



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, SENCLAND CHAPTER
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SENTINEL

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



Greetings

For those that missed the October Luncheon, our guest speaker was Abby Lorenzo, Deputy Director Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO). Abby provided an excellent presentation on the WMPO's role in the transportation planning process, from project concept through implementation, including how regionally significant projects are identified, prioritized, and programmed for funding. She delighted us with her demonstration of the budget with buckets and balls. Trying to make the budget clear for all of us to see.



Happy Birthday to all members born in November.

Please remember the following dates this month:

- ❖ November 7 – Wilmington Veterans Day Parade
- ❖ November 10 – Marine Corps 251st Birthday
- ❖ November 11 – Veterans Day 
- ❖ November 11 – Armistice/Remembrance Day
- ❖ November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

Our next luncheon day is November 3rd at the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#), which is also Election Day – Please Remember To Exercise Your Right To **Vote!**

Our speaker for the November 3rd luncheon will be Lieutenant General Thomas L. Conant, United States Marine Corps, Retired. His speech is titled, *China: Friend, Foe, or Adversary - exploring the strategic landscape of the US and China relationship.*

Speech Intro: *In September 2026 President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump hosted a historic state visit with Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, and Madame Peng Liyuan. This marked the first visit to the White House by a Chinese President in more than a decade — and the first time a Chinese leader has made two formal state visits to the United States.*

November 2026

Chapter Awards



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President's Message (CONTINUED)

By President Mike Apicella

Don't forget about our [SENCLAND Special Event](#) - Tour of the Burgwin-Wright House – on October 27 from 10 am to 12 PM. The cost is only \$25 dollars payable by cash or credit card.

Once again, thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to our Scholarship and Outreach programs. Because of you, we reached our goal this year of charitable contributions by chapter members. Please think about also donating for our coming year. 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!

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 informative articles I know you will appreciate.



November 11th

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 (ret), 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



Albert H Schroetel
COL USAF (Ret)



Leslie Roberson
LtCol USAF (Ret)



Allan Turner
CAPT USNR (Ret)

New Member

Welcome to the SENCLAND Chapter

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

- **Craig MacPherson, Colonel, USAF (Ret.).** Craig and Pat live in St James.

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 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



October 2026, Meeting/Luncheon

October 6, 2026
Luncheon/Meeting
At the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#)



Abby Lorenzo, Deputy Director, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) was the presenter at the October 6th SENCLAND meeting/luncheon. Her presentation provided an overview of the WMPO's role in the transportation planning process, from project concept through implementation.



Mrs. Lorenzo used colorful buckets to demonstrate how projects are identified, prioritized, and programmed for funding. They provided a visual to help the audience see how state, regional, and district projects compete for limited transportation dollars.

Meetings/Luncheons

By Mark Steelman, Programs Chair



SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, 3 November 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, 24 October

Scheduled 2026 Luncheons/Programs

Nov 3, 2026,	Bluewater Grill: LTGEN Tom Conant – Pacific Rim Geopolitics
Dec 1, 2026,	Bluewater Grill: Exciting holiday music with Zach Hanner and Katie Villecco
Jan 5, 2027	Bluewater Grill: James Brown, Veteran Services Officer, New Hanover County
Feb 2, 2027	Bluewater Grill: Amy Mead, Director, New Hanover County Arboretum

November 3, 2026, Meeting/Luncheon

By Mark Steelman, Programs Chair

Presenter: Lieutenant General Thomas L. Conant United States Marine Corps, Retired

Presentation clip: *China: Friend, Foe, or Adversary - exploring the strategic landscape of the US and China relationship.* In September 2026, President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump hosted a historic state visit with Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, and Madame Peng Liyuan. This marked the first visit to the White House by a Chinese President in more than a decade — and the first time a Chinese leader has made two formal state visits to the United States.



