



## **The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 6, JUNE 2, 2023**

**Published by The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc., since 1977, chartered May 9, 1978, and serving Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties.**

This Newsletter and others may be found at our website: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/about/> under Social Media. Please sign into and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

**CONTENTS:** Click on the blue subject you want to see first. At the bottom of each page Click on “CONTENTS” and you return here!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <a href="#"><u>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</u></a>                 | 12. <a href="#"><u>PRAYERS AND BIRTHDAYS</u></a>       |
| 2. <a href="#"><u>MISSION STATEMENT</u></a>                   | 13. <a href="#"><u>CLIPPING COUPONS FOR TROOPS</u></a> |
| 3. <a href="#"><u>CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS</u></a>                  | 14. <a href="#"><u>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</u></a>         |
| 4. <a href="#"><u>NEXT MEETING</u></a>                        | 15. <a href="#"><u>ADVOCACY IN ACTION</u></a>          |
| 5. <a href="#"><u>MOAA VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES</u></a> | 16. <a href="#"><u>NATIONAL LEGISLATION</u></a>        |
| 6. <a href="#"><u>MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NEWS</u></a>         | 17. <a href="#"><u>NC VETERANS</u></a>                 |
| 7. <a href="#"><u>MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM</u></a>          | 18. <a href="#"><u>CONTACT INFORMATION</u></a>         |
| 8. <a href="#"><u>SOCIAL SECRETARY</u></a>                    | 19. <a href="#"><u>HUMOR</u></a>                       |
| 9. <a href="#"><u>SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS</u></a>               | 20. <a href="#"><u>HISTORY</u></a>                     |
| 10. <a href="#"><u>SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM</u></a>                | 21. <a href="#"><u>ENROLLMENT FORM</u></a>             |
| 11. <a href="#"><u>WORTHY CAUSES &amp; OUTREACH</u></a>       | 22. <a href="#"><u>RESERVATION WHEN NEEDED</u></a>     |

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

We started the May dinner meeting welcoming two new members, Chris Lyon and Alex Zahorski. Hank Rudge brought a guest Dennis Compton and as is the norm for our May meeting the chapter scholarship awards were presented. Only one of our awardees was in attendance due to a conflicting battalion awards dinner for our other awardee.

After another delicious dinner our after-dinner program started by honoring our scholarship awardee, Abigale Swartzlander. She is the Battalion Commander from East Forsyth High School and along with an arm’s length list of volunteer efforts has a grade point average that is off the chart. Our other awardee, Nicola Rush from North Davidson High School, was presented her scholarship award by Al Chandler at her Battalion Awards ceremony. I then had the honor to present chapter donations to Jackie Kohler for the TRIAD Honor Flight and Lewis Pleasants for the Marine Corps League Mud Run. The chapter will donate to Toys For Tots later this year. Thanks to all who support our Worthy Cause donation efforts. Your continued donations will allow us to support these charities again next year. The evening concluded with our guest speaker, Dr. Al Claiborne, Professor Emeritus

at Wake Forest University. He spoke of the exploits of Noman Lane, during the Vietnam War, and other relatives during WWII. His theme was that we must not forget those that gave all.

The Summer Social has been rescheduled to July 16th at Salem Glen Country Club due to a schedule conflict at the club. Hope to see you there.



Our regular meetings resume in September on the 10th.

At the MOAA National Leadership Workshop on 18 May I had the privilege of accepting three awards for the chapter: a 5 STAR Level of Excellence Award, many thanks to all chapter volunteers for their contribution to our receipt of this award; a 5 Star Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for our Newsletter, our Newsletter Editor LtCol Greg M. Chase, USAF (Ret) deserves the credit for this award; and a 5 Star Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for our Website, our Webmaster LCDR Thomas B. Denegre III, USNR deserves the credit for this award.

Take Care and Beware. Phil Briscoe!

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#### **TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER:**

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

**Editorial Policy:** The Tarheel Central Chapter is affiliated with The North Carolina Council of Chapters <https://www.moaa-nc.org/> and with MOAA national organization - <http://www.moaa.org>. As such, The Tarheel Central Chapter is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Tarheel Central Chapter Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's guidelines. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards. The Tarheel Central Chapter (NC08) is a 501(c) 19 organization. Membership includes active, retired, veteran, and reserve officers (Warrant - Flag Officer) of the Armed Forces, NOAA, US Public Health Services, and the surviving spouses of deceased eligible officers of all 8 uniformed services. MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan

organization. 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 Phone: (800) 234-6622. "Never stop serving!" Use the Advocacy in Action section at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>.

5-Star Newsletter Publisher and Editor – Greg Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) and Vina Chase; Editor may be reached at (336) 946-2446 or [gvchase98@gmail.com](mailto:gvchase98@gmail.com) The Newsletter is published for members and friends of The Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA.

