



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

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June 2026

SENTINEL

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

Greetings!



Our May 5 SENCLAND meeting was held in the scenic [Oak Island – Island Way Restaurant](#). It was a beautiful day on the Island. We had a very energetic speaker – Hunter Ingram, assistant museum director, who gave a very informative story on the Burgwin-Wright House and its role with the beginning history of this country. Hunter has invited us all to visit the Burgwin-Wright House that is located at 224 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. For further information go

to the website at: <https://www.burgwinwrighthouse.com>.

For our June 5 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. This event is being catered by Mission BBQ. You should have received your invite from Leslie Robeson. You will need to RSVP and Pay for this event by Friday 5/29/26 as we must give a final number to the caterer by then. Once again, we will use the Cheddar Up payment system that MOAA is providing to all the Chapter and Councils.

A special welcome to several new members in the SENCLAND Chapter:

- CDR Patrick M. Graber USN (ret) and his wife Patti
- COL J. Meritt Otto USA (ret) and his wife Sharon
- LTC Raymond E. “Ray” Marshall USA (ret) and his wife Erin
- Leonard James Tippett II, CWO-4 , USMC (ret) and his wife Tracey

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

Happy 251th Birthday and a big “HOOAH” to the U.S. Army - 14 June 1775. You have served this Nation Well!

Continued on next page.

Chapter Awards



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President's Message (Continued)

Submitted by President Mike Apicella

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, these programs are doing great work in our catchment area. Special Thanks to Leon Rooks for his efforts in obtaining a National Grant from MOAA for \$2,750 to help fund our Community Outreach Program.

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! This edition features our scholarship presentations and other information of interest.



MOAA's Strategic Plan Advocacy, Membership, and Community Engagement

Vision, Mission, Values

- ⇒ **Vision:** To be the foremost organization advocating for the uniformed services communities and their families.
- ⇒ **Mission:** To preserve and protect earned benefits for the uniformed services members, veterans, and their families through advocacy and education.
- ⇒ **Values:** Commitment to service, leadership, diversity, inclusion, and professionalism.

If you are not a Premium MOAA member currently, please consider upgrading your membership.



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 Everette, 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:

- Patrick M. Graber, Commander, USN (Ret.). Patrick and Patti live in the Brunswick Forest community of Leland.
- Raymond F. Marshall, Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Ret.). Ray and Erin live in Rocky Point, NC
- J. Merritt Otto, Colonel, USA (Ret.). Merritt & Sharon live in Wilmington's River Lights community.
- Leonard James Tippett II, CWO-4, USMC (Ret.). Len & Tracey live in Richlands, NC.



We are saddened to announce that long-time Chapter Member Rosemary Hilt Petersen passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026 at age 93. Rosemary lived a long and meaningful life centered around family, love, faith, and resilience. She was a devoted Catholic and a faithful member of All Saints Catholic Church. Rosemary was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Colone Darwin Petersen. A Funeral Mass was held April 21, 2026 at All Saints Catholic Church.

Obituary at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/wilmington-nc/rosemary-petersen-12852111>

We also regret the passing of former Chapter member John Patrick Kelly, Colonel USAF (Ret) on April 15, 2026 at age 87. After graduation from Catholic University he joined the U.S. Air Force, for pilot training at Maxwell Air Force Base. Further flying assignments included Yokota AFB, Williams AFB, and Randolph AFB. In 1970, he joined the 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base flying unarmed, camera-laden jet missions over Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. As an exchange officer with the Royal Air Force John joined the team that introduced the British service's new jet trainer, the Hawker Siddeley Hawk. Future assignments included Myrtle Beach (S.C.) AFB, where John was deputy base commander, and Zweibrucken AFB. Germany. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Jill. A celebration of life is being planned.

Obituary: <https://www.wilmingtoncares.com/obituaries/John-Patrick-Kelly?obId=48143870>

Membership Updates (Continued)

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Leslie Roberson, and Allan Turner 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 chapter members but we need your help to do this. Please let us know of major changes such as 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 Al at downeast@bellsouth.net or Allen Allegretto at allegrettoa@yahoo.com



May 2026 Meeting/Luncheon

May 5 2026
Luncheon/Meeting
At the [Island Way Restaurant](#).



