

Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

[December 2022 issue](#)



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President's Message

Happy Holidays and wishing everyone a very Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday to the National Guard – (386 Years) – December 13th and to the Space Force (3 Years) – December 20, 2022.

On the Horizon:

- **Coastal Carolina Board meetings are March 9, 2023, June 8, 2023, and September 14, 2023.**

Recap of Toys for Tots - We recently held our annual Toys for Tots Luncheon at the Taberna Country Club on Thursday, December 15th. Representing the Marine Corps once again was Captain Nicholas Salamone, who thanked the Coastal Carolina Chapter and community for the overwhelming support to the Toys for Tots program. Also, former North Carolina State Presidents David Lee attended and spoke on behalf of MOAA North Carolina Council.



Chapter awards were presented to Randy and Joanie Bogle, who are the recipients of the Coastal Carolina Chapter Heavy Lifter Award. Randy has been very active the past few years organizing our Dinner and Luncheon meeting, in addition to the pop-up events, such as the Navy Academy / Eastern Carolina Football game and the Sunset Sail's. Mark was presented two 5 Star Certificates from MOAA National for 2021 Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for the Website and Newsletter.

Also, thank you to Board Member Jerry Kirk who once again liaised with Kinston's Veterans Home to coordinate the delivery of over 100 signed Christmas cards to the residents. Toys for Tots Luncheon attendees assisted by including Holiday well wishes in the cards.

If you are interested in attending the North Carolina's Council of Chapters [Veteran's Day Cruise](#), you will need to respond by February 1, 2023.

I am very sorry to report that Coastal Carolina member Lt. Col. Charles Edward Daniels Jr. (USMC), Ret. (1 February 1933 – 8 December 2022) recently passed away. Please remember his wife Janet and the Daniels family during this difficult time. His [obituary link](#) is included here..

Again, thank you for all you do for our military community, including our veterans.

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

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2022 The Year That Was

2022, for many was a year of recovery. For those whose motto is, "Continue to Serve" it was another chance to excel and achieve a 5 Star Award. The following newsletter highlights the efforts of our members throughout the year. Our little chapter has an outsized effect when it comes to our community at large. The CCMOAA Board would like to thank each one of you that, once again, made a difference.

CAMPAIGNS

CCMOAA once again worked within our community to make the lives of others better.



Behind the SECU Comprehensive Cancer Center at Carolina East Medical Center, you will find a flagpole surrounded by bricks purchased to honor or memorialize a veteran. The Coastal Carolina Chapter Board worked with MOAA, the Carolina East Foundation and the brick manufacturer to ensure that we honored your service. Net proceeds of the Bricks for Veterans campaign are used to support special programs for veterans sponsored by CarolinaEast Health System, including the hospital's "Final Salute" program.



We also contributed once again to two significant veterans holiday activities – Wreaths Across America (WAA) for both the National Cemetery and the Historically Black Greenwood Cemetery.

CCMOAA was called out this year for our efforts on-behalf of Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery and New Bern's African American Community. Our thanks once again go to you, our members who unselfishly give every year so that these veterans and their sacrifices are not forgotten. Our thanks also go to Dan Walczak whose set-up of our WAA account ensures that \$5 from every wreath purchased goes to our Scholarship Fund.



CCMOAA in cooperation with the New Bern Historical Society, The African American Heritage and Cultural Center, The First Missionary Baptist Church, and other veteran's services organizations has been involved in a two-year headstone cleaning and identification effort of those Black veterans who have served in every conflict from the Civil War to the Gulf War Conflicts. This was the first year that Black veterans, not interred in the National Cemetery, were honored with a wreath.



Once the nursing homes could once again be opened, CCMOAA along with other VSO's once again contributed to the Veterans Home. Thanks to Jerry Kirk, we have refilled the canteen, sent cards, and have worked with other VSO's to go up on Bingo Days.