Bio: Tom Conant is an Independent Consultant who lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. His current consulting roles are as a Strategic Advisor for Piasecki Aircraft Corporation, Transcend Air, Near Earth Autonomy, and he is also on the Board of Advisors for the Flying Leatherneck Museum in Irving, CA. Commissioned in November 1975 and designated a Naval Aviator in September 1976, Tom served as an AH-1J/T/W/Z Attack Helicopter Pilot throughout his career. He saw duties in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Marine Aircraft Wings. Tom served as Commanding Officer for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167 and Marine Aircraft Group 36. As a General Officer he commanded Marine Corps Training Command and 3D Marine Aircraft Wing. He retired from the United States Marine Corps in August 2014 with 43 years of service. His last active-duty billet assignment was serving as the Deputy Commander, United States Pacific Command.



Special Events

By Greg Cook, Special Events Chair



Below is information on scheduled upcoming special events.

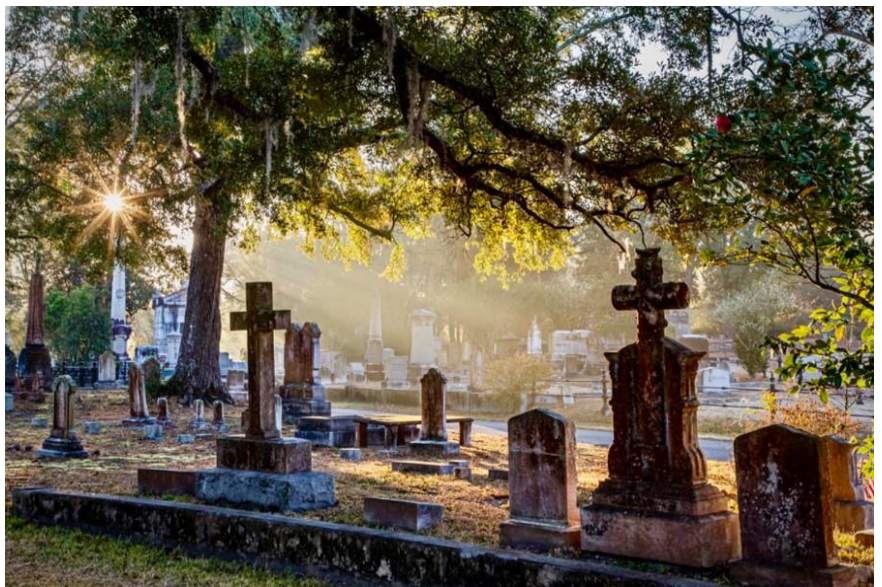


Tuesday October 27th: Burgwin-Wright House for "Colonial Wilmington and the Revolution" – As we continue America's 250th anniversary, take a stroll through what Colonial Wilmington would have looked like prior to and during the American Revolution. What acts of resistance were staged before the revolution and how did the war impact downtown Wilmington. Along the path are the eight remaining colonial structures in town. The tour will consist of a 4-5 block walk along sidewalks. Tour is from 10:00

am to 12:00 pm. Cost of the tour is \$25.00 per person. Address is 224 Market St, Wilmington, NC 28401. **The RSVP deadline for this event is no later than Tuesday, 20 October.**

Thursday November

19th: Historical walking tours of Oakdale Cemetery – A tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by Superintendent, Eric Kozen. Mr. Kozen will lead us on a journey through Oakdale and will delight you with the history of Oakdale, Civil War veterans, Funerary Art, as well as a tales of Oakdale's prominent citizens laid to rest there. Learn some local history



and interesting facts from the Superintendent who knows every square inch of Oakdale. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person. Address is: [520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401](#)

Legislative Affairs

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



Barry Coyle
CAPT USN (Ret)

2026 General Election is almost Here!

Tuesday, 3 November is Election Day. However, you still have 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 7:30 PM on election day. There are still a few remaining important dates to keep in mind:

- 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.).

Please vote and make your voice heard in what is sure to be a historic Mid-term election during the Nation's 250th Anniversary.

In Washington

Both Houses of Congress have been in recess for the entire month of October and will not return to work until 9 November. So, there is no recent legislative activity to report. There are only 23 planned workdays before the current Congress adjourns at the end of December with much unfinished business to complete. The Government is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires 11 December. Passing full Appropriations or another CR will be a high priority. The 2027 National Defense Authorization Act has also not passed and needs attention. MOAA is working with Congressional staff to try to be sure these important bills address our priorities. MOAA is also 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>.

