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&  
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# Coastal Carolina Military Officer's Association



## CLARION

Coastal Carolina Chapter Web Page [www.ccmooa.org](http://www.ccmooa.org)

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**Next Dinner Meeting on Thursday, 17 March at Miller's Landing, MCAS Cherry Point Happy Hour at 1730 Dinner at 1830. Details in this issue on page 7.**

### From the President CAPT JIM DARGAN USMC (RET.)



It is time to prepare for the St. Patrick's Day dinner to be held at Miller's landing on 17 March. Information on the time and cost is found on page 7 in the newsletter. I hope many of you will attend and enjoy good food, spirits and company. We will attempt to provide entertainment for the event and of course **Green Attire** should prevail for the evening. We are looking diligently for entertainment as the *Clarion* goes to press.

The January meeting was attended by 36 members who enjoyed a nice dinner and, of course, the installation of Officers and Directors for 2011 and some for 2012 also. **Col Ron Davia** was the installing officer and we thank him for stepping up to fill in as **MajGen Davis** was not available. Along those lines we are in need of someone to volunteer to take over the duties of

Legislative Chair; if anyone is interested please contact me. In the interim **Bill Culler** and I will attempt to fill in as best we can.

Those of us who do not pay North Carolina state taxes on our retired military pay are very fortunate. However the Federal Retiree Task Force of North Carolina who obtained this benefit is still hard at work attempting to convince the General Assembly and Governor that it's beneficial for the state to extend this tax relief to those retired Military, Federal Civil Service and State employees who are not covered. This costs money and those of us not paying taxes can do something to "pay back" those who worked so hard to secure this benefit. A Federal Retiree Task Force fundraising letter, originally sent out last November, has been reprinted on pages 5 and 6 in this issue of the *Clarion*. Any contribution you choose to make to this organization would be appreciated.

*Continued on page 2*

## The President's Message (Continued from page 1)

MOAA is supporting The Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) on launching a national project to turn our old cell phones into phone cards for overseas troops to call home. Further information on this project will be forthcoming. Basically all cell phones turned in generate minutes for phone cards.

If you noticed a change in your federal tax withholding for 2011, this was caused by the ending of a 2009 Make Work Pay Tax Relief program. The program ended on 31 December 2010 and DFAS then had to revert to the withholding as of 2008 which of course was at a higher level. The program was designed to be a short term stimulus program. Just thought you would like to know.

We are still accepting donations to the Scholarship Program. You can mail any donations to our Treasurer, **Dan Walczak**, or include it with your dinner reservation. The Scholarship Dinner will be held on 19 May at Miller's Landing. More information will be provided in the May *Clarion*. Keep the date open!

Miller's Landing (The Club) is now serv-

ing Sunday breakfasts and lunch daily starting at 1100. We suggest you wait until after 1300 as the troops keep the place packed until then. They also are open for dinner from 1700-2000. Arlene and I have eaten breakfast, lunch and dinner on several occasions and the food is good, plentiful, the service is excellent and the price is right. They have a full bar in the main dining room and Cunningham's (the Officers bar) opens at 1600 in the event you want a libation before, with or after your meal. We suggest you give it a try; we think you will like it.

Don't hold your breath but there might be a small COLA next year, after the past two years without one. However, with the change in withholding, it may not make much of a difference.

We hope to see many of you at Miller's Landing to celebrate the good St. Patrick. Wear your **green** and join us for a great evening of food, drinks and perhaps an Irish tale or two and of course an Irish blessing.

See you on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Semper Fi.

Jim & Arlene

## Welcome Aboard New Member



We'd like to welcome aboard **Lt Col Stephen Blizzard USAF (Ret.)** and his wife **Tammy** of Newport. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome if/when you see them at our upcoming events.



## 2011 Scholarship Donors



Ed & Jackie Bacon  
George & Sadie Cribb  
Dan & Debbie Walczak  
Roy & Kathy Evans  
Corwin & Anne Mitchell  
Bill & Dee Culler  
Mike & Sue Kennedy  
Margaret Wood  
Marie Senzig  
Mike & Christine Bonheim  
George & Melba Carr  
Ernie & Joyce Buschhaus  
Don Wilson  
Otto & Mary Linden  
Hugh & Ann Overholt  
Jim & Iris Wooliever  
Buck & Mary Louise Allen  
Clark & Joyce Wylde  
Gunter & Carole von der Heyde  
Charlie & Janet Daniels  
Richard & Gloria Gustafson  
Lucille Long

Ed & Vivienne Armstrong  
Elizabeth Eisele  
Al & Gertie Younger  
Don & Mary Loudin  
Doug & Nancy Uhland  
Gilbert & Bonnie Jacox  
Bud Strong  
Malcolm & Mary Roberts  
Jim & Arlene Dargan  
Jim Shank  
Clark & Joyce Wylde  
George Olsen  
Jerry Kirk  
Chris & Nenita Newton  
Charlie & Marie Schwab  
Anne Bobbitt Murphy  
Curtis & Susie Bare  
Keith & Margie Thompson  
Rick & Joanne Owen  
Ron & Joan Davia  
Willard & Pauline Mattmiller

If you have made a donation after 1 June 2010, and your name does not appear on this list, please accept our sincere apology for the oversight and contact **Dan Walczak at 252-288-5541** or email [danimal@suddenlink.net](mailto:danimal@suddenlink.net), to correct the situation.