5-Star Chapter Website & Social Media Manager - Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet); The address is: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/> Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by using the "Contact Us" link or contacting the editor. If we have your email, you will receive this newsletter 9 times per year.

### **CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Elected Officers:**

**President** – Phil Briscoe, CAPT, USN (Ret)  
**First Vice President** – Tom Miller, Capt., USAF (Vet)  
**Second Vice President** – Jason Ford, LT USN (Ret)  
**Secretary** – Mary Laverdure, Capt., USAF (Vet)  
**Treasurer** – Mike Chapman, CW4 USA (Ret)  
**Immediate Past-President** – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret)

#### **Directors:**

Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet)  
Mark Ferketish, Col, USMCR (Ret)  
Krista Ford, Member Spouse  
Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret)  
I.B. Southerland III, Maj USAF (Ret)  
**VACANT** (Surviving Spouse Liaison)

#### **Chapter Standing Committees:**

**Note: Contact Info is available under the Directory Tab in the Tarheel Central Chapter Website:**

<https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/directory/>

### **NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:**

1. **SUMMER SOCIAL** - July 16th. Salem Glen Country Club. Outdoor Barbecue. 5-8 PM. \$25.00 a person. Very casual. Pay as you go Bar. More to follow via Constant Contact.
2. **SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING** - September 10th. Salem Glen Country Club. 5:30 PM. \$25.00 a person. More to follow via Constant Contact.

Salem Glen is the venue for all our dinner meetings – the second Tuesday of the month! (Except June, July & August). Address: Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012-9560.

### **MOAA VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. **Organize Your Business, and Your Life, With Everplans:** JUNE 06, 2024; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT. From estate preparation to professional planning and so much more, join us June 6 to see how Everplans can work for you.

**REGISTER NOW LEARN MORE**

2. **In the Trenches of Innovation: An Army Start-Up Adventure:** JUNE 12, 2024; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT. This Army officer's unique story will inspire your entrepreneurial spirit. Register for our June 12 online event to hear more!

For more info go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/moaa-events/>

### **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NEWS:**

**Please welcome** new members **Chris Lyon, USAF** Veteran and **Alex Zahorski, USA** Veteran. Now our membership stands at 94. Even though Chapter meetings are suspended during June, July and August, the

Membership Committee continues to meet monthly to assure our Chapter continues to grow. We are now recruiting new Membership Committee members so if you have an interest in this most important effort, please contact Committee Chair Ted Robinson at (478) 719-7596 or email him at tcr@privateclubassociates.com. The June Committee meeting is on Monday June 17th from 12:30 – 2:00 PM at Salem Glen CC.

**MOAA NATIONAL CHAPTER RECRUITING:**

**MOAA National Chapter Recruiting (CR)** offers the chapter financial incentives for both recruitment and retention of members. If you are aware of individuals in our community who are eligible for MOAA membership, please bring them to our attention, and educate them on the benefits of Tarheel Central Chapter and MOAA membership.

**TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER DUES:** Dues were approved for \$45 per year. Invoices have gone out. **If you have already paid \$35 for 2024, your invoice will request you to pay an additional \$10.** Please call Mike Chapman at (919) 601-3800 if you have any questions.

**MOAA / CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM:**

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers.

To apply for Chapter and National membership, please use the Application Form titled “THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE. Why MOAA chapter membership matters.” Use the Form at the end of this newsletter. Or, go to our Chapter website at: [https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/sitestuff/1711650968/uploads/THCC-chapter\\_national\\_join-form\\_3-29-2024.pdf](https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/sitestuff/1711650968/uploads/THCC-chapter_national_join-form_3-29-2024.pdf)

**SOCIAL SECRETARY:**

Your Social Secretary is Warren Boyer, 336 407-2374

Following is a list of free concerts. Your attendance is voluntary. No roll will be taken. No phone calls needed except to chapter mates to get them to meet you there. Bring your own folding chairs and BYOW and snacks if desired.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
6/8/2024	Camel City Yacht Club (70's & 80's Smooth Rock)	Shallowford Square	7pm
6/8/2024	Diamond Rio & Ryan Perry	Davie Co Community Park	7pm
6/15/2024	West End Mambo (Classic Salsa & Latin Jazz)	Summer on Fourth	7pm
6/18/2024	Olympics (Salem Band Concert)	Salem Square in Old Salem	7:30pm
6/21/2024	Jeff Kashiwa	Downtown Jazz	6:30pm
6/22/2024	Band of Oz (Beach Music)	Shallowford Square, Street & Food Trucks Festival	7pm
6/29/2024	Jim Quick & Coastline (Independence Day Tribute)	Shallowford Square	7pm
7/4/2024	Stars & Stripes (Salem Band Concert)	Salem Square in Old Salem	7:30pm
7/6/2024	Band of Oz - Raquel & the Wildflowers	Davie Co Community Park	7pm
7/12/2024	Eric Essix	Downtown Jazz	6:30pm
7/13/2024	The Neon Queen (ABBA Tribute Band)	Shallowford Square	7:15pm



