well as the civilian sector.



In addition, SENCLAND member, Paul Niggel gave a short presentation on the 2026 Veteran Tribute Banner Drive, Jay Garbus from the MOAA NC Council of Chapters presented the MOAA Presidential Award to Past President Ken Klassen and the CFCC Philanthropy Officer, Sydney Westmoreland and SENCLAND MOAA scholarship recipient, Marcus Abraham, thanked the SENCLAND chapter for its contributions to the CFCC veteran students.

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



SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Location: Island Way Restaurant, 1407 East Beach Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465

[Island Way Map](#). This is a gorgeous venue on the beach.

Time: Please arrive by 11:30am (restaurant opening time) to allow for registration, menu selections, and limited parking. The program will start at 12:00.

Price: \$30.00

1. Includes water, sweet and unsweet iced tea, soft drinks, 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. Salmon Champagne Salad
2. Philly Cheesesteak
3. Coconut Shrimp
4. Grilled Chicken Salad

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

Please RSVP no later than Sunday, 26 April

Scheduled 2026 Luncheons/Programs

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

Sep 1, 2026 Bluewater Grill: GEN Curtis Scaparrotti - mid-east military operations

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.

5 May 2026 Meeting/Luncheon

Hunter Ingram, Assistant Museum Director, Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens

We continue our recognition of our nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Hunter Ingram will provide a dynamic presentation on the activities and incidents of resistance in the Cape Fear region that occurred before and during the American Revolution.

BIO: Hunter Ingram

Hunter Ingram is the assistant museum director for the Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens. At the house, he is also the host of the award-winning podcast "Burgwin-Wright Presents". The podcast tells the history of the Cape Fear region through specific themes, including local legends and the book and TV series "Outlander." Hunter also hosts river cruises and walking tours in downtown Wilmington for the Burgwin-Wright House.

Previously, Hunter spent more than seven years working for the Wilmington StarNews. He also served as the historian for the *Old Baldy Lighthouse* and the *Smith Island Museum of History* on Bald Head Island.



Historic Downtown Wilmington
*Burgwin-Wright House and
Gardens*

224 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 762-0570

Source:

Wilmington.C.
River District of Island Beaches

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



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, Captain, USMC, Scholarship Coordinator

The Cape Fear Community College Philanthropy Officer, Sydney Westmoreland and Army Veteran and SENCLAND MOAA scholarship recipient, Marcus Abraham enjoyed themselves at the 7 April SENCLAND Meeting/Luncheon. They thanked the chapter and its members for their contributions to the CFCC veteran students.



Community Outreach

Submitted by Leon Rooks, Outreach Committee Chair

This year SENCLAND MOAA Community Outreach Program started with a budget of \$2000 to help deserving individuals that are in need of assistance. We were approached by the New Hanover County Veterans Service Office about a local veteran who was in need of financial help. Our Committee promptly reviewed the application and we were available to provide a grant of \$500 to help this Veteran. This is an example of our mission. Our Outreach Committee works with veteran organizations in NHC and catchment area, which is the seven surrounding counties.

Grants are available to qualified individuals in need of assistance to include, Housing, Food assistance, Transportation, Financial and Health and others. SENCLAND is working with a veteran now and an application is being prepared as I am writing this update.

Community Outreach is funded by SENCLAND donors and grants from National MOAA. I have applied for that grant from National MOAA but we will not learn the results until late May.

If any one knows a veteran in need, please let me know. I can be reached by phone at 910- 6124516 or email at Leon.Rooks@hotmail.com

Outreach Committee

Leon Rooks – Chair
Hondo Davids – Committee Member
Fred Kuhm – Committee Member

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison

As the weather turns warmer, there are more opportunities for groups to gather and that includes the Surviving Spouses. I plan to query the group to see if they would like to sit together at the Chapter picnic in June. If so, perhaps they would like to be introduced to the Chapter, and I would mention the contribution of their spouse's service. Additionally, I will continue to provide information that I think may be of use to them. **See you at the picnic!**

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

Wellness Committee

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

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

One of our great patriots and past MOAA Treasurer, David Gould, is now with the Lord. Dave was a tremendous giver, and he gave many years of great service to our SENCLAND Chapter and his community. David left a legacy that our chapter continues to build on. Our prayers for peace go out to his wife, Deidre (“D”), and their family. May David’s memory always bring each of us a joyful smile.



What a beautiful spring it is in Wilmington! All the flowers made their grand entrance just in time for the Azaela Festival week! What a show the Lord puts on for us to enjoy and Summer is quickly approaching.