The SENCLAND MOAA May Meeting/Luncheon had two main attractions. The first attraction was the guest speaker, Hunter Ingram, assistant museum director for the [Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens](#). Hunter gave a passionate presentation on the history of the Cape Fear region, its local ties to the book and TV series “Outlanders” and the transformation of the Burgwin-Wright House from a city jail to a museum house that offers visitors unique view into life during the colonial era.

The second main attraction were the beautiful ocean front views at the [Island Way Restaurant, at Oak Island](#). The restaurant boasts that it has “some of the best views that the east coast has to offer”; window tables with an unbelievable view of ocean waves crashing into sand, or a fabulous sunset from their deck.



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



SENCLAND Annual Pig Pickin' Picnic

Date: Friday, 5 June 2026

Location: Long Leaf Park, Pavilion #6, 314 Pine Grove Drive. Wilmington, NC

[Directions: Long Leaf Park](#)

Time: 5p.m. – 7p.m.

Parking: Available adjacent to the pavilion.

- Price is **\$35** per person and includes the menu items listed.
- This price also includes covering the meals for our ROTC recipients & their guests, food delivery & set-up.
- RSVP and Pay using the green button:

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 Friday, 29 May**

Scheduled 2026 Luncheons/Programs

Friday, June 5, 2026 — Join us for our SENCLAND MOAA Summer Picnic at Long Leaf Park, 5-7p.m.

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



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.

SENCLAND MOAA participated in 12 JROTC end of the year award ceremonies in May. Below are a sampling of pictures that demonstrate our recognition of deserving JROTC cadets with the awarding of the MOAA Leadership Medal!



Navy Captain Allan Turner at New Hanover High School Army JROTC Ball and Awards ceremony.



Navy Commander David Everette at the Army JROTC awards ceremony at Pender High School



LTC Lee Roy Hanna at the Army JROTC awards ceremony at Whiteville High School.



Captain Fred Kuhn, USN (retired) at the Army JROTC awards ceremony at West Brunswick High School.



Navy Commander David Everette at the Air Force JROTC awards ceremony at Laney High School.



Colonel Mike Apicella, at the Army JROTC awards ceremony at South Brunswick High School.

Community Outreach

Submitted by Leon Rooks, Outreach Committee Chair

The SENCLAND Community Outreach Program is active. We had a request for financial assistance for a local veteran in our community. Our committee reviewed the application, decided this veteran needed help, and agreed to give him a grant of \$500. This deserving veteran needed help to catchup on some utilities.

With a budget of \$2,000 and two grants of \$500, our budget balance to \$1,000. But, this year the National MOAA Foundation opened up an opportunity to request funds for Community Outreach Programs. I requested \$5,000 (the highest award) and waited. In late May I was advised that our chapter was approved for a grant of \$2,750. This award gives us a new balance of \$3,750 which will allow us to assist more veterans in our communities.

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

Below is a picture of Hondo Davids presenting the grant to the veteran in need.



Outreach Committee

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

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Fellow Surviving Spouses, Unfortunately I am unable to attend the picnic, but I do hope that all of you who attend will enjoy yourself. Have a wonderful Summer, stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you in September.

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

***“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
John 15:13***

The month of May is often referred to as the “Month of Freedom.” Our country enjoys freedom because it was purchased by thousands of men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us. We thank God for giving us the gift of this great country, and we pray for all those who are serving in uniform now, willing to give their lives for us. There will be many opportunities in May, to honor our patriots, and one of the largest remembrance ceremonies will be on the Battleship North Carolina. Follow the link to learn more. [Memorial Day Ceremony - Battleship NC](#)

May is for honoring our mothers as well. We remember all our mothers, whether they are here on earth or with God in Heaven. We pray a special prayer for God’s perfect peace to be on all our Gold and Blue Star Mothers.