7/13/2024	The Phase Band (Party Band)	Summer on Fourth	7pm
7/20/2024	Gump Fiction (90's Experience)	Shallowford Square	7pm
7/26/2024	Art Sherrod / Lin Rountree	Downtown Jazz	6:30pm
8/3/2024	Chicago Rewired (Chicago Tribute Band)	Shallowford Square	7pm
8/3/2024	Chris Taylor & The Rumor - Smoke & Mirrors	Davie Co Community Park	7pm
8/6/2024	Disco & Dance (Salem Band Concert)	Salem Square in Old Salem	7:30pm
8/16/2024	Althea Rene	Downtown Jazz	6:30pm
8/17/2024	The Bo Stevens (Honky Tonk)	Summer on Fourth	7pm
8/30/2024	Marcus Anderson	Downtown Jazz	6:30pm
8/31/2024	Bourbon Revival Band (Bluegrass & Newgrass)	Shallowford Square	7pm
8/31/2024	Souljam (Party Band)	Summer on Fourth	7pm
	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	
	Shallowford Square	6555 Shallowford Rd, Lewisville	

**SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS: CHAPTER ASSISTANT NEEDED.** For our Surviving Spouses here is the link to MOAA Surviving Spouse data <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/> Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison. It is not a requirement that you be a surviving spouse. Activities include: monitoring the MOAA website for surviving spouse issues, keeping the chapter members and surviving spouses informed through the newsletter and personal announcements at the dinners, keeping our surviving spouses involved and recruiting surviving spouses."

**TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:**



The Chapter ROTC & JROTC "season" has closed out for this school year. It started off with presenting the MOAA award at the Wake Forest University ROTC awards program on 25 April and concluded with presenting awards at the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools JROTC Joint Services Review conducted at North Forsyth High School on 22 May 2024. Between these two dates, the Chapter award was presented to deserving cadets at several other JROTC programs, including the MOAA scholarship recipients: **Cadet Colonel Nicole Rush, North Davidson High School (AFJROTC) and Cadet Battalion Commander Abigale Swartzlander, East Forsyth High School (AJROTC).** Photos: Cadet Tincher with Al Chandler at left. Cadet Colonel Nicole Rush, North Davidson High School (AFJROTC) with Al at right.



The chapter has received the following scholarship Thank You:

"I am writing to thank you for the scholarship and for the opportunity to attend the MOAA dinner last week. I enjoyed having the privilege to meet and fellowship with the members and appreciated the warm welcome my parents, instructors, and I received. This scholarship will help me pursue my degree at Lee University, and I appreciate your generosity.

Best Regards.

Abigale Swartzlander"

Please continue to accept the **DAVE HARRIS CHALLENGE** to donate at least \$100 to the JROTC Scholarship Fund each year. Mission: To provide scholarships to those deserving of help in pursuit of further education, preferably leading toward a military career.

### **TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER WORTHY CAUSES & OUTREACH:**

Your Board of Directors has determined the following worthy causes are deserving of our support. As with the Scholarship Fund, donations can be sent to the Chapter Treasurer directly or included in your check for annual dues or monthly dinners. Just note on the check which cause you are supporting. We will ensure your donations get to your designated worthy cause.

**TRIAD HONOR FLIGHT:** To celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. It cost \$600.00 per participant. Vision: A nation where all of America's veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve. For more information visit: <https://www.honorflight.org/>

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** Mission: to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. Goal: through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. For more information visit: <https://winston-salem-nc.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=0&nPreviewInd=0&nRedirectInd=3>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MUD RUN:** A CHARITY EVENT hosted by Marine Corps League Percy John Fulton Detachment #1075 Winston-Salem, NC. SUPPORTING the following Charities: Semper Fi & America's Fund, Camp Lejeune, NC / The Fisher House at Camp Lejeune, NC / Toys for Tots / Young Marines Youth Program, NC / State Veterans Home, Salisbury, NC / Wreaths Across America, National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC / City Lights Ministry, Winston Salem, NC / Savings Grace K-9, Lexington, NC / The Hero's Center, High Point, NC / Irreverent Warriors. For more information visit: <https://usmcmudrunnc.com/event-information/general-information/>

**MEMORIAL DAY HONORS:** The Carolina Field of Honor in Kernersville, NC, is a symbol of historical fact that our community has the highest respect and honor for our Veterans. Visitors find The Carolina Field of Honor a sacred place for those we respect and honor. The memorial serves as a recreational retreat, or for ceremonies and events honoring those that serve. On Monday, Memorial Day, May 27, 2024, Jason & Krista Ford helped Lori & Lexi Egerter and others set up the Christmas Trees with pictures honoring those military who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Why Christmas Trees? "Because they point to heaven!" At 7 PM veterans representing the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard marched in uniform and paid their respects.



