

Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

February 2023 issue



In this issue:

- President's Message
- Things you did not know about Valentine's Day
- Chaplain's Corner
- Freedom Classic
- The PACT Act & Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022
- Taxes
- Etcetera

From National MOAA

- [Another Big Victory in MOAA's Fight to Stop Military Medical Cuts](#)
- [Facing a Career Challenge? This Military Spouse's Story Will Motivate You](#)
- [New MOAA Event Series Offers Resources for Younger Professionals](#)

President's Message

The next Coastal Carolina Board meeting is March 9th, 3 PM at the Carolina Colours Pavilion, as I mentioned in our last newsletter. Our guest speaker (virtually) for the meeting is Col. Peter K. Kloeber, USAF (Ret), Board of Directors - MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs Committee, Membership Committee.

Col. Kloeber Biography: Col. Kloeber was commissioned in the Air Force following graduation from California State University at San Jose. He subsequently earned masters' degrees from the University of Southern California in systems management and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in National Resource Strategy. He retired from active duty in 1999 after more than 32 years of service with his final military at Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base. Col. Kloeber's civilian career included financial budgeting and reporting for military, public and private sectors. His 20+ years in organizational leadership and planning experience has been applied to numerous corporate and private boards.

We are looking forward to hearing what he has to say regarding our new board and CEO along with any changes of direction MOAA may be taking. Please mark your calendars and join us on March 9th, 3:00 p.m. – more information will be published as we get closer to the date.

On the Horizon:

Coastal Carolina Board Meetings - 2023: March 9th, June 8th and September 14th.

North Carolina Council of Chapters Meetings - 2023: March 9th, April 5th (2nd Quarter Meeting), May 3rd, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd (3rd Quarter Meeting), September 21st, October 5th (4th Quarter Meeting and election of State Officers), November 11th (Annual Meeting – Veterans Day Cruise 5 Days), December 16th. Mark Sandvigen and I attend these meetings and will continue to pass along important information.

Two of our fellow Chapters - Triangle Chapter will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year and the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is celebrating 50 years on April 6, 2023. Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret) – MOAA President and Chief Executive Officer will be the keynote speaker at the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter celebration. Other Chapter guests are invited to attend.

Coastal Carolina Chapter currently has two Board of Directors openings. If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact me before the March 9th meeting. I will be happy to address any questions you may have.

Veterans Day Cruise - Again, if you are interested in booking a cabin for the MOAA Veteran's Day Cruise – November 11 -16, 2023, you will need to respond very soon. Currently, there are 81 guests registered for the cruise and there are still cabins available. The cruise is open to family and guests, military, and non-military. Please refer to the cruise information email from Mark Sandvigen on February, 10th, or on our CCMOAA [website](#).

There is still time to contribute to the Coastal Carolina Scholarship program. This year, as in the past we will be awarding five scholarships to deserving high school and college students in the Spring. Please send your donation to: Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association, PO Box 373, Havelock, NC 28532.

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Thank you for all you do in our community to support our veterans.

Things You Did Not Know About Valentine's Day;