Congratulations to all families with soon-to-be new graduates. What a wonderful time of year for celebrations and the sharing of family love.

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.

Nehemiah 8:10 reads, ***“Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”***

Wellness Team

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

***“Please be aware that participants attending
MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photo-
graphed 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) was partially resolved on 30 April when President Trump signed a bill that funds TSA, Coast Guard, FEMA, and FAA. Excluded from this appropriations package were ICE and CBP. Both Houses of Congress are working to create legislation to fund these agencies.

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. 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. MOAA and other Veterans Service Organizations have been testifying before these committees and the Veterans Affairs Committees in support of legislative priorities.

MOAA is running several advocacy campaigns in the Legislative Action Center. You can participate in these advocacy efforts by signing up for the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

In North Carolina

The month of May saw a flurry of activity in the General Assembly, with many new bills being introduced, including a few of military/retiree interest. So far most of these bills have been referred to committees for review. Two bills of general interest did pass recently.

- **SB 1080** (sponsored by our Senator Lee) is a proposed constitutional amendment that would cap the NC State Income Tax at 3.5%.
- **SB 1089**, also a proposed constitutional amendment, would limit property tax increases.

Both proposed amendments will be on the ballot in November. SB 1089 is likely to have the effect of closing down consideration of additional tax relief for disabled veterans. Meanwhile, there has been little progress on finalizing a budget for the 2025-26 Legislative Session.

The NC Veterans Council is sponsoring a Veterans Legislative Day on 2 June 2026. We sent the announcement for this event to all Chapter Members on 25 May. If you are interested in attending, please contact Barry Coyle at bcoyle1947@gmail.com or 703-795-6987.

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.

Local JROTC Units need Senior Instructors! — Submitted by **David Everette**, CDR, USNR (ret), JROTC Scholarships & Leadership Awards Chair

JUNIOR ROTC



Senior Instructors Needed (former military officers)

At the Following Schools:

- **New Hanover Army JROTC**
- **Laney Air Force JROTC**
- **Hoggard Navy JROTC**
- **Topsail Coast Guard JROTC**

“The requirements to be a senior instructor have changed to include any officer with 8 years of active service. The compensation is excellent and the intrinsic reward of making an impact will bring out the best in you. This is a wonderful opportunity for the right person to lead JROTC cadets and develop/mentor our future leaders.”

Contact SENCLAND member CDR David Everette, former NJROTC instructor, if you have r your questions.

The requirements to be a senior instructor have changed to include any officer with 8 year of active service. The compensation is excellent and the intrinsic reward of making an impact will bring out the best in you. This is a wonderful opportunity for the right person to lead JROTC cadets and develop/mentor our future leaders.

If you have any questions, CDR David Everette, former NJROTC instructor, can help answer your questions at 910-448-1951. You can apply easily on the following NC Schools website: [North Carolina School Jobs](#)

Thanks for considering these opportunities.

New Hanover County Veterans Banner Project — Submitted by the Editor

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.

NABVETS 2026 Annual Veterans Recognition Gala — Submitted by **Dianne Jinwright**, Lt Col, USAF (ret), SENCLAND MOAA Editor and USAF Service Director



NABVETS 2026 Annual Veterans Recognition Gala

President Apicella,

I wanted to personally thank SENCLAND MOAA for its sponsorship of the Wilmington, NC Chapter of the National Association for Black Veterans Inc (NABVETS) Veterans Recognition Gala. Your contribution helps us continue to serve our communities.

We can continue to hold our annual Feed the Homeless and the Hungry cookouts, continue to support veteran-owned or operated businesses or other organizations that assist military veterans, and continue to provide scholarships to graduating high school students accepted to attend college.

Thanks again for SENCLAND's sponsorship and for supporting our military veterans.

Warmest regards,



Dianne Jinwright
Commander, NABVETS Chapter #0042
Wilmington, NC
NABVETS0042@gmail.com

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.

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.



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P.O. BOX 10015
Wilmington, NC 28404

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

June 2026

