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CCMOAA – President's Message

I am delighted to recognize Gail and John Bateman as our Chapter's 2020 Heavy Lifter Awardees. Gail has actively served as a Board Director, and for the past several years has chaired the CCMOAA's Scholarship program. For several years, our chapter has awarded five \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving students; we will award five scholarships again this year. Gail, our 2020 Heavy Lifter, has been key to the continued success of this flagship program.

We have two events on the docket. We are bringing back the traditional St. Patrick's Day luncheon as the backdrop to our membership and business meeting luncheon. Randy Bogle is also focused on putting together our scholarship dinner for the 2021 recipients in June.

The MOAA NC State Meeting was conducted virtually on February 20, 2021. Our own Chapter Chaplain Colonel Will Barnes led the Invocation for this meeting, as well as the 2020 4th Quarter meeting. Thank you Will! There were many topics covered, however, the most significant and impactful initiatives for 2021 are maintaining what we have and stemming any further losses to our military benefits.

The new administration and U.S. Department of Defense has mandated the removal of service logos from all non-governmental websites and correspondence.

We are closing in on College and High School graduation season. Once again, we will be awarding scholarships and leadership award medals / certificates to local ROTC (ECU) and JROTC programs.

The Travelling Vietnam War Memorial - "The Wall That Heals" (April 6 -11) is scheduled to be displayed in New Bern – Lawson Creek Park. We are still in need of volunteers to assist. If you would like to volunteer, please refer to <http://www.signup.com/go/vpXaDGw> or call me at (650) 235-6350. Again, our Chapter is always looking for volunteers to assist with our many initiatives. Please contact me if you would like to contribute in 2021!

Heavy Lifter Award -



We are delighted to recognize Gail and John Bateman as our Chapter's 2020 Heavy Lifter Awardees. Gail works as an independent contractor with the Veterans Administration and her husband John Bateman, is a retired USMC Colonel, active member, and a Sr. Pilot (Captain) with Delta Airlines.

Gail has actively served as a Board Director chairing the scholarship program for the past several years. She has singlehandedly led the effort to educate local area high schools on the Coastal Carolina Chapter's Scholarship Program, petition for student

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scholarship applications, and chair the scholarship selection committee process. Congratulations to Gail and John, your continued service to our Chapter and community is emblematic of this award!

Events



Our Chapter Installation / Business Meeting Luncheon will be held on March 18th at the Taberna Golf and Country Club. This is our first social of the year and we would be delighted to see you all and share a "Green Beer". This should be a fun time and we encourage all attendees to be "Irish for a Day" by wearing of the green. Working with Taberna's staff, all current Covid-19 guidance will be enforced. The RSVP form is at the back of the newsletter or on the [CCMOAA website](#).



Annual Scholarship Dinner – Please mark your calendars for our annual awards dinner honoring our deserving recipients. We are currently working with the Carolina Colours Pavilion staff to finalize the menu and dates for this event.

As always, we will host the families and the recipients, please come, and meet them as they are your legacy. More information will be forthcoming, for now however, mark your calendars for Thursday, either 3 or 10 June 2021 for this important event.

Advocacy –



In the 2021 legislative year, there are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$27 trillion, and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. There are also many North Carolina budget issues as well. In view of this, we anticipate robust attempts to control both budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements. The easiest choice for all of this are the defense budget and state veterans' programs.

North Carolina Advocacy goals for 2021 are to focus on bills that have the highest priority and to pass the DSLO (Defense State Liaison Office) laws to make NC military friendly. Plans are to work with the NC Veteran's Council and Chapter Legislative Chairs will assist the North Carolina Council. State goals will be tracked through the MOAA Military State Report Card and Tax Guide.

Federal Advocacy in Action – No longer called "Storming the Hill", this year, like last, will be conducted virtually for the month of May 2021 addressing:

- Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act
- TRICARE Young Adult (TYA)
- Basic Needs Allowance

This year become more active and visit MOAA's Advocacy pages and use the [Action Center](#) to correspond directly with your representatives. If you have a particular issue, visit our Web Page, and use the [resource links](#) to correspond with both our State and Federal legislators.

Website Modifications -



To prevent Trademark infringement, we have been directed to remove all service-related logos from our website and public correspondence.

You will notice if you visit either the MOAA National, North Carolina State or Coastal Carolina Chapter websites the service logos are no longer displayed. Additionally, service logos will no longer be allowed on any of the MOAA correspondence.



Black History Month – Bravery not forgotten

Col. Paris Davis, U.S. Army Special Forces, while fighting in the Vietnam War in 1965, performed a stunning series of heroic acts during an 18-hour battle, including dragging three wounded men to safety after he had been shot five times.

Then Capt. Davis made it out alive, and was immediately nominated for the military's highest award, the Medal of Honor. In the bureaucratic chaos of the conflict, the Army somehow lost the nomination. After 55 years of trying, his Army comrades finally got a sign of hope in January. Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller personally ordered an expedited review of the lost nomination, to be completed by March. The resulting report will then go up the chain to the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense and finally President Biden. If they all sign off, Mr. Davis, now 81, will finally be recognized.