1. **Origins to a Bloody Pagan Festival** - Some trace Valentine's Day origins to a Christian effort to replace a pagan fertility festival that has been dated as far back as the 6th century B.C. During the festival of Lupercalia, Roman priests would sacrifice goats and dogs and use their blood-soaked hides to slap women on the streets, as a fertility blessing. According to legend, women would later put their names in an urn and be selected to be paired with a man for a year.
2. **Letters Addressed to 'Juliet'** - Every year, thousands of romantics send letters addressed to Verona, Italy to "Juliet," the subject of the timeless romantic tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet." The city marks the location of the Shakespearean tale, and the letters that reach the city are dutifully answered by a team of volunteers from the Juliet Club. Each year, on Valentine's Day, the club awards the "Cara Giulietta" ("Dear Juliet") prize to the author of the most touching love letter.
3. **Box of Chocolates** - The Valentine's Day tradition of giving a box of candy was started in the 19th century by Richard Cadbury, a scion of a British chocolate manufacturing family. With a new technique recently established at the company to create more varieties of chocolate, Cadbury pounced on the opportunity to sell the chocolates as part of the beloved holiday.
4. **First Valentine Was Written from a Prison** - History's first valentine was written in perhaps one of the most unromantic places conceivable: a prison. Charles, Duke of Orleans wrote a love letter to his second wife at the age of 21 while captured at the Battle of Agincourt. As a prisoner for more than 20 years, he would never see his valentine's reaction to the poem he penned to her in the early 15th century.
5. **'Vinegar Valentines' Discouraged Suitors** - During the Victoria Era, those who didn't want the attention of certain suitors would anonymously send "vinegar valentines." These cards, also called penny dreadfuls, were the antithesis of customary valentines, comically insulting and rejecting unwanted admirers. They were later used to target suffragettes in the late 19th and early 20th century.
6. **'Wearing Your Heart on Your Sleeve'** - The term "wearing your heart on your sleeve" may have origins in picking a valentine. Smithsonian reports that during the Middle Ages, men would draw the names of women who they would be coupled with for the upcoming year while attending a Roman festival honoring Juno. After choosing, the men wore the names on their sleeves to show their bond during the festivities.
7. **'Sweethearts' Candies Started Out as Lozenges** - The iconic chalky heart-shaped candies that have been passed out lovingly every Valentine's Day started out as lozenges. According to the Food Business News, pharmacist and inventor Oliver Chase created a machine that would quickly create the lozenges before switching to using the machine to create candy—later known as Necco Wafers. Chase's brother came up with the idea to print messages on the candy in 1866, and the candies got their heart shape in 1901, appealing specifically to Valentine's Day sweethearts.
8. **Cupid Began as a Greek God** - The chubby baby with wings and a bow and arrow that we call Cupid has been associated with Valentine's Day for centuries. However, before he was renamed Cupid, he was known to the ancient Greeks as Eros, the god of love. Eros, the son of Greek goddess Aphrodite, would use two sets of arrows—one for love and another for hate—to play with the emotions of his targets. It wasn't until stories of his mischief were told by Romans that he adopted the childlike appearance that we recognize today.
9. **How 'X' Came to Mean 'Kiss'** - The idea of using a kiss to sign off on valentines also has a long history, according to the Washington Post. The use of "X" came to represent Christianity, or the cross, in the Middle Ages. During the same time, the symbol was used to sign off on documents. After marking with an X, the writer would often kiss the mark as a sign of their oath. As the gesture grew among kings and commoners to certify books, letters and paperwork, these records were described as having been "sealed with a kiss."

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CHAPAIN'S CORNER, CH, COL. Will G. Barnes, U.S. Army (Ret.)



There is always something brewing – this month it is Valentine's Day. Depending on your poison, be it chocolates, meals out, roses, or jewelry, there is always a precious incite Will Barnes provides for free.

VALENTINE'S DAY continues to be one of the most romantic days of the year and a great opportunity to shower your special lady with love. I invite you to pause to be reminded of the other special ladies in your life like a daughter, daughter in law, or the other great women in your life like your mother and grandmothers.

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine Day is celebrated annually on February 14 around the world. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one early Christian martyr, St. Valentinus. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends are murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. Whatever legend you read about this Saint; the one thing they all have in common is that it is an annual celebration of LOVE.

LOVE is one of the essential ingredients in life, and living, and relationships. LOVE is essential to relationships, life, and living and how we treat 'one and another' even Jesus reminded us to "LOVE thy neighbor as thy self" "...no greater LOVE than this" ...LOVE is essential to life and living and relationships.

Joseph Johnson penned these words: "The ROSE is red and the VIOLET'S blue, The honey's sweet and so are YOU. Thou art my LOVE and I am thine; I drew thee to my Valentine: The lot was cast and then I drew, and FORTUNE said it shou'd be YOU."

Happy Valentine's Day.

[Freedom Classic](#)



Mark your Calendars! This year's Freedom Classic (Air Force vs Navy) - February 24-26, 2023, will be held at Kinston's Historic Grainger Stadium, 400 E Grainger Ave. Kinston 28501.