To make a donation send your check made payable to CCMOA to:

Maj Dan Walczak  
114 Sursee Court  
New Bern, NC 28562

## “As I See It - A Job Killer for Military Retirees”

(By Col Steve Strobridge USAF (Ret.), MOAA's Director of Govt. Relations)



We've seen a lot of counterproductive ideas over the years. But few have been so half-baked as the proposal by the president's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to make civilian employers reimburse the Pentagon for

health care costs incurred by their retired military employees who use TRICARE.

That's wrong on so many levels it's hard to know where to start.

- It would retroactively deny generations of promises by military leaders and retention officers and NCOs that completing a career in uniform would earn health care coverage in retirement.
- It would deny the government's own responsibility for making good on its health care promises by shifting the cost to retirees and their prospective employers.
- It says, in effect, military retirees who seek civilian employment didn't earn squat and should be required to accept whatever health care benefit their new employers offer — no matter how much the employers might

have whacked it back.

- It conveniently overlooks that the majority of military retirees must seek civilian employment to supplement their retired pay after being forced from service between ages 38 and 52, when families' education and other needs are the greatest.
- Most egregious of all, it would lay another major career penalty on the group that least deserves it — those who already sacrificed their own interests for decades to serve the nation's, including many who incurred significant disabilities in the process. That's about as perverse a system as I can imagine. First, make service members endure 10 years of the worst wartime sacrifices in generations. Then reward their sacrifices by purposely impeding their chances for post-service employment in the worst job market in decades.

It's in vogue in the new Congress to rail against “job-killing” programs. If you want to kill post-service job opportunities for military retirees — and deter good people from serving military careers to boot — could there be a more creative way than making civilian employers pay a stiff annual fine for every military retiree they hire?



Officers/Directors installed at our 20 January Dinner meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Director **Capt Curtis Bare USMC (Ret.)**, Director **Col Mike Kennedy USMC (Ret.)**, Treasurer **Maj Dan Walczak USMC (Ret.)**, Director **Col Rick Owen USMC (Ret.)**, President **Capt Jim Dargan USMC (Ret.)**, Secretary **Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)** and 2d VP **LtCol Keith Thompson USMCR (Ret.)**. Not pictured 1st VP **Col Don Davis USMC (Ret.)** and Directors **COL Mike Bonheim USA (Ret.)** and **CAPT Marie Senzig NC USN (Ret.)**

*Photo by Susie Bare*

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## Federal Retiree Task Force of North Carolina Fundraising Letter

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**Editor's Note:** *The letter below was sent out to MOAA members across North Carolina. The North Carolina Council of Chapters has requested it be reprinted in all Chapter newsletters.*

Dear Task Force Member

Nov 2010

It's time for another update on our progress with the legislation for extending the Emory, Bailey, Patton settlement. As you know the 4<sup>th</sup> Branch did an economic analysis of what the Federal, State, Local and Military retiree brings to the State of North Carolina. The results of that study showed that for every \$1.00 the state gives us in tax benefits we give them \$2.50 in return. The study shows that we are an asset and not a liability to North Carolina.

We had limited success in the legislature with our efforts this year but the first effort took over 10 years to come to fruition and we will continue our efforts on behalf of all federal / military retirees.

You will recall again "The purpose of this organization shall be to further the long term interests of all military and civilian federal retirees and their beneficiaries, residing in NC; to communicate with and advise them of their rights and obligations; to use such lawful efforts including legislative activities as needed to accomplish this purpose in a nonpartisan manner". Unfortunately for us the financial situation in the State has left us in a difficult predicament.

Our lobbyist met with several key people in the House, Senate and also the governors office and had a tentative approval for us to make a presentation to the 2009 Revenue Laws committee. When they returned for the short session of the legislature the finances were in such bad shape that they did not invite us to appear before the committee. According to Ken Melton, our lobbyist, most of the people on the committee thought that we had a good case but the "timing was not very good for the economic environment to send this to the house" and that it would be voted down. We decided to not press the issue but wait until another day/another session of the legislature.

