



Coastal Carolina Military Officer's Association

Volume XLX
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CLARION

Phone: (252) 637-6378

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Coastal Carolina Chapter Web Page: ccmoaa.org

President
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From the President's Desk
MARIE SENZIG NC, USN (RET)



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Members,
Thanksgiving is fast approaching. I hope you enjoy your holiday with those who are important to you. I plan to enjoy a traditional turkey meal!

Our Toys for Tots luncheon is Friday December 13th at the Taberna Country Club. Please join us to support the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program as well as the Kinston Veterans Home. Bring your unwrapped toy and 10 Christmas cards that you can stay and address before leaving the luncheon. We will make sure they are delivered to the Veterans Home. The RSVP form is on page 9 of this newsletter.

Our MOAA State Convention is being held at the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station Nov 14-16th. It could hardly be more convenient, please think of attending dinner Friday and/or Saturday evening. The National President LtGen Atkins (Air Force Retired) will be attending and it is your chance to meet this dynamic gentleman. RSVPs are due immediately. You can visit our website or the State MOAA website for registration information.

Thank You to COL Mike Kennedy and the Board of Directors for shouldering the load while I was caring for my Mother in Wisconsin from June-Sept. She is in a steady decline at 91. My time has been dominated with Estate business for one of my deceased sisters who resided in Anchorage, AK. I greatly appreciate the support of the Board and they many condolences when I experienced the loss of my two older sisters in a 2 ½ month period. The support of local friends has buoyed my spirit.

See you at Taberna in your holiday attire on December 13th or your elegant dinner attire at the State Convention at Cherry Point.



1st Vice President's Report-Mike Kennedy

Wreaths Across American (WAA) during MumFest this year CC MOAA Volunteers joined several to the other veterans organizations selling wreaths . I want to personally thank Marie Senzig, Randall Ramian, Keith and Margi Thompson, Dan Walzak, Randy Bogle, and my wife Sue. The wreaths sold will be laid on the tombs of veterans interred at the New Bern National Cemetery.

CC MOAA networking / business cards are available for members. CCMOAA business cards are available for members to use as a networking tool with the goal of increasing CC MOAA membership. Every member is a recruiter! Hand the business card to someone that is eligible to join, or if you see an officers insignia or license plate, stick it under their windshield-wiper. If you would like our business cards contact Marie Sensig or Mike Kennedy.

Never Stop Serving theme for 2019 – 2020. We have adapted a Never Stop Serving theme for 2019 and 2020 to recognize our chapter members and / or their spouses that who give their time and talents to our community. Tell us how you are continuing to serve your community. Example: assist Habitat of Humanity two days a week at their retail store. Send your information to Mike Kennedy as we plan to recognize those that volunteer in our community in future newsletters and at our Winter 2020 dinner meeting.

Christmas / Holiday Cards for the NC State Veterans Home residents. The NC State Veterans home is located in Kinston, NC and has approximately 100 residents; many who have no family. We plan on preparing Christmas / Holiday Cards for each resident after the Toys For Tots Luncheon on December 13 (Friday). We will provide the cards, please stay after the luncheon to help us prepare the cards.

2nd Vice President's Report Randal Ramian

Please join us for our next MOAA Coastal Carolina Chapter function – Marine Corps Toys for Tots Luncheon on Friday, December 13th at 1100 (Taberna Country Club). To show your support for this worthy cause, please bring an unwrapped toy for a child to the luncheon. Attached at the end of the newsletter is the Toys for Tots Luncheon Flyer. Thank you for supporting the Marines and the Toys for Tots program. Hope to see you on December 13th.



Secretary's Desk Mark T. Sandvigen

Korean War Veterans Dinner: NBNC Elks Lodge 764 Veterans' Committee is planning to host a dinner at the Elks Lodge for Korean Veterans and their spouses. They need a list of any Korean War Veterans from the various organizations for planning purposes, if you have not been contacted please call June Kent at (252) 639-1951 or email junebugge@suddenlink.net.

Board Positions - We are looking for a few good Men or Women to fill important slots in our organization. The time commitment is small, but the impact is large. If you see yourself in any one of these positions, please give Mike Kennedy a call.

- **Public Affairs Officer:** The duties would include working with both New Bern Sun Journal and Channels 10 and 12 to get our organization's messages out in a timely manner.
- **Photographer:** We are looking for someone who has significant skill with a camera to take pictures at our awards, scholarship, and membership events. We are looking to move beyond cell phone snaps to capture our events and membership.
- **Historian:** CCMOAA needs someone to help with archiving our materials, and help with submittals of our award packages once a year. If you have a desire to write and catalog, we have a place for you.
- **Web Manager:** If you would like to put your IT skills to use, consider working with MOAA to maintain our WWW presence. It is easy and fun and takes less than a couple of hours per week.