We are in prayer for all of our active-duty service members as they are on the front lines with their heads on a swivel. We also pray for our Blue Star Moms who are lifting their children in prayer for God’s protection. Happy Mother’s Day to all our Moms, May 10th.

Please continue 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.

Isaiah 66:13 reads, ***“God declares: “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;”***

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

The impasse over FY 2026 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not been resolved. President Trump has directed the use of unobligated appropriations from other accounts to pay salaries at TSA, Coast Guard, and FAA. These funds will expire in mid-May. No clear way forward has appeared, but both Houses of Congress are working on the problem. The White House proposed the fiscal 2027 budget on April 3, two months later than required by law. The President is requesting \$1.5 trillion for the Defense Department in fiscal 2027, a 44% increase from the already historic amount of nearly \$1 trillion requested in fiscal 2026, per the proposal. Professional staffers on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are reviewing this request in preparation for drafting the FY 2027 DoD Appropriations Bills. Similarly, the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees have begun work on the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act. We'll be hearing more about these important pieces of legislation as work matures.

Advocacy in Action 2026. MOAA members brought the organization's top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15, visiting about 300 congressional offices. MOAA members from across the nation visited offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation:

- The Major Richard Star Act, which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.
- The Shutdown Fairness Act, which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.
- The GUARD VA Benefits Act, which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they've earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit "claim sharks."
- The Military CARE Act, which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.

A big thank you to all the Chapter members who joined the Legislative Action Center and participated in these advocacy efforts. If you have not yet done so, you can sign up for the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

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. Key North Carolina legislative actions for the military in late spring 2026 focus on tax relief for disabled veterans, enhanced educational benefits, and professional licensing for military spouses. Key bills include the Disabled Veterans Tax Relief Bill (HB 341) and the Military and Veteran Support Act (SB 118), which facilitate tuition aid and license portability. It is not yet clear that any of these bills will be considered by the full General Assembly this year.

New laws passed in 2025 focused on strengthening safety for military families, facilitating faster licensing for military spouses and continued funding for state-wide military installations. These initiatives aim to strengthen North Carolina's reputation as a military-friendly state by addressing housing, education, and career challenges for service members and their families.

SENCLAND MOAA Membership Benefits

The MOAA SENCLAND Chapter Offers Outstanding Programs to its Members and Community

The SENCLAND chapter has meetings with outstanding programs ten months of the year, usually the first Tuesday of the month. The chapter meeting in June is a picnic where we include our JrROTC Scholarship winners and their families. The May meeting is held in Southport and the December meeting is a Holiday social. All other SENCLAND Chapter meetings are held at the Blue-water Waterfront Grill in Wrightsville Beach. Our Board meets several times during the year.

The Sentinel, our monthly newsletter is available electronically and in hard copy. Our chapter supports 18 local JROTC programs and provides generous Scholarships to High School students each year. We also have scholarships for veterans attending local colleges and an Outreach Program that helps local veterans and their families. The Chapter also supports Honor Flights that take veterans on all-expenses-paid flights from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM) to Washington, DC for a day of remembrance as they visit memorials and monuments built in their honor.

Join SENCLAND

To join the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter, click on the “Join SENCLAND” button to download and print the application form. Then email the application form to the Membership Chair Al Schroetel at downeast@bellsouth.net or mail it to the chapter at **SENCLAND CHAPTER MOAA P.O. Box 10015 Wilmington, NC 28404**

SENCLAND Website

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster, allegrettoa@yahoo.com , or call: **910-617-2307**)

The SENCLAND website (<http://www.sencland.org>) can help you stay informed about upcoming chapter events and current activities. It is easy to access and requires no logon. Our website provides Membership information, News and Events, calendar of chapter events, Legislative Information, updates on chapter programs including outreach, scholarships, and JROTC leadership awards, newsletter and meeting minutes, and a page honoring Fallen Heroes. It shows how to make donations and online payments. You can also read about our chapter mission and view current leadership.

Our chapter Membership Roster is also available on the website. This is the only page that requires log-on to access. If you need help logging onto the website to view the chapter roster, please email or call Allen Allegretto.

SENCLAND Facebook Page

SENCLAND Chapter Facebook Page - View “Like” and “Share” the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook posts with other members and prospective members. The web address for the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/sencland>.