No Community activity would be complete without a mention of MOAA's efforts to clean up New Bern and its environment.

On Saturday, 18 June 2022, MOAA members and American Legionnaires Marie Senzig, Trish Miller, Karen Baskin, and Mark Sandvigen participated in a roadside cleanup effort along Pine Tree Drive in New Bern. The effort netted over a dozen bags of roadside litter.

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EVENTS



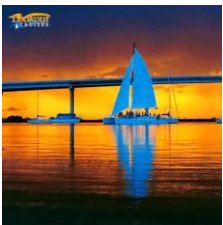
Our sincere thanks to ET and Champ Mitchell for their continued support of the “Salute to Veterans” gala. ET’s efforts on behalf of Craven County and CCMOAA are a silent, and oftentimes, unsung reminder that “Continuing to Serve” comes in all forms. ET Mitchell is featured with LtGen Gaskin, USMC (ret.) who serves as Secretary of North Carolina’s Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, State Representative Steve Tyson, and Col. Mike Huber, former Commanding Officer of MCAS Cherry Point



Memorial Day - CCMOAA member and Commander of the NJROTC Cadet Corps at New Bern High School, LCDR Ron Fry lead the cadet Honor Guard’s participation in 2022’s Memorial Day Ceremony at the New Bern National Cemetery.

Ron was joined by was MGen Tom Braaten, Capt.’s Randal Ramian and Randy Bogle and their wives Mary and Joanie, Capt. Trish Miller, Col. Dave Nelson, Lt.Col. Doug Uhland, LTC Bob Brinson, CDR Russ Bauer, and LCDR ET Mitchell.

Our continued thanks, as always, goes to our **2022 Heavy Lifters**, CAPT. Randy Bogle and his lovely wife Joanie. Team Bogle put on several stellar events ranging from the Sunset Sail, the ECU – Navy Football matchup plus our two signature events: the Toys for Tots Luncheon and the Scholarship Dinner. If you were not able to attend these events, each was memorable.



Sunset Sail - Our trip departed from Beaufort’s piers at 7:00 PM and came back at 8:30 pm. The cruise as promised provides a sailor’s view of Beaufort’s and Morehead’s harbors, Fort Macon, and the barrier islands that define our part of the world. And yes, the sunset took our breath away. The red and yellow North Carolina sunsets are some of the most beautiful in the world, and they were ours for the evening.

The cruise includes complimentary beverages – when they say “endless glass”, they mean an endless glass. The Sunset Sail around Beaufort Harbor out to the Atlantic Ocean and the chilled drinks were a welcome break from the heat of summer. See you next year.



Pop-Up Event: Navy Football - Randy once again knocked it out of the park by coordinating with the USNA Alumni Association to ensure we had seats for the Navy-ECU football game. Randy was able to get us seats with all the other Naval Academy Alums to watch what turned out to be an exciting game with Navy winning 23-20 over the ECU Pirates.

The football game was our first real “Pop-up” event and the fact that Navy won was icing on the cake. For me, being in the stadium watching the next generation of college kids was a real treat. The fashionistas, intoxicants, Greeks, and the Alums were all in play lending to a festive and noisy atmosphere – it was great!



Toys for Tots - The chapter once again demonstrated its generosity by bringing in a load of Toys for local children. The 2022 holiday season marks the 75th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program! The Marines put out a special appeal to remind us of all that this year, as you are all aware, will be especially hard for many whose salaries have been eaten up by high inflation rates.

Standing next to the pile of Toys from left to right are Steve Hanscom, Bob and Amy Brinson, Capt. Nicolas Solomone, Karen Baskin, and Dave Nelson.

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Scholarships – Gail Bateman, as our Scholarship Chairman, did another fabulous job of recruiting, organizing the submissions, and managing the selection committee. The Scholarship Committee was comprised of Gail Bateman (Chairman), Mike Kennedy, Dan Walczak, Diane Bauer, and Randall Ramian. The committee came up with another superior group of candidates. Awardees for 2022 were:

Emmanuel Cantey - Emmanuel is a returning applicant who won the CC MOAA Scholarship last year. He has been attending NC State, where he is majoring in Statistics.