Open Season for making changes in various Federal healthcare programs is now underway. Dates are:

- TRICARE: Nov. 9 to Dec. 8
- Medicare: Oct. 15 to Dec. 7
- FEDVIP: Nov. 9 to Dec. 7

The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2027 was announced on 14 October. It will be 3.6% and will apply to Social Security benefits and Military Retired Pay beginning 1 January 2027.

Legislative Affairs (CONTINUED)

In North Carolina

The General Assembly was in recess for all of October, except for a 1-day special session to pass a gasoline tax holiday that runs from 10 October to 30 November. This will reduce the cost of gas by 41 cents per gallon for the duration of the collection pause. As reported last month, the recently passed Appropriations Act contains funding for a replacement of the Fayetteville State Veterans Home. On 14 September, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 10159 which cedes federal land at Fort Bragg to NC for the new Veterans' Home. This Resolution passed in the U.S. Senate on 29 September. This action keeps the new Veterans' Home project on track.



November 11th

JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

By David Everette, JROTC Coordinator



Matrix of the SENCLAND MOAA Six Scholarship Recipients

NAME School Attendance at Picnic	Applica tion Comple tion Date	SAT/ACT Scores	Activities	GPA / School Ranking	Character Letters	College Acceptance	Child of Active or Retired Military Y/N	GOAL	Interview	Qualified
Seamus Ostrosky Topsail HS	3/14/26	SAT 1120	Unit Executive Officer CGJROTC National Honor Society	4.107 weighted 172 of 478	MCPO Brown	UNCW NC State	N	Film Studies	4/3/26,	Y
One parent -William										
Connor McAuliffe Hoggard HS	3/18/26	SAT 1110	Unit Commanding Officer NJROTC Boys State	3.929 weighted 241 of 481	CAPT Mitchell	The Citadel Jacksonville State	N	Commissioned Officer, Army or Navy	4/1/26	Y
Both Parents- Sean & Danielle / Instructor - CAPT Stoney Mitchell		ACT 22								
Treasure Grimes Laney HS	3/26/26	ACT 19	Unit Master Sergeant AFJROTC	3.275 weighted 271 of 482	Colonel Russo	Guilford College UNC Charlotte	N	Military law enforcement, FBI	4/2/26	Y
Both Parents Kimberly & Frank/Instructor Colonel Amy Russo										
Jesilyn Nelson Lejeune HS	3/21/26	SAT 1220	Unit Commanding Officer MCJROTC National Honor Society	4.034 weighted 8 of 86	Major Griffing	Campbell U. UNCW	Y	Pharmaceutical Studies	4/3/26	Y
Both Parents Troy & Jesilyn										
Jane Gwinn Lejeune HS	3/21/26	SAT 1460	Unit Executive Officer MCJROTC	4.327 weighted 7 of 86	Major Griffing	Georgia Institute of Technology	Y	Commissioned Officer, Pilot USMC Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	4/4/26	Y
Not Attending										
Robbiana Fields James Kenan HS	3/30/26	ACT 20	Captain Cheerleaders BETA FCA Secretary	4.470 weighted 10 of 56	Kristen Lee School Counselor	Winston Salem State	N	Business Administration Own a business	4/2/26	Y
Mom- Shavell Miller & Instructor -MSG Graves										

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.

The 2026 schedule for the veteran student grant program is as follows.

College/University	Scholarship Awards Program
Brunswick County Community College	November 3rd – Annual Veterans Day celebration will be held at 11:00 am at the Odell Williamson Auditorium. SENCLAND will present two \$500 grants. There will be several speakers present and local Veterans will supply an honor guard. Lunch will be served for all guests.
Cape Fear Community College	November 11th – Presentation will be held at their annual veterans day celebration. Weather permitting it will be outside at the “Tabitha’s Courtyard” location on campus. SENCLAND will be presenting three \$500 grants.”
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	November 9th – Presentation will be held after 1pm, during their annual chili cook off. The location will be at Veterans Hall on campus, and SENCLAND will be presenting three \$500 grants. A good size crowd is expected.