Good News - [A 99-year-old World War II veteran finally gets his medals](#) (click for full article)

Shaky but sturdy, retired Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Cornett, 82nd Airborne Division, stood tall in a uniform he hadn't worn in more than half a century. Donning his "Eisenhower jacket," a garrison cap, and matching trousers, he finally received his medals overlooked since 1944.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Cornett also merited the Bronze Star for having earned a Combat Infantry Badge during the war. After a nearly an 80-year delay, surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, both medals were pinned to his chest on a sunny California day. "Currahee", an American Indian word for "Stands Alone", seems a fitting tribute to Sgt. Cornett.

MOAA's 2021 Legislative Priorities

By: MOAA Government Relations Staff

Here are MOAA's priorities for advocacy as the 117th Congress begins its work. Our focus remains on all eight of the uniformed services and their service-earned entitlements.

As protecting health care and service-earned benefits continues to be a challenge, MOAA will press forward in engaging Congress to shape outcomes in these vital areas.

There are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$27 trillion, and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. In view of this, MOAA anticipates robust attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements.

Please follow the link below to get a more in-depth explanation. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/advocacy/moaas-2021-legislative-priorities/?ite=2154&ito=2538&itq=93f61d7e-61bc-4791-8583-1f51084ffd91&itx%5Bidio%5D=17976>

VA's New Web Feature, Phone Number Target Common Veteran Complaints

By: Amanda Dolasinski

Beneficiaries now can update their contact information via their [VA.gov profile](#), and the change will synchronize across VA networks. Veterans can enter demographic information – including a phone number, email addresses, home addresses, and disability ratings one time and have it change across networks addressing health care, disability compensation, pension benefits, claims and appeals, and the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. Previously, if a veteran needed to change any demographic information, he or she would be required to call each individual VA network where that information is on file. (Veterans still must connect with separate offices to change details regarding education and home loan benefits, CHAMPVA, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance, and The Foreign Medical Program.)

24-Hour Hotline

The administration also has officially launched the My VA hotline, which will serve as the starting point to all VA contact centers and will help veterans find the right person to address their needs. Veterans can call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-

Contact Information: Randall Ramian, CAPT., USN (Ret.), President, Coastal Carolina Chapter | [+1 \(650\) 235-6350](tel:+16502356350) | president@ccmoaa.org

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2411) with the option to press 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or connect to the appropriate VA expert. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The VA conducted a pilot phase of the hotline from Oct. 1, 2019, to Sept. 31 of 2020, [per a VA press release](#). During that time, more than 1.3 million people called the VA contact center. The VA also maintains the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, by chat at veteranscrisisline.net and by text message at 838255. The VA also maintains the White House VA Hotline at 1-855-948-2311 which can be used “for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns,” per the release.

Here’s How to Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

By: Shane Ostrom

Now that the coronavirus vaccine is being deployed to the public, you will need reliable sources of information to stay up to speed on the relevant issues. It’s too much to cover in one article, so this article includes links to the most comprehensive information regarding insurance coverage as well as vaccine procedures and timelines. And remember, scams are rampant — beware of criminals. Medicare and TRICARE cover the vaccine at no cost to you, so if anyone asks you to share your private health care information or pay for access to the vaccine, it’s a scam.

Things to know about scams:

- You can’t pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can’t pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don’t share your personal or financial information with anyone who calls, texts, or emails you promising anything related to the vaccine or health care.
- Hang up the phone or delete any emails or texts that ask you to do anything. Do not click on any attachments or links in emails or texts. Nothing is as it seems. Scam attempts look very real.

Use only reliable sources to get information about the vaccine, like:

- [Medicare](http://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus) (www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus)
- [TRICARE](http://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/COVID-Vaccine) (For TRICARE information specifically regarding vaccines, go [here](http://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/COVID-Vaccine), tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/COVID-Vaccine. For one-stop-shop TRICARE information regarding coronavirus, go [here](http://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-Articles), tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-Articles.)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/library/researchguides/2019novelcoronavirus/websites.html) (www.cdc.gov/library/researchguides/2019novelcoronavirus/websites.html)
- [National Institutes of Health](http://covid19.nih.gov) (covid19.nih.gov)
- [MOAA](http://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/rollout-report-the-covid-19-vaccine-and-dod,-va,-medicare,-and-more/) (www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/rollout-report-the-covid-19-vaccine-and-dod,-va,-medicare,-and-more/)

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Installation of Officers and Board of Directors
You are cordially invited to our St. Patty's Day Themed
Lunch Meeting - Thursday, March 18, 2021



at

Taberna Golf and Country Club Club
401 Taberna Way
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 634-1600

Attire: 'Wearing of the Green' Casual

Social Hour (No Host Bar): 1130-1230 Lunch: 1230-1300 General Meeting: 1300-1400

Lunch Menu

Please Select One per Person:

Reuben Sandwich with French Fries

Tuna Salad Wrap with Fresh Fruit

Grilled Chicken Salad with choice of Ranch, Bleu Cheese, or Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

Dessert – Chef's Surprise

Coffee, Tea, Water Included

Cost \$20.00 per person - all taxes and gratuities included

Reservations requested by Thursday, 11 March

Contact Randy Bogle (252) 631-3109/rbogle1968@gmail.com with cancellations NLT 48 hours
prior to 18 Mar

Request Takeout

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Enclosed for: _____ (\$20 /person) payable to CC/MOAA

Mail To: Randy Bogle, 4308 Periwinkle Place, New Bern, NC 28562