Juliana Magyar - Juliana is also a returning applicant who won the CC MOAA Scholarship last year and has been attending UNC Wilmington, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Jacob Reeves – Jacob graduated from Pamlico High School and will be attending UNC Chapel Hill where he plans to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Exercise and Sport Science.

Madelyn Coble - Madeline is graduating from the Epiphany School of Global Studies, and she will be attending UNC Chapel Hill, where she will be majoring in Astrophysics.

Brent Eilertson - Brent is graduating from Croatan High School, and he will be attending Barton College, with plans to become a Physical Therapist, with a degree in Exercise Science.

Last, we wish to thank our members for their generosity. You are the reason this marquee event happens every year. The next generation is in good hands because you ensure their success by “Continuing to Serve”.

Recognition Events



JROTC and ROTC Support - Our Chapter once again offered our support to ECU's ROTC programs and the area's high school JROTC programs. A special thanks to our officers who traveled to the local high schools and colleges to present MOAA Medals and Certificates for outstanding leadership and performance.

Below were 2022's recipients and the presenters.

Date	School	Unit	Awardee	Presenter
April 20, 2022	East Carolina University	Army ROTC	Cadet Jackson Blumhardt	CAPT Randall Ramian
April 20, 2022	East Carolina University	Air Force ROTC	Cadet Justin Brogden	CAPT Randall Ramian
May 19, 2022	Havelock High School	Navy JROTC	Cadet Seaman Cayden Sharp-Bessire	Col Mike Kennedy
May 13, 2022	New Bern High School	Navy JROTC	C/SN Angel Aaron	CDR Russ Bauer
April 6, 2022	Pamlico High School	Navy JROTC	C/Ens Abby Harwick	CAPT Marie Senzig
April 28, 2022	South Central High School	Army JROTC	Cadet SGM David Ige	Col Mike Kennedy mailed
May 11, 2022	Southern Wayne High School	Air Force JROTC	Cadet Juliyah Williams	Col Mike Kennedy

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Membership



New Members and Sounding Taps: There are two priorities that MOAA as an organization has – Membership and Legislative Action. Mike Kennedy, through constant attention to the Committee Module was once again recognized by both National and State MOAA organizations for his efforts.

This year we wish to thank our members, who through their networking efforts were able to bring new officers into the chapter. We were happy to welcome Mary Jane Cahill, Colonel, USAF (Ret); Virginia Spencer, Captain, USA (Ret), Daniel McGee, LtCol, USMC (Ret.); Karen Baskin, Maj, USAF (Ret), Shawn Hilvers, Maj, ANG, and Mike Huber, Col, USMC (Ret.), Mary L. Hynes, Surviving Spouse,

Janet Daniels, Surviving Spouse

We sadly sound Taps for: Steven Clark Harman, Jr., Col, USA (Ret), George “Kevin” Hynes, Capt, USAF, and Charles Edward Daniels Jr., LtCol, USMC, Ret.

Membership and eligibility information as always is contained on our [CCMOAA website](#). Feel free to download an application and give it to a fellow officer. We are more than advocates for the military community, we are a family.

Veteran of the Year



We are very proud that US Army Nurse Corp officer and CCMOAA member, Capt. Virginia Spencer (pictured here with the Sons of the American Revolution) was named by the Craven County Veterans Council – Veteran of the Year.

A passionate advocate for veteran suicide prevention, a creative and enthusiastic participant in veteran events, plus a business owner (Carolina Creations) earned her the NC American Legion’s Veteran Owned Business of the Year Award as well.

If you have ever had the privilege of sitting down with Virginia for a cup of coffee and a chat, you can immediately understand her passion based on the professional focus that grew from her service at Walter Reed AMC.

