



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER
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SENTINEL

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



Greetings

Greetings and I hope each and every one of you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We've all had a nice break from SENCLAND Chapter activities, and it is now time to crank up our meeting and other activities for the coming year.

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

Happy 79th Birthday to the U.S. Air Force – 18 September 1947; you all have served this nation well.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 1, 2026. Our Special Guest Speaker will be GEN Curtis Scaparrotti who will be speaking on Mideast politics and military operations. In 2019, General (Retired) Curtis "Mike" Scaparrotti completed a distinguished 41-year career in the US Army as the Commander, US European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO. As the NATO Commander, General Scaparrotti worked to preserve the security and stability of the Alliance and strengthen it in the face of traditional and new-age adversaries. He collaborated with the leadership of all 29 NATO member nations, as well as the various NATO partner countries around the world. His presentation comes at a crucial time with the United States and Israeli operations in the Middle East.

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!

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By President Mike Apicella

National MOAA Summer Advocacy In Action 2026

MOAA is actively engaging in an annual campaign to build congressional support for high priority issues during Congress's August recess.

The Three Topics of concern this year are the following:

- Reauthorize the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Veterans and Add Military Spouses
- Restore GLP-1 Coverage for TRICARE for Life (TFL)
- Pass the Major Richard Star Act

Please see the MOAA website under [Advocacy In Action](#) for further details.

MOAA's Strategic Plan

Advocacy, Membership, and Community Engagement

Vision, Mission, and 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 not a Premium MOAA member currently, please consider upgrading your membership.

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! This edition has some very nice, featured articles I know you will enjoy.

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, Maj Gen USAF (ret), 1st Vice President, Legislative Affairs Committee
Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (ret), 2nd Vice President
Fred Kuhm, CAPT, USN (ret), 3rd Vice President, Outreach Committee

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
Allen Allegretto, CDR, USNR (ret), Webmaster, Member Communication System Manager
Karen Murphy, Military Spouse, Social Committee
Hondo Davids, MAJ, USMC (ret), Outreach Committee
Stephen Bird, CAPT, USN (ret), Wellness Committee
Mike Burrous, CPT, USMC, Wellness 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

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

by Al Schroetel, Leslie Roberson, and Allan Turner Membership Co-Chairs

New Members

Welcome to the SENCLAND Chapter

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

Stewart Roberson, Major, USAF (Ret): Stewart and Lissa live in the Compass Point community of Leland

TAPS

With Deepest Sympathy

We regret reporting the passing of Lieutenant Colonel, USA, (Ret), **Raymond Leonard Schultz** on June 28, 2026, at the incredible age of 106 years. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1920. He spent summers during his high school years working for the Forestry Service on the border of Minnesota and Canada for \$1 a day, saving all of the money and sending it back to his mother. Colonel Schultz attended the University of Minnesota and joined the Army after graduation. He learned to speak fluent Mandarin Chinese at the Defense Language Institute, served in 3 wars, specializing in military intelligence in Asia. He was on the front lines, in the streets, and behind desks in Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan, serving for over 40 years. After retiring from the Army, he was an instructor at DoD's Camp Peary. Colonel Schultz was preceded in death by his wife Jeannette (Dao Phan) Schultz. His obituary can be seen at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/wilmington-nc/raymond-schultz-12947344>

Membership Updates (Continued)

We Like Guests: Please invite a friend or neighbor 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 downtown@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 downtown@bellsouth.net or Allen Allegretto at allegrettoa@yahoo.com



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.



Meetings/Luncheons

By Mark Steelman, Programs Chair



SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2026

Location: Bluewater Waterfront Grill, 4 Marina St, Wrightsville Beach NC 28480. [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, 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. Garden Salad w/Chicken
2. Shrimp Tacos w/seasoned fries
3. BW Cheeseburger w/seasoned fries
4. Grilled Chicken Club w/seasoned fries

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

Please RSVP no later than Saturday, 22 August

Scheduled 2026 Luncheons/Programs

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: Holiday program with Zach Hanner and Katie Villecco

September 1, 2026, Meeting/Luncheon

By Mark Steelman, Programs Chair

Presenter: General Curtis Scaparrotti, USA retired

Gen Scaparrotti will discuss current Middle East political strategies, military operations and ongoing challenges.