MOAA National and NC Chapters Websites

MOAA national website (www.MOAA.org) is a wealth of information for current, former, retired officers, and surviving spouses. Every chapter member is encouraged to visit and explore this site and take advantage of the resources available. Similarly, the North Carolina Council of Chapters website (www.moaa-nc.org) is also a great resource for what MOAA is doing at the state level as well as information on other NC Chapters.

MOAA National Newsletter

MOAA Newsletter - MOAA National members can easily take advantage of this free email newsletter which publishes news and information that is taking place at the national level. If you would like to receive this go to www.moaa.org, click on the "News & Info" pulldown menu on the upper right hand side and then click on "Newsletters".

About the *Sentinel*

The SENCLAND *Sentinel* newsletter is published monthly (except July and August) in time to provide information on upcoming meetings. We want this newsletter to be of value, but we do not aim to compete with established media, and we do not simply distill what MOAA National is publishing in *Military Officer* each month. We want to keep you informed about the chapter, our efforts to stay connected with each other, and our support of local military and veteran communities. Our newsletter is distributed electronically by email to our members when published. Current and previous editions are also available on our website at <https://sencland.org/documents/>.

We encourage you to provide content for publication in our newsletter and online. Simply send your notices, letters, articles, and photos to our editor, Dianne Jinwright (senclandsentinel@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month to be considered for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. All items are subject to editing.

Statement of Affiliations

The SENCLAND *Sentinel* Newsletter is published by the SENCLAND Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations.

SENCLAND Chapter Embroidered Apparel

SENCLAND Embroidered LOGO Shirts, Caps, & Outerwear are now available at our Chapter Online Store hosted by Queensboro Shirt Co. You can access the store using: <https://senclandmoaa.qbstores.com>

You can save shipping cost if you are willing to pick up at Queensboro Shirt Co at 1400 Marstellar Street in Wilmington. Call Queensboro at [800-847-4478](tel:800-847-4478) after you have placed your order and tell them you want to pick up when ready. They will credit back the shipping cost and call you when ready for pickup.

MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase

Submitted by Chris Morin, Nametag Program. The Chapter is offering the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost of the nametags are \$15 per nametag and they will be the same style and size as in the past (with a magnetic clasp).

We will order Quarterly or when we have at least 10 paid orders. There are two ways to order:

ON-LINE:

Step #1: PayPal Payment can be made at: SENCLAND : Membership: (<https://sencland.org/membership/index.php?id=1636387310>)

This will take you to a window where you can pay for your nametag or nametags. (If that link does not work, go to the SENCLAND Website (<https://sencland.org>) and click on the tab for "News & Events" on the home page and scroll down to "SENCLAND Nametags").

Step #2: Send an e-mail to Leslie Robinson at 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
1	FIRST/NICK NAME _____ LAST NAME _____ RANK _____ SERVICE BRANCH _____ STATUS _____ Active Duty, Reserve or Guard, Retired, Former Officer (not retired)
2 (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 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.

SENCLAND wins the 2025 MOAA Levels of Excellence and Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Awards — Submitted by President Mike Apicella

2025 Levels of Excellence Award



Five-Star Affiliate
Southeastern NC Chapter of MOAA

2025 Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Award



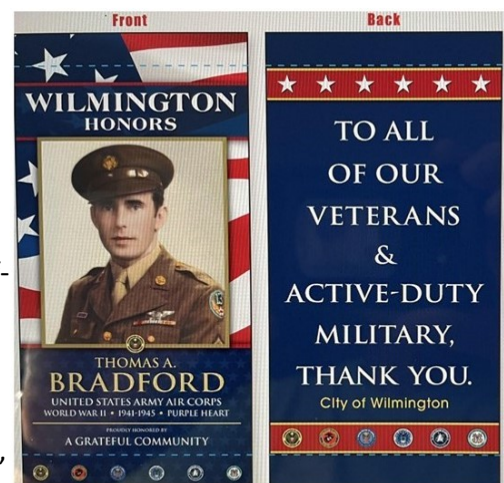
Southeastern NC Chapter of MOAA:
5-Star Newsletter; 5-Star Website

MOAA has announced the winners of the annual Council and Chapter Levels of Excellence (LOE) Awards and annual Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for 2025. 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 2025. This represents the 7th consecutive year we have won the LOE at this level, and the 8th for the Harris Award at this level.

New Hanover County Veterans Banner Project — Submitted by the Editor

The New Hanover County Veterans Council's Veteran Tribute Banner project pay tribute to veterans or active military service members. Banners may be ordered online at <https://www.sencveteransparade.com/veteran-banner-project>.