Legislative Action



2022 was a biennial election year and our members worked the phones, worked the polls, posted signs, kept statistics, attended meetings, and encouraged everyone to vote which resulted in 51% voter turnout matching NC’s statewide turnout.

We are exceptionally fortunate that we also had two of our members run for political office. Our congratulations to the City of Newbern’s Alderman 6th Ward, LCol Robert Brinson, and reelected Craven County Commissioner District 4 LCDR ET Mitchell.

Legislatively, we as a chapter, called, wrote letters, and visited personally with our representatives to accomplish the following:

- Passing the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act.
- Gaining 100% co-sponsorship from NC for the Maj. Richard Star Act (addressing concurrent payment)
- Getting a 4.6% raise fixed into the 2023 NDAA
- Working through the 2023 implementation of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) & Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) tax exemption, or Widows Tax.
- Passage of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 addressing water contamination
- Modification of NC’s budget to include NOAA and USPHS officers in the tax-exempt status.

Your efforts on behalf of active-duty service members, their families, and veterans throughout Craven County and NC are greatly appreciated – thank you.

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For more information on MOAA's Legislative Actions and how you can help please see Active Legislative Campaigns at MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).

Chaplain's Corner



As we conclude the year of 2022 here're some thoughts to reflect on...

Remember, being happy doesn't mean you have it all!
It simply means you're thankful for all you have!"

As we enter 2023 here's some thoughts to reflect on...

"Life has taught me I am not in control.
Life is full of experiences, lessons, heartbreak, and pain.
But it has also shown me love, beauty, possibility and
new beginnings, Embrace it all. It makes us who we are,
and after every storm comes a clear sky!"

2023 - A Preview



If you have not heard from our Treasurer, Dan Walczek about your dues payment please contact him at +1 (252) 288-5541 or danimal@suddenlink.net to understand how to renew.

Please consider continuing to support CCMOAA by renewing your membership today. If you are like me, you take the discount offered by renewing for multiple years, so you do not have to hear from Dan 😊!

Many of our very gracious members also elect to add their scholarship donations to the membership form as well. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



LCol Bob Brinson, and LCDR Mark Sandvigen will be stepping up within the Craven County Veterans Council. Mark will become the Chairman of the Council with Bob becoming the Vice-Chairman.

We have another officer who quietly stands on the sidelines, but whose impact far exceeds those of others. Col. Malcolm Roberts is a delegate to the Council from American Legion Post 539 and is also on their Post Executive Board as the Service Officer. Malcolm brings his staff and combat experience to each meeting of the Veterans Council and gently guides the other chapters in their veteran's aid activities.

Malcolm's tireless efforts ensure that those in need get help, and that those who wish to play on the sympathies of fellow veterans are called from the system. **Well done Malcolm – You Rock!**

Mark Sandvigen will stay for another term as MOAA's NC Council of Chapters 2nd Vice-President for Legislative Action.

We are exceptionally lucky to have officers attending our Board Meetings who are busy assuming leadership positions either through committees or directorships. If you wish to become involved, please let us know. Surviving Spouses, Spouses, and retired officers can all become part of this chapter's activities. As a sidenote, some of the most significant contributions both nationally and locally are now being accomplished by surviving spouses of MOAA members.

MOAA's new legislative priorities will be published in the Mar/Apr timeframe. The State's Veteran Council is finalizing North Carolina's veterans' legislative priorities as we speak.

If you have enjoyed our events or would like to suggest a pop-up for the group, please let Randy Bogle know at +1 (252) 631-3109 or at rbogle1968@gmail.com.

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These States Saw Changes to Military Retirement Tax Rules in 2022

By: Kevin Lilley

MOAA National serves in an advisory capacity for state-specific issues such as income tax exemption. Please [contact your local MOAA council or independent chapter](#) as state legislation must originate at the state level.