 **Donate** - Amazon shoppers can support the MOAA charity of their choice by ordering through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Amazon will donate to your MOAA charity with every purchase. This is an easy way to donate to either the MOAA Foundation for the MOAA Scholarship Fund.

[The MOAA Foundation](#) which offers grants to local councils and chapters in support of career development and community outreach programs and services. These programs and services benefit more than 50,000 currently serving uniformed servicemembers and veterans of all ranks, their families, and their survivors each year.

[The MOAA Scholarship Fund](#) was established in 1948 to provide educational assistance benefits to children of military families. It supports one of the association's founding principles: education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters, corporations, and others with a desire to help military families.

 **Christmas Gifts** - looking for something other than a sweater or gift card? A MOAA gift membership is a great way to introduce a friend or family member to MOAA. Your gift recipient will receive a year's worth of member benefits, an official MOAA membership card, the satisfaction of contributing to MOAA's one powerful voice, and a gift message noting your generosity. If you know someone who is local, add to the gift by signing them up as a CCMOAA member as well.



Secretary's Desk Mark T. Sandvigen (cont.)



Medal of Honor recipient -Former Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia is the first living veteran of the Iraq War to receive the Medal of Honor, and only the sixth U.S. servicemember to receive the nation's highest award for combat valor for actions in Iraq. His speech is included at the end of this newsletter—it is a reminder of who and what we are, and why we served.



Sons of the American Revolution - CCMOAA was recognized before the Craven County Veterans Council for assisting at the North Carolina National Guard BBQ. Several members of our chapter assisted the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) on September 15, 2019 in honoring New Bern's National Guard's 694th Maintenance Company prior to their deployment overseas. This was a first, the NCNG has never been honored before and they and their families were extremely touched by the out-pouring of support for them and their service.



American Legion - On September 16th of this year, the American Legion celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The Legion had as a project the full restoration the WWI Monument and the addition of any names that might have been left off. The American Legion requested the participation of COL. Malcolm Roberts to provide the Invocation and Benediction. When it was discovered that 16 Craven County Veterans had been left off the monument, to include 7 Black soldiers who were excluded, Malcolm agreed to present flags and formally honor these families. Malcolm was a visible representation of the respect paid to all who have fallen and stood as a symbol of all that is valued in the military as this 100 year old wrong was corrected. For these Black Families of Craven County, the honors paid to their loved-ones was long overdue and they were both touched and thrilled to have a uniform member conduct the ceremony. Malcolm continues to embody our motto, "Never Stop Serving". The next time you see Malcolm, please acknowledge a very special service paid to the families of the veterans who perished while serving in the Great War.



Treasurer's Report Dan Walczak

I will be sending out renewal notices in mid November. Currently there are 22 members whose dues will expire at the end of 2019. In this notice we will be asking that dues be paid NLT 15 January 2020. Members can also send in a scholarship donation with their renewal.

If you have yet to purchase a wreath for Wreaths Across America, please consider doing so. In many homes, this holiday season, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Welcome to the Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association (NC0176P)'s Wreaths Across America Page (<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/social/NC0176P---Coastal-Carolina-Military-Officers-Association?Sid=42605|0|0|1>).

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 PM, Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association (NC0176P) will be helping New Bern National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Thank you so much for supporting the Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association (NC0176P) and Wreaths Across America!

Twice-as-Nice—*The wreaths are \$15 and our portion of each sale goes to our scholarship fund.*



Gail Bateman Scholarship Chairman

Scholarships of \$1,000 each are offered to dependents of active duty and retired military personnel residing in Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties. Our recipients are bound for either a four-year universities or community colleges. This is a significant investment in all of our futures.

For next year, if you know of a deserving family member of an active or retired military member who has graduating seniors or students already attending college please refer them to Ms. Gail Bateman, (252) 631-4103, or gail.bateman@comcast.net. Application forms are available on our CC MOAA website, and will also be disseminated to local high schools and community colleges in the above 5-county region. Members wishing to donate directly to the scholarship fund can send their donations to Dan Walczak P.O. Box 373, Havelock, NC 28532



Keith Thompson Programs Coordinator

For the Toys for Tots luncheon, USMC Toys for Tots representative will speak with us.



Legislative Chairman's Report Mark T. Sandvigen

Long-Session Continues

Work on the mini-budgets continued in the Senate in their effort to ensure that key areas of the state's spending, such as teacher pay raises and funding for the IT Department, are solidified before the General Assembly finally adjourns. Meanwhile, conversations are still on-going in the Senate chamber regarding the possible override of Governor Cooper's budget veto with seemingly little progress. However, as of this writing, Senate leadership sent a notice to Senate Democrats stating that they planned to hold a vote on the override this Monday.