BIO: GEN Curtis Scaparrotti, USA, Retired, served concurrently as Supreme Allied Commander, NATO, and Commander, US European Command, 2016 to 2019. His military career spanned 41 years, including command of forces during Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Support Hope (Zaire/Rwanda). He is currently Senior Counselor for The Cohen Group and Trustee of the German Marshall Fund. General Scaparrotti is also a member of MOAA SENCLAND Chapter.

Legislative Affairs

By Barry Coyle, Sean Murphy, Ray Pelletier, and Jeff Morgan

2026 General Election

Note: The election information below is current as of mid-August 2026. Please be aware that the U.S. Congress and the NC General Assembly are both considering legislation that could make some changes in election procedures. The President of the United States is also pursuing executive measures for changes to election processes. I think it is too late now to implement changes to this election cycle, but it would be wise to keep up with developments. The NC State Board of Elections at [Home Page | NCSBE](#) is your best source of accurate information. There you can also check your voter registration status, track your ballot after you vote, obtain mail-in ballots, and sample ballots.

The 2026 General Election is rapidly approaching. 3 November is Election Day, although you also have several options for early voting, including mail-in absentee ballots and in-person early voting. Photo identification is required when voting in-person and absentee ballots must be mailed in time to arrive by election day. This year we will be electing one U.S. Senator, all U.S. Representatives, all State Senators and Representatives, and a long list of other state officials, justices, and County elected officials. In addition to candidates, there will be three proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot: (1) to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting; (2) to keep the State income tax rate from being raised higher than three and one-half percent (3.5%); (3) requiring limits on property tax increases by local governments.

This is certainly going to be an interesting mid-term election. Please make your plans now to cast your ballot in November. You can find detailed information and resources on the NC State Board of Elections website at [Home Page | NCSBE](#), or on your County Board of Elections page. Sample ballots should be available through your County Board of Elections by the end of September.

Important dates for this year are shown below:

- Oct. 9, 2026: Voter registration deadline (5 p.m.).
- Oct. 15, 2026: In-person early voting begins; same-day registration available.
- Oct. 20, 2026: Absentee (Mail-in) ballot request deadline (5 p.m.).
- Oct. 31, 2026: In-person early voting ends (3 p.m.).
- Nov. 3, 2026: General Election Day.
- Nov. 3, 2026: Absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 p.m.).

Legislative Affairs (Continued)

In Washington

Both Houses of Congress were in recess for most of August. They will return after Labor Day and be in session for most of September, before recessing again for all of October. It will be interesting to see how much important legislation gets completed in that short time. Both the House and Senate have now passed separate versions of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The two versions are largely in agreement but also have some differences that will have to be reconciled before a final bill can be sent to the President. Both versions of the NDAA include several MOAA legislative priorities. One of these would halt planned closures and cuts at 41 Military Treatment Facilities pending a comprehensive review of Defense Health Agency plans. Both the House and Senate have decided to not even try to pass any FY2027 Appropriations bills by the legally required 30 September deadline. Instead, both have passed Continuing Resolutions (CR) (again) that would fund the Government at FY 2026 levels through early December and avoid a government shutdown prior to the mid-term elections. These CR bills also must be reconciled into one final bill before moving forward for the President's approval. One other important piece of legislation was put on hold before the August recess, this is the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), an omnibus bill that includes 60 provisions previously included in stand-alone bills. These provisions would address the Richard Star Act, benefits, health care, education, transition assistance, caregiver support, and survivor benefits. The House vote was delayed over misunderstanding and disagreement over the funding mechanism for this comprehensive legislation. These issues are likely to be resolved in September.

MOAA is conducting 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>.