Community Outreach

By Leon Rooks, Outreach Committee Chair



The SENCLAND "Community Outreach Committee" is working hard with local veterans organizations to help local veterans. Currently we are working with the East Carolina University Dental Program "ECU Smiles". We are working with a veteran who is undergoing extensive treatment. We need some information from the veteran and once we secure this information we can move forward.

As a whole, requests, for assistance have slowed down a bit but we expect that to change.

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



David Foster
CWO2 USCG (Ret)

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

We are very blessed to live in this great country, and as November approaches, we remember those who have raised their right hand and pledged: *"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."* Those words are powerful and weighty. With God's help, all Veterans will continue to hold those words true until we depart this earth. On November 11th, our Nation shows gratitude to those who honorably served. *Thank you!*

We continue to pray for wisdom for our leaders and the servicemen and women who are putting it all on the line for us. We are grateful for their sacrifice and service. We pray that God's peace will be with their families and loved ones.

Please let us know if any members in need would enjoy an uplifting visit, prayer, or card. Your SENCLAND MOAA family is active and available to provide support to you and your family. Please 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

John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Surviving Spouse Corner

By Marco Vialpando, Surviving Spouse Liaison



Marco Vialpando
Major USA (Ret)

Fellow Surviving Spouses,

I saw the article below on the [MOAA website](#) and the idea of a "Buddy Check" system has merit. I know being alone during the holidays was hard for me at both of those times in my life when I was a Surviving Spouse. Being on Active Duty helped, but it wasn't the same. Too many events were geared towards couples and being a "Onesie" just didn't fit. I thought about creating a "Buddy Check" system for the SENCLAND Chapter but was concerned about Privacy Laws. However, since this was in a national publication for veterans, it must be legal. I would like y'all to let me know if you think a "Buddy Check" system for the SENCLAND Chapter would benefit you or if you don't think it would be of help to you personally. Please email me at the address below.

Below is an excerpt from article written by Patricia A. Green, a Surviving Spouse Liaison for MOAA, ***The Value of Connection.***

How do you stay in touch with others? Maybe you prefer social media, like Facebook or LinkedIn. Perhaps email is your preference. Many connect through text messages. For some, like me, a phone call is top choice. The need for a personal connection still exists. Nothing can brighten your day like a call from an old friend. Sharing a memory or exchanging a laugh with someone lifts the spirits. Personal communication builds strong families and good friends and creates successful institutions and cohesive organizations. Within MOAA chapters, personal interaction among members provides opportunities to build friendships, exchange ideas, and share experiences.

I recently returned from my annual MOAA council leadership training/convention. You feel the connection of shared experiences and our shared purpose at such events, but you feel more: It's the hugs exchanged, the appreciation of each member and their contributions, and the connection to the MOAA leaders and staff who attend. It was an experience that energizes and renews your commitment.

Your chapter creates a cohesive network for the work of MOAA. It also provides a setting for friendships to flourish. The chaplain and the surviving spouse liaison serve as personal outreach to each member. Their role is very important. A chapter member who lives alone and has no local family needs a chapter friend or neighbor to exchange a greeting with each day. It could be as simple as texting "Good morning" and the recipient sending a thumbs-up response. The greeter and recipient should share contact information for their next of kin in the event that the greeting is not returned. I know of one chapter that has created such a program, called Buddy Check.

(Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-the-value-of-connection/>)



November 11th

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](tel: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 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.

Congratulations SENCLAND Chapter member, U.S. Navy veteran, Anne Leanos who received her highly trained service dog during a ceremony aboard the USS NORTH CAROLINA Battleship on Friday, Oct. 23rd.

[Canines for Service](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans through service dog partnerships hosted the ceremony held in partnership with the Battleship North Carolina.

Anne commented, “I’m so grateful to the trainers, volunteers, donors, and everyone at [Canines for Service](#) who make these life-changing partnerships possible. Feeling humbled, thankful, and pretty excited to meet my new four-legged partner and begin this next chapter!”