In the photo, Jason Ford is second from left and Greg Chase is on the end, right.

The National Anthem was sung, prayers and speeches made. Despite the winds which eventually died down, it was a beautiful afternoon and the people who attended made you proud to be an American: the recipient of the life and freedoms we enjoy! See the WXII news video at: <https://www.wxii12.com/article/tree-of-valor-holds-a-warriors-light-ceremony-to-honor-fallen-soldiers-through-twinkling-trees/60919782>

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." —John 15:12-14

### **CHAPTER THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS LIST:**

- Barb Carter - Spouse of Jere Carter, Illness

Please notify any officer or member of the board if you hear that a member or spouse is having difficulties.



## A LIVELY HAPPY BIRTHDAY APPLAUSE TO:

Please notify Jerry Johnson, our roster manager, if you would like to be included on the Birthday List!

Dennis Lennon	June 7
Ken Zuhr	June 11
Mark Stanek	June 20
Jerry Johnson	June 22
Greg Chase	June 23
David Rogers	June 23

### **"CLIPPING COUPONS FOR TROOPS": CHAPTER ASSISTANT NEEDED.**

The Coupons for Troops Overseas Program provides expired and non-expired coupons to military families stationed overseas. Military families can use manufacturers' coupons up to six months past their expiration at commissaries. Coupons can make a big difference since prices in overseas commissaries are significantly higher than those in the States. Families in overseas bases do not always have access to coupons in newspapers and inserts, you might be the only way they can receive coupons!



Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter Assistant for this chapter initiative. Activities include keeping the membership aware of the program through the newsletter and personal announcements at chapter meetings; and collecting coupons at chapter meetings for forward as required to the troops. Check out this website to learn more: <https://supportourtroops.org/troopons>. All you must do is follow the instructions and send them on their way! Expired Coupons go to PO BOX 430, Whiting, IN 46394-0430 - If sending currently

active coupons – send them to: CouponCabin.com, Attn: Active Coupons for Troops, PO BOX 231, Whiting, IN 46394-0231

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: CHAPTER ASSISTANTS NEEDED.** Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter STATE or NATIONAL Legislative Affairs Liaison. Activities include tracking state or national legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families and keeping the membership aware of the legislation through the newsletter and personal announcements at chapter meetings.

### **THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) MISSION:**

The Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) most extraordinary mission is to improve the lives of military, Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Retirees, Survivors, and their families, mainly achieved through tireless advocacy efforts in our nation's capital. This is the link to the National MOAA Email Preference Center Search Page: [https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa\\_preference\\_page/EmailSearch.aspx](https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx) ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

**Advocacy in Action** is an annual event where MOAA members nationwide meet with their elected officials in the House and Senate to educate and influence their support regarding MOAA's top three legislative priorities. A selected group from the North Carolina (NC) MOAA Chapters represented NC at the Advocacy in Action event in Washington, DC, this past April 17, 2024. **The MOAA Advocacy Update** - Every week, MOAA's advocacy leaders and other experts discuss issues of importance to our members and the uniformed services community. Watch the latest entries below, check out our Advocacy Update playlist for older entries, and subscribe to MOAA's YouTube channel for even more videos. Head back to our Legislative Advocacy Center homepage (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>) to engage with your lawmakers on some of these critical topics.

**Why Get Involved?** Being actively engaged in advocacy empowers you and the broader military community. Your participation encourages others to join the cause, creating a network of support that strengthens our collective impact. Learn about ongoing initiatives and how you can continue to be involved in advocating for the issues that matter most. FYI: Share with your friends; you need not be an MOAA member to use the Legislation Action Center (see link below).

Your involvement in Advocacy in Action can shape policies and initiatives that directly impact the lives of the military, veterans, and their families. Your input to the NC Advocacy in Action Team will provide us with powerful support regarding your challenges; by sharing your concerns, you become an essential part of the force driving positive change and progress. Your engagement matters, and together, we can make a difference.