- The banner honoree or the sponsor must be from New Hanover County
 - Specific details about the honoree's military service are required
 - A digitized black & white or color photo of the honoree, preferably in uniform, is required to place on the banner. If no photo is available, a stars & stripes design will be displayed.
 - The sponsor of the banner will be named towards the bottom of the banner after Proudly Honored By . . .
 - Banners cost \$175 each which includes the banner, brackets, shipping, and installation charges. Donations are also accepted.
 - Banners are hung between May and December, stored for the winter and then rehung the following May.
- Please inform friends, neighbors and other NHC residents about this project and consider honoring a veteran or active military member with a banner.



New Hanover County
Veteran Banner Project

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.

Veterans Benefits Live--VEAC — Submitted by President Mike Apicella

The American Legion National Headquarters in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will hold a VEAC, at the Wilmington, NC National Guard Armory, Thursday, May 28th - Saturday May 30th.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The American Legion Department of North Carolina, in partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, is proudly sponsoring the 8th Annual

Veteran's Experience Action Center (VA 1-On-1)

Thursday May 28th – Saturday May 30th 2026

THURSDAY – FRIDAY: 9 AM – 3 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM – 2 PM

ALL Veterans & Family Members Are Welcome

This is a unique opportunity for veterans and their dependents to be assisted IN PERSON by a team that includes: State and County Veteran Service Officers (VSO's); VA benefits specialists & healthcare staff.

These representatives can help facilitate and expedite your new or existing VA disability claims or other VA benefits.

Location- National Guard Armory
2414 Infantry Rd. Wilmington NC.

COME PREPARED!

Bring your DD Form 214, any existing documentation pertaining to your case, including medical records relating to your disability – both military and civilian.



If Possible, Come On The Day Aligned With Your Social Security Account Number:

Thursday 28 May:	SSAN ending in 00-33
Friday 29 May:	SSAN ending in 34-66
Saturday 30 May:	SSAN ending in 67-99

DONATIONS: May be made to NC American Legion Post 551, PO Box 10483, Southport, NC 28641. Make checks payable to: "NC Post 551" and state VEAC in the memo portion.

SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE

Barry J. Coyle, CAPT, US Navy (Retired)



CAPT Coyle attended the University of Pennsylvania on a Navy ROTC Scholarship. After graduation/commissioning in May 1969, he went right to Navy Flight Training. He got his wings of gold in July 1970. After some advanced training he reported to his first squadron, Fleet Air Reconnaissance (VQ-3) on Guam, where he qualified as Aircraft Commander and Instructor Pilot in the EC-130. His mission was airborne communications.

CAPT Coyle returned to the University of Pennsylvania as an NROTC Instructor from 1973-76. His unit participated in many activities supporting Philadelphia's 200th Anniversary of the U.S. celebrations. He muses, "Who knew I'd still be around for the 250th". CAPT Coyle went back to flying the EC-130 in VQ-3 at Patuxent River, MD. from 1976-79 and then went to the Pentagon for a tour on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff, where he played a primary role in the Navy's decision to procure a replacement airframe for the venerable EC-130.

Starting in 1981, CAPT Coyle served in VQ-3 again, in Hawaii, first as a department head then as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. He completed his command tour in 1987, spent a year at Naval War College in Newport, then a three-year tour at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium. In 1991, he returned to the Pentagon for a tour on the Secretary of Navy (SECNAV) staff. He completed his Navy career as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Millington, TN from 1993-95. CAPT Coyle retired in July 1995 after a great 26-year adventure. He accumulated over 7000 flight hours in 7 models of airplanes, lived in and visited many interesting places, and had lots of great travels with his family.

EDITOR: Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *I joined TROA in 1994, as I began planning for retirement. TROA had a great transition assistance and job placement program. I actually got my first job out of the Navy using that TROA service. I stayed a member as TROA transitioned to MOAA. I like reading all the info in "Military Officer" magazine and keeping up with current military and retiree current events.*

EDITOR: Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *I joined SENCLAND shortly after moving to Wilmington in 2014, because a SENCLAND member who I met at our local gym invited me to join. I really like SENCLAND because it is not just a veterans' organization where folks sit around and tell sea/war stories. SENCLAND is focused on service to the retiree community through scholarships, outreach, and projects. I also like the educational programs and special events.*

EDITOR: What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *I am the Chapter Legislative Affairs Chair, a position I have held for 10 years. I enjoy researching and reporting on Federal and State legislative news and participating in MOAA advocacy efforts, both in Washington and Raleigh. I am also a Board member of a Navy veterans' organization, and serve on my college class reunion planning committee.*



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