Retired servicemembers and their survivors in several states will benefit from tax code changes enacted for the 2022 tax year, with several states approving full exemptions for military retired pay.

Other states saw increases to existing exemptions, or partial exemptions based on age or income. The latest information on your state is available at [MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#).

Here's a look at some of the states where tax code changes are coming the next time you file. These changes deal with laws already on the books for the 2022 tax year and beyond; MOAA members in many states are continuing to advocate for exemptions – reach out to your local council or chapter for more information.

Note: The below exemptions do not cover retirees from the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA. One state did make a change on behalf of those retirees in 2022: North Carolina passed an amendment to this year's appropriations act extending the 2021 state tax exemption on military retiree and surviving spouse benefits to USPHS and NOAA retirees. MOAA Councils and Chapters are encouraged to include USPHS and NOAA when advocating for these tax changes. As uniformed services but not part of the "Armed Forces," they can be excluded unknowingly by lawmakers. Surviving spouses should also be included in the advocacy efforts.

Full Exemption

Oklahoma: A law signed May 26 by Gov. Kevin Stitt offers full exemption for military retired pay, improving on a previous 75% tax break.

Rhode Island: The state's FY 2023 budget, signed July 21 by Gov. Dan McKee, exempts all military retired pay from state taxes beginning in tax year 2023 (not 2022).

South Carolina: A law signed May 13 by Gov. Henry McMaster exempts all military retirement income from state taxes beginning with the 2022 tax year.

Partial Exemption

Delaware: A law signed July 21 by Gov. John Carney extends the state's tax exemption for military retirees under 60 to \$12,500, up from \$2,000, beginning in the 2022 tax year.

Georgia: A law signed April 18 by Gov. Brian Kemp exempts up to \$35,000 of military income for residents under age 62. Georgia residents ages 62 to 64 can claim a \$35,000 exemption on any retirement income, and those 65 and over can exempt \$65,000.

New Mexico: A law signed March 8 by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham exempts \$10,000 in military retired pay for tax year 2022, \$20,000 for tax year 2023, and \$30,000 for tax years 2024 through 2026.

Vermont: A law signed May 27 by Gov. Phil Scott provides a tax exemption on \$10,000 of military retirement pay in 2022 for residents with gross incomes of \$50,000 or less (\$65,000 or less for those married but filing a joint tax return).

Virginia: The state's two-year budget, signed June 21 by Gov. Glenn Youngkin, exempts the first \$10,000 in military retirement income in the 2022 tax year, the first \$20,000 in tax year 2023, the first \$30,000 in tax year 2024, and \$40,000 in 2025 and beyond.

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MOAA will continue tracking state tax changes in the coming year, including details on legislation moving through various state chambers. Visit [MOAA.org/news](https://moaa.org/news) for regular updates. Have questions about or additions to the above list, or have news from your state regarding tax exemptions? Contact us at editor@moaa.org with "State Tax" in the subject line.

Defense Secretary Tells Congress to Get a Military Budget Done Already

[Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin](#) on Monday urged lawmakers to pass a [full-year budget](#) for his department as soon as possible, warning that another short-term spending extension could imperil military readiness and family support efforts.

"If the [current budget extension] extends beyond December, we may be forced to reduce accessions or permanent change of station moves, impairing our ability to meet our missions and causing unnecessary disruption to our families and our ability to recruit personnel," Austin wrote in a letter to House and Senate leaders.

"It is impairing our ability to hire the people we need to accelerate our efforts to eradicate sexual assault and prevent suicide. [It] is delaying needed investments in military infrastructure, including barracks and childcare centers."

Congress approved a short-term budget extension in September after lawmakers failed to agree upon a full-year spending plan by the start of the new fiscal year, Oct. 1. That temporary extension is set to run out on Dec. 16.