This leads to another issue, some of the data in the economic analysis has to be updated. The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch has contracted with Dr Hedrick again for him to update the study. When he finishes we have to update our material and have it ready when the legislature returns in January.

We have house/senate members lined up to introduce our bills and some cosponsors as well. We continue to work closely with the 4<sup>th</sup> branch and MOAA. Several of our board members are on the legislative committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Branch. Meetings are already planned for after the elections to put in place new strategies for the upcoming session and we want to be ready when that session starts in January. We know that the State's budget doesn't look very good for next year but we will continue our efforts with our usual optimism.

## Federal Retiree Task Force of North Carolina Fundraising Letter Continued from page 5

You might be interested in knowing why we as federal/military, state and local retirees bring more to the table than the state gives us in return, here are just four reasons:

ENHANCING the local property tax base and local and state sales tax.

INCREASING local capital and community jobs, stimulating and stabilizing the economy.

INCREASING voluntary services in the community (over 100 million \$ in volunteer hours)

PROVIDING environmentally friendly growth (we protect the environment-no new infrastructure is required when a federal retiree moves into NC)

Now that all that has been said we did a lot of work in 2009-2010 but to be honest with all of you we did not accomplish our goal of extending the Bailey, Emory, Patton to all Federal, State, Local and Military retirees. We did get our points across to the finance committees, the governor's office, some members of the house and senate and from that standpoint we were successful.

We continue to need your support, our numbers are getting smaller, simply because of age. This group started over 20 years ago and the people that started this effort were already retired then. I again want to thank them for their efforts back then and we will continue their efforts for the next generation. We need your help in contacting your state representatives and senators. The grass roots effort still goes a long way with most politicians. With having to update our study and our new contract with our lobbyist we will have additional expenditures. I understand these are tough economic times, that's why we really need your continued support.

I get many letters or notes from our members thanking us for what we are doing and I contact some of them and tell them how much we appreciate the support and effort that they have given thru the years and listen to some of their stories. It is fascinating to me to hear some of them, World war II veterans wanting us to keep up our efforts. I assure them all that we will do that.

Thanks for all of your support thru the years, I wish I could tell each one of you that in person, it as an amazing group of people that made a commitment and stuck with that commitment thru thick and thin over all these years and still have a passion for their fellow man and "DOING THE RIGHT THING". More to follow in the coming months.

Paul E Sams  
Director, Federal Retiree Task Force

PS: If your retirement benefits are \$1,000.00 a month you get an additional \$70.00 a month or \$840.00 a year in tax relief thanks to the Federal Retiree Task Force.

Mail all Contributions to: Federal Retiree Task Force  
C/O Paul E Sams  
86 Pine Lake Drive  
Whispering Pines NC 28327

PERSISTENT: EXISTING FOR A LONG OR LONGER THAN USUAL TIME OR CONTINUOUSLY

# Miller's Menu Landing

**An Irish Dinner Buffet Consisting of  
Corned Beef & Cabbage  
Irish Stew  
Fish & Chips  
Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee & Tea**

**Happy Hour: 1730 Dinner: 1830 Cost: \$25.00/person**

**Attire: Business Casual (if desired) Cash Bar**

**You and your spouse/friends are cordially invited to our St. Patrick's Day  
Wearin' o' the Green at Dinner**

**Thursday, 17 March 2011 at Miller's Landing, MCAS Cherry Point**

**Reservations are requested NLT Friday, 11 March 2011. Contact LtCol  
Keith Thompson with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 11 March at (252) 637  
- 1598 or  
E-Mail to: keith@billclarkhomes.com**

Confirm \_\_\_\_\_ reservations in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

(List names of Members and Spouses. Please indicate the **Names of Guest** so we may have a special name tag made for them). \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your current E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 per person). You may also include your scholarship donation for 2011 with your dinner reservation. Make checks payable to **"CC/MOA"**

**Mail to: LtCol Keith Thompson  
103 Emmen Road  
New Bern, NC 28562**



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2011**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Uniform</u>
17 March	1730	St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Miller's Landing, MCAS Cherry Point <b>(WEAR GREEN)</b>	Business Casual (If Desired)
13-14 May	1800 & 0830	2d Quarter North Carolina Council of Chapters Meeting at Fort Fisher. Hosted by the SENCLand Chapter	Casual
19 May	1730	Annual Scholarship Dinner at Miller's Landing, MCAS Cherry Point	Coat & Tie
15 September	1730	Annual Pig Pickin', Hancock Lodge, MCAS Cherry Point	Casual
November (exact date/time TBD)		Veterans Day Dinner & Dance (location TBD)	Dress Uniform Tuxedo or Dark Suit

Coastal Carolina Military Officers  
Association  
P.O. Box 373  
Havelock, NC 28532



*A 5 Star Level of Excellence  
Chapter for 2006 & 2008*