Finally, our Chapter is participating in MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AIA) campaign. Mike Appicella, Sean Murphy, and Barry Coyle are scheduled to meet with Representative Rouzer's (R-7th) District staff on 25 August. We will present MOAA's AIA priorities,

1. Supporting combat-injured veterans: the Major Richard Star Act.
2. Expanding employment opportunities for veterans and military spouses.
3. Restoring pharmacy coverage of certain GLP-1 drugs for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries

We will request Mr. Rouzer's support for these issues in Congress.

Legislative Affairs (Continued)

In North Carolina

The General Assembly finally passed a budget for 2025-26 Legislative Session which Governor Stein signed into law on 7 July. This appropriations legislation contains several provisions that impact the military/veterans/retiree community. These include:

- rebuilding costs for the Veteran Restoration Quarters in Western NC;
- a special vehicle registration plate, “US Military Veteran”;
- expansions of the East & West Veterans’ cemeteries;
- increased funding for operations and maintenance of the cemeteries;
- funding for a replacement of the Fayetteville State Veterans Home; and
- grants to support transition assistance and work-based training.

There are additional veteran-related measures in the appropriations law, but the above gives you a general idea of what is in the bill. In addition to the budget, the General Assembly also passed, and the Governor signed the NC Farmland and Military Protection Act which prohibits the acquisition of agricultural lands or lands adjacent to military installations by certain adversarial entities and tracks that land ownership.



JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

By David Everette, JROTC Coordinator



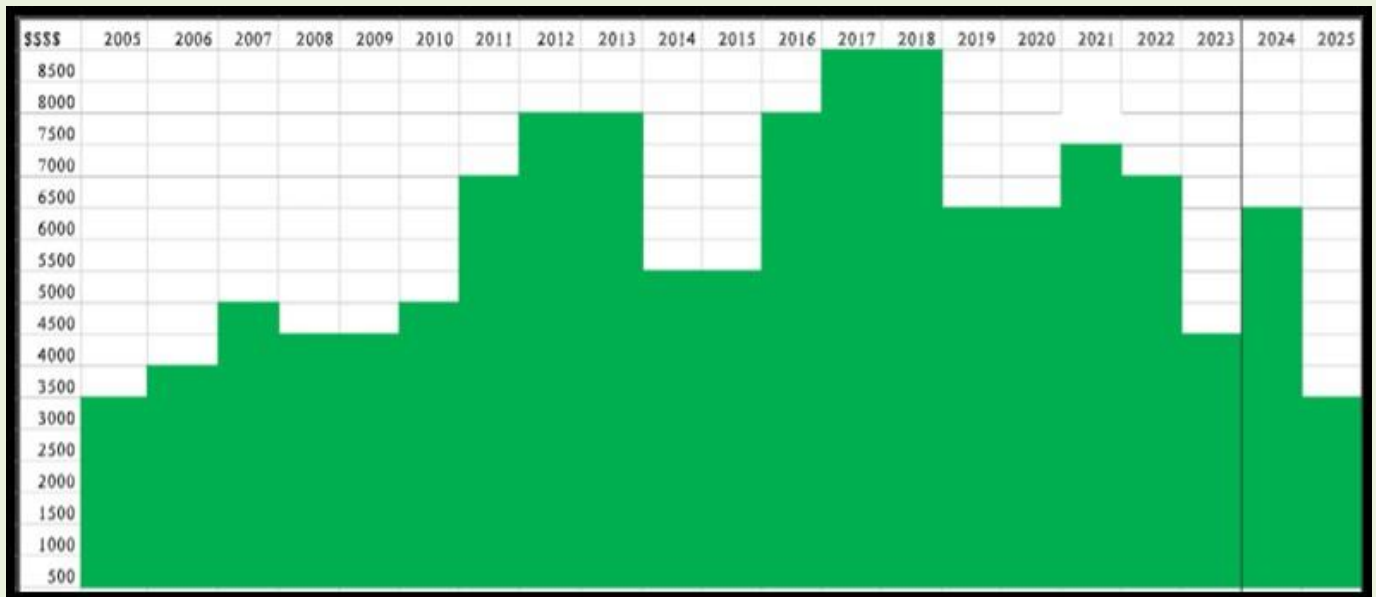
Below is a graph of the financial support SENCLAND MOAA has provided JROTC cadets scholarships over the last 20 years.