Negotiations for a full-year budget have been ongoing for the past few months, but Democratic and Republican leaders have yet to announce a deal. Some year when House members have pushed for a final plan to be postponed until early next year, when they will have control of the chamber and stronger negotiating power.

While another budget extension would prevent a partial government shutdown, department leaders like Austin have been warning that such a move solves only a few of the appropriations problems facing the department.

The defense secretary in his letter said that military leaders are operating with nearly \$3 billion less a month in funding than they expected under the new fiscal 2023 budget. That has delayed new program starts, new contract agreements and a host of other spending decisions.

"The [budget extension] costs us time as well as money, and money can't buy back time, especially for lost training events," Austin wrote.

"We must break this pattern of extensive inaction. We can't outcompete China with our hands tied behind our back three, four, five or six months of every fiscal year."

White House officials have asked for a military appropriation of about \$800 billion for fiscal 2023, which would be around 2.5% above the fiscal 2022 level. House and Senate lawmakers have proposed a range of spending above that mark, as high as an 8% increase.

The short-term budget extensions become more complicated at the end of the fiscal year due to the annual military pay raise. Troops are in line for a 4.6% raise starting in January, money that is not included in the fiscal 2022 budget extension levels. Paying for those higher wages without new extra money could mean cutting into training and readiness initiatives.

Austin's plea for Congress to return to meeting its annual budget deadlines is not unique to the current administration. That same message has been echoed for more than a decade through both Republican- and Democratic-controlled White Houses, as partisan gridlock on Capitol Hill has made routine business increasingly more complicated.

Leaders from both parties have expressed optimism that they will reach an appropriations deal in the coming weeks.

New Commissary Grocery Pickup App Designed to Make Mobile Ordering Easier

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The [commissary](#)'s grocery pickup program now has a dedicated shopping app aimed at making it easier for users to place orders on mobile devices. The curbside program, known as Click2Go, is available in all 235 commissary locations worldwide and currently doesn't carry an additional cost for use after that \$5 fee was eliminated in 2021.

In the past, online ordering has been available only via the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) website. But when used on mobile phones, that shopping system was difficult to navigate, slow to load and periodically crashed, leading to user frustration. The app, rolled out early this month, aims to improve that user experience. Users can download the free app via their specific device's app store and sign-in using their current commissaries.com login information. New accounts can also be created through the app. Account registration requires a user's DoD ID number, which can be found on military IDs or the [DS Logon system](#).

Allowing the app to access mobile location information will make it pinpoint the user's nearest military commissary. From there, shoppers can browse groceries, add coupons to their account and walk-through pickup scheduling and checkout. The store's typical 5% order surcharge required by law applies to online orders and is reflected in the total at checkout.

The commissary's mobile shopping system has a few notable differences from shopping in person or using a pickup service at an off-base civilian store.

For example, in-person commissary shoppers can use paper coupons, while mobile customers can only use the digital selection offered via the app or commissary rewards card. And because Click2Go orders are fulfilled by commissary employees who are federal workers, cash tips are not expected or even permitted. That's in contrast to commissary baggers inside the store who are not federal employees and work for tips only.

Unlike many off-base stores, mobile order product substitutions at the commissary come with the price tag of the new item, even if it's more expensive than the one originally ordered. Some civilian stores instead charge whichever price is lower if the product selected by the shopper is unavailable. Commissary shoppers can elect to allow or block substitutions while placing their order, and ultimately reject substitutions at time of pickup if desired.

Meanwhile, the commissary also updated a portion of its payment system to allow shoppers to use the Military Star Card, which earns rewards in the form of Exchange gift cards, to pay for some online orders. That line of credit, managed through the [Army](#) and [Air Force](#) Exchange Service (AAFES) has been accepted at both exchanges and for in-person shopping at commissary stores since late 2017, but not for online orders. Now, the card can be used for orders via the website only -- not via the app. A commissary spokesman said they do not have an estimated date for when it will expand to the app.

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