Other areas of concern, such as the funding needed by NC DOT to restart road projects (Hwy 70 Bypass) that were recently halted due to a number of factors, finally got some attention this week. One of the potential solutions was introduced on Wednesday in the House Appropriations Committee for Transportation where residual tensions over the House's veto override vote continue to linger. Several committee members questioned the bill sponsor Rep. John Torbett (R-Gaston) as to why the Governor's Administration has yet to come to the legislature with an "ask" for how much money DOT needs to continue its work and instead is allowing members of that industry and the NC Chamber of Commerce to lead the charge. In an interesting twist, members of DOT's staff were at the meeting answering questions but did not respond to Rep. Sarah Stevens (R-Surry) when she asked if there was anyone in the room who could speak on behalf of the Governor.

Finance Provisions

Although slightly changed, these bills represent two sections of the finance package included in the vetoed state budget. This move has been anticipated and using two bills instead of one appears to be in anticipation of Governor Cooper possibly vetoing legislation that includes a franchise tax cut. The first bill – Senate Bill 557 – Various Finance Law Changes – would increase the standard deduction while also making other largely non-controversial changes. This bill was quickly passed. The second bill, Senate Bill 578 – Reduce Franchise Tax/Expand Film Grants, combined a franchise tax reduction with another controversial piece dealing with film grants.

Senate Bill 557 – Various Finance Law Changes: Senate Bill 577 is a mini finance package that includes the bulk of changes from the original budget. The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with little debate and the floor with a 47-2 vote. The bill does the following:

- **Increase the standard deduction from \$20,000 to \$21,000 for married filing jointly effective for taxable years after January 1, 2020. Yeah!**
- Expand the definition of "holding company" for franchise tax purposes
- Institute a single sales factor apportionment for multistate corporations
- Codify rules and procedures for "marketplace facilitators" so that online retailers would be required to calculate, collect and remit sales tax on a third-party seller's behalf.
- Directs the Revenue Laws Study Committee to review certain tax sunset provisions and makes technical changes not included in the budget.

COLA - No raise this year, inflation is way down and the CPI is several percentage points lower than last year as well. The next report will be in the middle of November, however, with the Fed lower rates again, don't hold your breath.

Medal of Honor Recipient Remarks

In a White House ceremony June 25, President Trump awarded Iraq veteran David Bellavia the Medal of Honor, praising the former Army staff sergeant's "exceptional courage to protect his men and defend our nation."

A squad leader with Company A, Task Force 2-2, 1st Infantry Division, Bellavia was clearing a block of buildings when his platoon was pinned down Nov. 10, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq.

"He entered the house where his squad was trapped, and engaged insurgents, providing cover fire so that he and his fellow soldiers could exit safely," Bellavia's Medal of Honor citation reads. "Then-Staff Sergeant Bellavia then re-entered the house, armed with an M16, and assaulted insurgents who were firing rocket-propelled grenades.

"That remarkable day, then-Staff Sergeant Bellavia rescued an entire squad, cleared an insurgent strongpoint, and saved many members of his platoon from imminent threat."

Following is an excerpt from Bellavia's speech at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes in Arlington, Va.

Why do American warriors under fire do what men have done since this nation's inception? This is a common thread that connects the militias of Lexington and Concord with the warriors of Fallujah. It is our love of nation, our way of life, and our love for those with whom we serve, side by side. We defend, we avenge, we sacrifice, we bleed, and we are willing to die for this unique creation, the United States of America.

I am complete for having experienced that kind of sacrifice with my fellow men at arms, and those who died. They gave their lives for me, they gave their lives for you, and for countless citizens who will never know them ... They were our countrymen, they were our friends, and these men will never get the chance to experience the cycle of life, the birth and growth of their children. They shall not grow old because they chose to stand in our place and face the enemy for us.

It's not enough to acknowledge the fallen by name or just inscribe their names in marble as proof that they lived and died. To truly honor the fallen, we must acknowledge how and why they gave their lives. Their deaths were not a random act or a splash of misfortune. These men and women voluntarily put themselves in harm's way, prepared to die, so that we may rest secured at home. They are the insurance policy that guarantees that our founding documents, our God-given rights, are more worthy than their own tomorrows.

When the news (came) that Faulkenburg, Sims, Matteson and Iwan had fallen, the reaction, the shock, the disbelief, the grief, were transformed into resolve and rage to complete the mission assigned to us and give us even greater tenacity under fire. Their sacrifice gave us clear focus to fight using a reserve we never knew we had. We broke the will of our adversaries, the enemy was defeated, and because of that, we came home.

For the infantrymen in combat, there is nobility and purpose in our lives, and that is unique. But we don't see ourselves as a people apart. We are America's warrior class. We are citizens of the United States and treasure this land more than any overseas posting. The Army provided me with purpose and appreciation for the blessing America has bestowed upon us all. I am forever grateful to the United States Army for making me able to count and cherish those blessings in a way that is unique to most, and to those who wear the uniform. I think the uniform, I think my Army, has made us all better men, fathers, employees, husbands and citizens.