**Your Voice Matters:** Advocacy in Action is a testament to our commitment to ensuring the voice of the Military, Guard and Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and their Family members are heard on crucial issues affecting our communities. Your participation is critical to amplifying MOAA's collective voice and meaningfully impacting the issues that matter most to the military, retirees, and their family members. Also, this event provides a platform to voice your concerns, share personal experiences, and advocate for issues that resonate with you. Your unique perspective contributes to a more comprehensive and effective advocacy effort. Once the legislative priorities are selected, an email with instructions will be sent to allow you to participate and submit your letter to your Senator and Congressperson.

**Voice Your Concerns:** Click MOAA - Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center to learn more about MOAA's Advocacy in Action. Also, you may contact me directly at Drviviannewersel@gmail.com, (252) 646-2678 (mobile) for more support on how to use the Action Center or to share your story. Your input is valuable for our team to share with our policymakers. Participating makes you an integral part of crafting policies that address critical issues such as veterans' healthcare, educational opportunities, and retirement benefits. The decisions made due to MOAA's Advocacy in Action can shape the future of the military, Guard and Reserve, Retirees, and their families. Families. Never Stop Serving!

**Community Outreach Sponsorship:** Apply for up to \$300 per chapter or \$800 per council to support community service programs and recruiting/branding events. Get details at this link:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-management/community-outreach-sponsorship-for-moaa/>

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Supreme Court Ruling Will Help Protect Military Community From Financial Predators** by Cory Titus, [MAY 22, 2024](#)



A May 16 Supreme Court ruling will allow a critical government agency to continue its work in support of servicemembers, veterans, and their families – pursuing predatory lenders and enforcing service-earned financial protections.

The court's 7-2 ruling upheld the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) structure. The case, *Community Financial Services Association of America v. CFPB*, challenged the agency's funding mechanism and the director's protection from removal by the president without cause. Aiding in this effort was a [MOAA-backed amicus brief](#) that shared the critical work the CFPB does on behalf of the uniformed services community.

The agency has aggressively cracked down on predatory lenders who engage in deceptive and abusive practices targeting servicemembers. It has taken numerous enforcement actions against companies offering unscrupulous loans, credit products, and other financial schemes that trap military households in cycles of debt and financial distress.

The CFPB also plays a vital role in enforcing and strengthening laws safeguarding the military community's consumer rights. This includes oversight of the Military Lending Act, landmark legislation passed in 2006 to curb exorbitant interest rates and opaque fees on credit extended to active duty personnel and their spouses. Under the CFPB's watch, the act's protections were significantly expanded in 2015 to cover more credit products exploiting members of the armed forces.

Through its [Office of Servicemember Affairs](#), the agency has served as a vigilant watchdog identifying and combating the unique financial threats facing those who serve and sacrifice for the nation. Maintaining the CFPB's robust enforcement authorities is crucial to safeguarding military financial readiness and economic well-being.



[RELATED: [Protect Your Pay: 6 Ways to Stop Scams Targeting Servicemembers, Retirees](#)]

The CFPB's funding mechanism sets it apart from most federal agencies. Rather than going through the annual congressional appropriations process, the consumer watchdog receives its funding, currently around \$600 million per year, directly from the Federal Reserve. If the Supreme Court had found this funding structure unconstitutional, the fate of the CFPB would have been at risk.

This is a welcome victory that ensures servicemembers, veterans, and their families will have an agency safeguarding their financial interests for years to come.

**Download** *The MOAA Investor's Manual*

This guide will help you better understand and manage your investments. It's available exclusively to PREMIUM and LIFE Members, who also may speak with MOAA benefits and financial counselors for further assistance.

Not a member? See below to learn more about joining MOAA or upgrading your membership.

[GET THE GUIDE JOIN OR UPGRADE TODAY](#)

**FORTHCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NC VETERANS:**

**Veterans Cup** is a good source for local events and comradery: <https://www.veteranscup.org/>

**Veterans' Coffee event** at Richard Childress Racing! Wednesday Mornings, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Richard Childress Racing Banquet Hall, 425 Industrial Dr., Welcome/Lexington NC. Coffee and donuts will be served. The RCR Racing Museum will be open at no charge for our attendees after the Veterans Coffee. Various Veteran resource and support organizations will be present at each Veteran Coffee event to answer questions about their mission and activities.

**Veterans Eligible for Travel and Hotel Discounts:** American Forces Discounts, <https://www.americanforcetravel.com/>, is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and supported by Priceline. Veterans can access exclusive deals on hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.

**Veteran Coffees** are held at various locations, (Winston-Salem, Walnut Cove, King, Burlington, Mooresville, etc.) throughout the month. Go to [VETERANSCUP.ORG](http://VETERANSCUP.ORG) for listing and times.