The graph shows that,

- Last year we gave out \$500 dollars to 6 deserving JROTC cadets for a total of \$3,000.
- This amount is the same amount provided in 2005!
- We gave out \$1,000 dollars to 6 candidates for a total scholarship amount of \$6,000 in 2024.

How can we alter this downward trend?

MOAA Scholarship Amounts



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.

Veteran Student Education Scholarship

By Tim Johnson, Captain, USMC, Scholarship Coordinator



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

In 2025 we awarded a total of \$5,000 to ten student veterans. We hope to be able to match or exceed this amount in 2026 as the need far outweighs the funding. At UNC-Wilmington we had over 130 applicants for our four awards. Additionally, Cape Fear Community College has over 700 veteran students, but we are able to only award scholarships to four students. Brunswick Community College has over 170 veteran students and we've been able to assist two.

Community Outreach

By Leon Rooks, Outreach Committee Chair

The SENCLAND MOAA Community Outreach Committee has been working hard to assist veterans in our community. We maintain ongoing contact with local veterans organizations and work in partnership with them to help veterans who are in need.

So far this year, the committee has assisted three veterans with housing, utilities, and medical needs. Most recently we provided assistance to a veteran who is settling into our community.

We are proud to support our fellow veterans and appreciate the opportunity to make a positive difference in their lives.

Leon Rooks, Chair, Community Outreach Committee

Fred Kuhm, Committee Member

Hondo Davids, Committee Member

Wellness Committee

By David Foster Wellness Chair

Email: dwfcwo2@msn.com, Cell: 910-604-0034

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Summer 2026 has really flown by! We pray you and your families were able to experience some very special memories that bring smiles to your faces and warmth to your hearts.

There are so many exciting things that begin in the fall. As we each start new projects or set new goals, let’s remember that God is in charge of it all, and we should seek His guidance as our first step. Please remember to pray for all our teachers and students as they start their new year. May the Lord give them excitement and vigor for learning, and may each teacher and administrator feel God’s presence in their classrooms and offices.

Enjoy a safe and fun-filled Labor Day as we welcome in a new and wonderful season!

As always, please let us know of 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.

Wellness Committee

David Foster, Chair

Stephen Bird

Mike Burrous

Psalm 126:3, “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

Surviving Spouse Corner

By Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Fellow Surviving Spouses,

Here is an article you may have missed during the Summer.

A military surviving spouse who lives far from a military installation or VA facility still has access to a wide network of national organizations dedicated to providing support, guidance, and community. One of the most accessible starting points is [Military OneSource](#), which offers 24/7 phone and online assistance, confidential counseling, financial guidance, and help navigating survivor benefits. Because services are delivered virtually, surviving spouses can receive personalized support without traveling long distances.

The [VA's Office of Survivors Assistance](#) also provides extensive online tools, benefit explanations, and direct inquiry support. Surviving spouses can explore programs such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, education benefits, and health care options through online guides, downloadable resources, and telephone support. The VA also offers virtual counseling, caregiver resources, and grief support through its Vet Centers and hotlines.

Several national nonprofit organizations play a major role in supporting surviving spouses regardless of location. [MOAA](#) offers survivor-specific guidance, legislative advocacy, and access to both local and virtual chapters. [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) is especially valuable for those who do not live near a military community.

[USAA](#) provides financial education, insurance guidance, and survivor-specific assistance to eligible members. Their advisors can help spouses navigate life insurance claims, long-term planning, and financial transitions after loss.

The [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#) offers grief counseling, peer support, survivor seminars, and a 24/7 helpline. TAPS provides both in-person and virtual programs, ensuring surviving spouses can access emotional support and community from anywhere in the country.