The controversy that swirled over the Iraq War was not a departure from other wars America has fought. With the exception of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, open dissent has been at the core of our very being, and war has never been a particularly popular undertaking.

American soldiers have never confused the United States with Sparta. The best leaders in battle become that way by being loyal and dutiful subordinates. We don't get a vote. We execute the lawful intent of our government. There is no political affiliation on our dog tags. We continue the warrior legacy of the United States without regard for adulation or unanimous approval.

The Iraq veteran has maintained and, in many circumstances, far exceeded the highest traditions of military service to this great nation. Of the 1.5 million men and women who have served in Iraq, the valor they displayed was often subsumed by political rhetoric at home. But that in no way diminishes the accomplishment of our troops or the accomplishments of my generation at war.

MOH Remarks cont.

This award should be seen as a validation of our efforts, not as a reward for the action of one individual in one house in Fallujah We have much more work to do when it comes to the Iraq War veteran. We're are not there yet, and we're not even close when it comes to educating our fellow Americans about what was accomplished, what was sacrificed, and what we all went through. Our survival as a nation depends on it.

Iran, Russia, China, North Korea, ISIS, al-Qaida. They may be watching this right now. Our military should not be mistaken for a cable news gabfest show. We don't care what you look like. We don't care who you voted for, who you worship, what you worship, who you love. It doesn't matter if your dad left you millions when he died or if you knew who your father was. We have been honed into a machine of lethal moving parts that you would be wise to avoid if you know what's good for you. We will not be intimidated. We will not back down. We've seen war. We don't want war. But if you want war with the United States of America, there's one thing I can promise you, so help me God: someone else will raise your sons and daughters.

We fight so our children never have to. We fight for one day when our children and our enemy's children can discuss their differences without fear or loathing. We fight so that anyone out there thinking about raising arms against our citizens or allies realizes the futility of attrition against a disciplined, professional and lethal force built to withstand anything you can dream of throwing at us. Americans want this kind of country, Americans want this kind of world, and we stand ready to defend it, to protect us, so help us God.

Toys for Tots Luncheon RSVP



MOAA MARINE CORPS TOYS FOR TOTS LUNCHEON

You are cordially invited to our December 2019 Luncheon Meeting

On

Friday, December 13, 2019

At

At Taberna Country Club

401 Taberna Way,

New Bern NC 28562

(252) 634-1000

Attire: Holiday Casual

Social Hour at: 1100-1130

Lunch Served at: 1130

Luncheon Menu

Please Select One: (Lunch includes: Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries, Coffee / Tea)

Pastrami Reuben Sandwich

Almond Chicken Salad

Cheese Tortellini with Alfredo and Garlic Toast

Cost is \$17.00 per person. All Taxes & Gratuities Included.

Reservations for this event are requested by Monday, 9 December 2019

Contact Randall Ramian (650) 235-6350 / rjramian@aol.com with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 13 December 2019. **Please bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.**

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Enclosed for: _____ (\$17/ person). Mail checks payable to: CC/MOA.

Mail To: **Randall Ramian, 4502 Gloucester Drive, Trent Woods, NC 28562 (650) 235-6350**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2019/2020

Date	Event	Location	Notes
November 9, 2019; 11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Veterans Day Parade	Morehead City	https://www.americanlegionmhc.org/veterans-day-parade/
November 11, 12:00 PM	Free Veterans Luncheon	Temple Church, 1500 Kingdom Way, New Bern, North Carolina 28560	Veteran of the Year award to be presented
November 15, 16, 17	NC Council of Chapters Convention	MCAS Cherry Point, Miller's Landing	Marie Zensig, Mike Kennedy, Randall Ramiam, Others
November 28 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving Day	With Loved Ones	
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day		Hang our your flag
December 10 (Tuesday)	Board Meeting	Carolina Colours Conference Room	Not confirmed
December 13 (Friday)	-Toy for Tots Luncheon; -Prepare Christmas Cards for Veterans Home	Taberna Country Club	RSVP Form in the Clarion
December 14 th	Wreaths Across America	New Bern National Cemetery	Look for announcements in the Sun Journal for all the activities
February 21-22, 2020	Craven County Veterans Stand Down. 1000-1400.	K of C Hall New Bern, Cherry Point Baptist Church	Provide four \$25 gift cards. Two per day.

Sons of the American Revolution



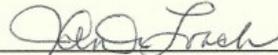
Coastal Carolina MOAA

is hereby awarded the

Certificate of Appreciation

in recognition of the outstanding support given to the
New Bern Chapter, North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution

New Bern Chapter NC SAR


President

September 30, 2019

Date


Secretary