**Don Timmons**, Community Engagement Manager, Triad, Triangle & Sandhills Regions; Direct: 336 837-4347; [dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org](mailto:dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org); [www.veteransbridgehome.org](http://www.veteransbridgehome.org)

**VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR ALL N.C. VETERANS:**

See the NC Division of Veterans Affairs newsletter at: <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/> and the North Carolina Council of Chapters Newsletter at: <https://www.moaa-nc.org/>

**Families Go to:** <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html>

**Need assistance with VA benefits?** The Winston-Salem VA Regional Office is here to help. Visitors to the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/>) can now park for free in the Third and Main Street Public Parking Facility. Just take your parking ticket to the VBA public contact office upon check-in and ask for parking validation. For those who are unable to travel to Winston-Salem, you can make a virtual appointment with us here: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/> You can also find an accredited representative in your area by visiting <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/> Accredited representatives include accredited attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). They work on behalf of Veterans and service members—as well as their dependents and survivors. VSOs work for you, and their services are free. Be sure to check VA's website before choosing a representative. The representative you

choose should be accredited through VA to ensure your claim is managed professionally and fairly. Visit <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/protecting-veterans-from-fraud/> to learn more about protecting yourself from benefits fraud.

**Retiree Assistance Office (RAO)** bulletins are located at: <http://www.nhc-ul.org/rao.html> and <http://veteraninformationlinksasa.com/emos-rao.html> FOR ALL VETERANS - RETIREE ASSISTANCE OFFICE publications; VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR ALL VETERANS; Provided by: Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret) Editor/Publisher of the RAO Bulletin; All words and phrases in the color as the link below will open another page when "clicked on."

<http://thearmysecurityagency.com/index.html> Welcome to My VA Benefits / Veteran Information Links and ASA - Army Security Agency. We provide the best veteran information portal for VA benefits. Visit us for all your VA needs! Site updated on January 15, 2021.

**Find your nearest VA regional office** <https://www.benefits.va.gov/ROWINSTONSALEM/directions.asp>

**VA pension benefits:** You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA pension benefits.

**Get help filing your claim** <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/>

**Veterans Crisis line:** 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 - US Department of Veterans Affairs: Women Veterans Call Center – 855 829-6636. Link to Urgent Care organizations approved by the VA

<https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/> If you are under the VA healthcare system for a service connected health condition and have had to or might need to use a Non-VA hospital emergency department and/or emergency transportation for a medical emergency related to your service-connected health condition, you or a family member must report this to the VA within 72 hours. Call: 704 638-9000 ext. 12022. Year 'Round Veteran Discounts: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

### **MILITARY RELATED CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Casualty Assistance** - Call toll free 877-353-6807. Overseas callers should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy.

**Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** Telephone Center- Call DEERS at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays.

**Defense Finance and Accounting Service** - The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080, or through AskDFAS online. Visit the retired military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matters such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more.

**Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program** - The program provides long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of care you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (activities of daily living) by yourself because of chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. For assistance, call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-582-3337) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit <https://www.ltcfeds.com/>.

**Identification Cards** - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or visit the site locator or find at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator>

**Legal Offices** - Assists members with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answers certain legal questions. Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.

**Medicare** - 800-633-4227 or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

**Social Security Office** - Call toll free 800-772-1213; commercial 410-965- 8019; or write to Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries, Windsor Park Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Visit the website for more information.

**TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy Program** (Express Scripts, Inc.) - In United States, call toll free 800-282-2881; or overseas, call 866-275-4732. Visit <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml> for more information.

**Veterans Affairs** - For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-6947; special issues such as Gulf War/radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/). Local Events You Might be Interested In:

**GREAT QUOTES:** "The decree is gone forth, and it cannot be recalled, that a more equal liberty than has prevailed in other parts of the earth must be established in America." —John Adams (1776) "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny." —James Madison (1788) "It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn." —George Washington (1789) "Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives." —John Adams (1808)

**HUMOR (Maybe?):** What do you call a Coast Guard member who always has great stories? An anchor-man.



A man and his wife went out fishing for lobster. After several hours, they had not caught anything. As the weather turned bad, a major wave struck the boat and washed the wife overboard. The man searched and searched for her but could not see his wife anywhere. So the man immediately turned towards shore and tried to flag down the Coast Guard- shouting "Help me, Please! My wife's gone overboard!" Shortly after, their neighbor pulled up at the nearby dock and said "Buddy, I've got your wife here- she's caught in my trap & there's at least thirty lobsters sticking to her! What should we do now?" The first man paused for a moment and said, "Tell you what- give me half of those lobsters and let's set her up again!" [Ed: It is much better when told with a 'down-Maine' New England accent.]