Topics of Interest (CONTINUED)

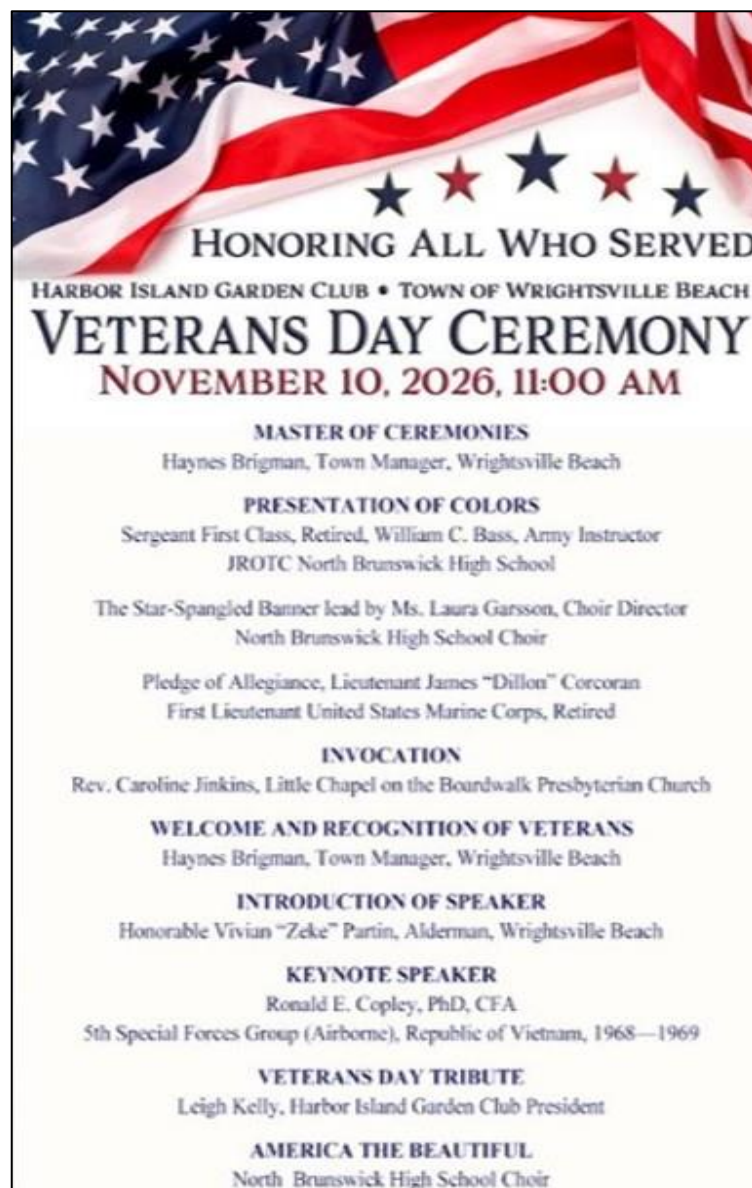
Town of Wrightsville Beach Annual Veterans Day Ceremony

Submitted by Mark Steelman

The Annual Veterans Day Ceremony co-hosted by the Town of Wrightsville Beach and the Harbor Island Garden Club is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

The guest speaker for the ceremony is Ronald E. Copley, PhD, CFA, founder of Copley Investment Management (CIM). Mr. Copley served in the 5th Special Forces Group in the US Army from 1966 to 1969 during which he received the Bronze Star Medal for valor as an infantry officer in Vietnam.

(Source: <https://www.copleyinvestmentmanagement.com/our-team.html>)



Topics of Interest (CONTINUED)



Date: November 7, 2026 – Pre-show and entertainment begin in front of City Hall on Third Street at 10 a.m. The parade begins at 11 a.m.

Parade Route: The parade kicks off at the corner of Hanover St. & N. 3rd St., heading south through downtown and concluding at Market St. & N. 3rd St.

P Where to Watch & Park: The Veterans Parade runs through the heart of downtown, offering great viewing areas along N. 3rd St. Spectators are encouraged to line the sidewalks early for the best spots, especially near Market St., where the parade concludes.

🇺🇸 What to Expect: Military units, high school bands, veteran organizations, classic military vehicles, and special honorees.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sencveteransparade.com/veterans-parade>



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