Veterans service organizations (VSOs) such as the [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [the American Legion](#), [AMVETS](#), and [Disabled American Veterans](#) also provide valuable assistance. Even if a spouse does not live near a local post, these organizations maintain state and national service officers who help with VA claims, benefit navigation, and survivor advocacy. Many offer phone appointments, online resources, and virtual support networks.

Surviving spouses should also be aware of the growing number of benefit scammers who target veterans and their families. These scammers often promise to “speed up” VA claims, charge fees for services that should be free, or attempt to collect personal information. A legitimate veterans service officer will never charge for filing a VA claim. Surviving spouses should avoid sharing Social Security numbers, banking information, or benefit documents with anyone who is not a verified representative. When in doubt, they can confirm legitimacy through the VA, state veteran’s agencies, or recognized VSOs.

Together, these organizations form a strong, nationwide support network for surviving spouses — wherever they live.

SENCLAND MOAA Membership Benefits

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

The SENCLAND chapter has meetings with outstanding programs for ten months of the year, usually the first Tuesday of the month. The chapter meeting in June is a picnic where we include our JROTC 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 Bluewater 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.

To join the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter, click on "[Join MOAA SENCLAND](#)" 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

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 login. 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 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 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 our members 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 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

The Chapter offers the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost of the nametags is \$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.

Help Us Stay In Touch!

Two Quick Email Tips for SENCLAND Members

By Allen Allegretto, Communication System Manager

To ensure you never miss important chapter updates, newsletters, or luncheon announcements, please take a moment to review these two quick email tips:

1. Add SENCLAND to Your Contacts

Email service providers are continuously updating their security and privacy features to protect users from spam and malicious attacks. While these filters are helpful, they can occasionally misroute legitimate messages from organizations like ours into your spam or junk folder.

Action: To guarantee reliable delivery, please add our official chapter sending address to your email provider's contacts or safe-senders list today: senclandchapter@sencland.ccsend.com

2. Be Mindful of the "Unsubscribe" Link

To comply with federal regulations regarding organizational and commercial email, all our chapter communications include a one-click "Unsubscribe" link.

- Please be cautious when reading or scrolling through chapter emails to avoid accidentally clicking this link.
- Constant Contact maintains strict automated compliance policies, which makes it a multi-step process to manually restore your address to our mailing list once an unsubscribe is triggered.
- **What to do if you accidentally unsubscribe:** If you realize you have stopped receiving our emails, please contact our membership committee right away so we can guide you through restoring your subscription:
 - Al Schroetel: downeast@bellsouth.net
 - Leslie Roberson: lesliecotu@hotmail.com

Thank you for helping us keep our communication lines strong, reliable, and secure!

Topics of Interest (Continued)

Canines For Service

Changing Lives, One Canine Partnership at a Time

By President Mike Apicella

For 30 years, Canines for Service has been transforming lives by providing service dogs to Veterans with service-connected PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma, and/or mobility limitations at no



cost to the Veteran. Each service dog completes approximately 1,800 hours of specialized training, learning skills that promote greater independence, confidence, and well-being. These remarkable dogs are trained to perform tasks tailored to each Veteran's unique needs. From retrieving dropped items and opening doors to nightmare interruption and creating space in crowded environments, these dogs become more than just a companion, they are a lifeline for those who need them.

The impact of a service dog extends far beyond just the Veteran. Navy Veteran, Ryan, was missing moments with his wife and children as he coped with feelings of anxiety and hypervigilance, struggling to leave his home. After being partnered with Hazel, Ryan says, "I have been on multiple trips with Hazel across the nation, we leave the house almost daily, we spend more time with friends and family, my sleep schedule is much better - the list goes on and on."

Behind every successful partnership is a community that makes it possible. Volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners all play a vital role in helping prepare these incredible dogs for a lifetime of service. Whether it's socializing with a future service dog, making a financial gift, or spreading awareness about our mission, every contribution helps change a Veteran's life.

To learn more about applying for a service dog, becoming a volunteer, or supporting the Canines for Service mission, visit their website at caninesforservice.org.

Contact Info

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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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