**HISTORY: THE COAST GUARD IN VIETNAM!** While waiting for the Memorial Day ceremony to start, I spoke with Bruce Bruni, Captain, USCG (Ret) who had some interesting comments about USCG and interservice coordination during Vietnam. So, I did some research: As America's role in the Vietnam conflict escalated, President Lyndon B. Johnson committed the Coast Guard for deployment to war-torn Southeast Asia. 82-foot Point-class patrol boats proved to be both adaptable and capable in the conduct of interdiction and combat missions. Five high endurance cutters (WHEC), primarily assigned to the Gulf of Thailand, supported a variety of combat missions. The Coast Guard also provided port security, Explosives Loading Detachments, installation and maintenance of aids-to-navigation, established LORAN stations in both Vietnam and Thailand, and conducted search and rescue missions. Some eight thousand Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam, supporting both combat and traditional service missions. Approximately 8,000 Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam.

**Biography for Captain Bruni:** National Vice President of The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, 2021. Bruce Bruni entered the U. S. Coast Guard on 13 July 1970, serving a year aboard USCGC Hamilton in the Engineering Division before attending Aviation Electrician A School at NAS Jacksonville in the fall of 1971. As an AE3 he became a Search and Rescue aircrew member at Coast Guard Air Station Brooklyn and was discharged in October 1974. In 1980 he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve as a Port Securityman serving at Station Niagara and Marine Safety Office Buffalo before receiving a direct commission as an Ensign in 1986. During his 37 years of total Coast Guard Service, he had deployed in 1990-1991 with Port Security Unit 301, in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm, and Operation Uphold Democracy to Haiti in 1994 and again in 2003-2004 as commanding officer of PSU 308 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His other assignments include serving as the Ninth CG District's law enforcement liaison with the U. S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies that comprise the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBET) along the eastern Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. He became a plank owner in standing up first Maritime Security Operations Center (MSOC) at the Canadian MARLANT in Halifax. He was later selected as the project lead for a quick reaction test (QRT) for the successful development of TTP in dealing with the underwater asymmetric threats against transiting high value assets. His last assignment before retiring in 2011, was serving as Chief, Maritime Border Security at CG-531. Captain Bruni

also completed 25 years of law enforcement service with the Amherst Police Department, a suburb of Buffalo, NY, where he retired as a Detective, after being recalled to active duty following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Following his retirement from the Coast Guard, he was employed as a National Field Representative for the U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp from 2012 to 2019, one of seven retired O-6s and the only Coast Guard officer overseeing the Navy League of the United States sponsored youth program. Among his personal awards are the Meritorious Service Award with "O" device, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals with "O" devices, and Navy/Marine Corp Commendation Medal, and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals. Bruce resides in the Winston Salem area of North Carolina and is married to Jeannie Bruni and has two adult children and six grandchildren. He is a life member of the CGCVA since 1991 and is the Editor/Publisher of the Quarterdeck Log magazine and has served as a National Trustee since 2017. He currently volunteers his time with the Davidson County Veterans Honor Guard, rendering graveside military honors for deceased veterans.

### **USCG in Vietnam Chronology:**

- 16 February 1965- A 100-ton North Vietnamese trawler unloading munitions on a beach in South Vietnam's Vung Ro Bay is discovered by a US Army helicopter. The Vung Ro Incident led to the creation of the OPERATION MARKET TIME coastal surveillance program to combat Communist maritime infiltration of South Vietnam.
- 16 April 1965- Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze asks Secretary of the Treasury Henry Fowler for Coast Guard assistance in the Navy's efforts to combat seaborne infiltration and supply of the Vietcong from North Vietnam
- 29 April 1965- President Lyndon Johnson committed the USCG to service in Vietnam under the Navy Department's operational control. Announcement of formation of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE)
- 27 May 1965- Commissioning of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE)
- 12 June 1965- Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) comes under the command of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINPACFLT)
- 16 July 1965- Division 12, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam
- 20 July 1965- Division 12, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at Da Nang
- 21 July 1965- Coast Guard OPERATION MARKET TIME patrolling begins with 5 WPBs deployed along the DMZ
- 24 July 1965- Division 11, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for An Thoi, Phu Quoc Island, Republic of Vietnam
- 30 July 1965- Commander, Task Force 115 (CTF 115) (MARKET TIME) established.
- 31 July 1965- Division 11, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at An Thoi.
- 19 September 1965- Point Glover (WPB 82307) makes first capture of a Vietcong junk.
- 21 September 1965- CTF 115 orders white hulls of WPBs to be painted gray.
- 29 October 1965- Secretary Nitze requests additional USCG WPBs for patrol duties in Vietnam
- 12 December 1965- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) established.
- 18 February 1966- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) departs Subic Bay, Philippines for Cat Lo, Republic of Vietnam
- 22 February 1966- Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) arrives at Cat Lo
- 10 May 1966- Trawler destroyed: Point Grey (WPB 82324), Point Cypress (WPB82326) largest Vietcong infiltration attempt since Vung Ro Incident.
- 4 June 1966- Explosive Loading Detachments (ELD) 1 & 2 arrive in Vietnam and are attached to US Army logistical commands.
- 20 June 1966- Trawler captured: Point League (WPB 82304), Point Slocum (WPB 82313), Point Hudson (WPB 82322)



- 11 August 1966- LTJG David C. Brostrom, commanding officer of Point Welcome (WPB 82329) and EN2 Jerry Phillips were killed in a friendly fire incident when the cutter was attacked by a US Air Force aircraft while on patrol in the waters near the mouth of the Cua Viet River, about three-quarters of a mile south of the DMZ. BMC Richard Patterson saved the cutter and the surviving crew at great risk to himself. He was awarded a Bronze Star with the combat "V" device for his actions.
- 2 September 1966- LORAN-C Station at Con Son is commissioned as part of OPERATION TIGHT REIGN 15 October 1966 - US Coast Guard Port Security & Waterways Detail arrives in Vietnam.
- 28 October 1966- LORAN-C Station at Con Son becomes fully operational.
- 1 January 1967- Trawler destroyed: Point Gammon (WPB 82328) 14 March 1967- Trawler destroyed: Point Ellis (WPB 82330)
- 24 April 1967- At Navy request, five USCG high endurance cutters are commissioned as Coast Guard Squadron Three (RONTHREE) at Pearl Harbor.
- 15 May 1967- Coast Guard Squadron Three (RONTHREE) begins MARKET TIME patrolling.
- 22 May 1967- USCGC Barataria (WHEC 381) fires the first WHEC naval gunfire support mission NGFS.
- 15 July 1967- Trawler captured: Point Orient (WPB 82319)
- 29 February-1 March 1968 (Largest Naval Engagement of the War) 1. Trawler destroyed: Androscoggin (WPG 68), Point Welcome (WPB 82329), Point Grey (WPB 8282324) 2. Trawler destroyed: Winona (WPG 65), Point Grace (WPB 82323), Point Marone (WPB 82331), Point Hudson (WPB 82322) 3. Trawler destroyed: CG units not involved 4. Trawler turned back: Minnetonka (WPG 67)
- 3 April 1968- USCG helicopter pilots arrive to fly combat SAR missions with the Air Force.
- 9 June 1968- LT Jack C. Rittichier while flying with the Air Force's 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) is shot down in an attempt to rescue a downed Marine A-4 pilot. For his efforts Rittichier was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)
- 1 July 1968- Merchant Marine Detail Saigon established at the US Embassy 5 December 1968- FN Heriberto S. Hernandez, of Point Cypress (WPB-82326), was killed in action during small boat operations on the Ca Mau Peninsula.
- 22 March 1969- ENC Morris S. Beeson, on Point Orient (WPB 82319), was killed in action during a boarding.
- 9 August 1969- LTJG Michael W. Kirkpatrick, executive officer of Point Arden (WPB 82309) and EN1 Michael H. Painter were killed in action by a mortar explosion on board the cutter.
- 15 August 1969- LORAN-C Station at Tan My becomes fully operational.
- 15 August 1970- the last two cutters of the Coast Guard Squadron One (RON ONE), Point Marone (WPB 82331) and Point Cypress (WPB 82326) are transferred to the Vietnamese Navy and Division 13 and Coast Guard Squadron One (RON ONE) are disestablished.
- 21 November 1970- Trawler destroyed: Rush (WHEC 723), Sherman (WHEC 720)
- 11-12 April 1971- Trawler destroyed: Rush (WHEC 723), Morgenthau (WHEC 722)
- 21 December 1971- Last two cutters of Coast Guard Squadron Three (RON THREE), USCGC Cook Inlet (WHEC 384) and USCGC Castle Rock (WHEC 383) are decommissioned and transferred to the Vietnamese Navy
- 31 January 1972- Coast Guard Squadron Three (RON THREE) is disestablished.
- 22 January 1973- Con Son and Tan My LORAN Stations disestablished. 5 February 1973- Senior Coast Guard Officer Vietnam (SCGOV) disestablished.
- 1 May 1973- Merchant Marine Detachment, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam disestablished.
- 5 May 1973- Last USCG personnel assigned to Vietnam depart for the United States.
- 30 April 1975- Con Son LORAN station disestablish.

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- For more information, please go to the Chapter website: [www.tarheelmoaa.org](http://www.tarheelmoaa.org)

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**Dinner Meetings** are held the second Tuesday of each month (Sept – May) at Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Dr, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Social Hour begins at 5:45 PM; Dinner at 6:45 PM; and the Program at 7:30 PM.

Dinner Cost: \$25/person  
Dress is Business Casual.  
Chapter Dues: \$45/year.