Free - Active-Duty Military and children are free.

\$3.00 - retired military, military dependents, veterans, seniors (over 60) and students

Game Times: (Gates open 2 hours prior to the game)

- **Friday, February 24, 2022: (6 PM)**
- **Saturday, February 25, 2022: (2 PM)**
- **Sunday, February 26, 2022: (12:30 PM)**

Pregame festivities begin 30 minutes prior to each game!

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February 2023 issue



The PACT Act & Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances and their Surviving Spouses.

As a Surviving Spouse and you were a caregiver to someone who was exposed and died due to complications due to toxic substances contact the VA. The VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits and may be newly eligible. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to see if you qualify to submit a claim.

If you have questions, please check out our web page to see the FAQs and effective dates. Also, check out the [VA pages](#) regarding the Act and your benefits. If you, your loved ones, or military friends fall into any of the categories about, get yourself on record. Do not wait until it is too late, and there is not enough medicine or treatment in the world to alleviate your conditions.

If you have further questions, reach out to the [Virtual Surviving Spouse Community](#) on MOAA's website. You can also read the latest information on our website under the "Being a Survivor" section.

NCDOR

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE

hard with our

statutes have been enacted. Take advantage of them.

[MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#) – As we are all looking forward to April 15th, you would do well to look at what is now exempt in the [State of North Carolina](#). MOAA has worked very legislative branches to ensure a number of deductions and tax exempt



Etcetera

- **Military Discounts for Valentine's Day** - Valentine's Day is that special time of year to remind your loved ones how much you care. But saying "I love you" in creative and romantic ways can get costly.

So, this Valentine's Day take advantage of some military discounts to help Cupid cut costs. (And remember not all military discounts are advertised, so make sure you ask wherever you go.)

- **Think you are all things military – Try** "Test Your Military Knowledge Today!"
- **Are you a Facebook Fan** – then try [Facebook Marketplace](#). It is a way to use your money locally to furnish anything from a college dorm to buying workout equipment.
- **[Still the best country in the world!](#)** The U.S. Military has facilitated nearly 2,000 air missions to deliver aid and personnel to Turkey.
- Looking for insights into what it was like to be a Marine in WWI - Cord Scott, a professor with the University of Maryland Global Campus in Okinawa, in August released, "[The Mud and the Mirth](#): Marine Cartoonists in World War I."

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Another Big Victory in MOAA's Fight to Stop Military Medical Cuts

By: Karen Ruedisueli

Provisions in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will halt proposed military medical billet cuts for five years and require a series of reports before DoD makes any similar plans to cut personnel at its military treatment facilities (MTFs).

This marks the fourth consecutive MOAA "win" on this issue – a streak that wouldn't be possible without tens of thousands of MOAA members mobilizing to support this critical association priority.

Original DoD plans to cut about 18,000 medical billets, put in place before the COVID-19 pandemic, have been [delayed](#) and [reevaluated](#) multiple times since first released in March 2019, as part of the FY 2020 defense budget. What began as a serious threat to beneficiaries' access to patient care took on even greater significance as Gen. Mark Milley, USA, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, [told lawmakers last year](#) that proposed reductions could leave the military lacking in trained medical personnel "in the fielded force to handle combat conditions."

Congress responded with provisions in the FY23 NDAA requiring:

- Congressional notification before modifying the scope of services provided at MTFs.
- Extensive reporting requirements on medical workforce requirements, including risk analysis and mitigation plans
- A five-year halt to medical billet cuts.
- A one-year suspension on MTF restructuring.
- Reporting on the composition of medical personnel of each military department, including vacancies and a validation against military requirements.

The NDAA also extends the timeframe for a Government Accountability Office report mandated by the previous year's NDAA to evaluate DoD's plans to reduce military medical manning.

More Threats on the Horizon

Unfortunately, planned billet cuts are far from the only measure threatening to weaken your service-earned health care benefits. MOAA already has engaged with lawmakers on:

- Multiple proposals included in a recent [Congressional Budget Office report](#) offering options to reduce the federal deficit, including raising medical costs for some retirees using TRICARE For Life by [thousands of dollars a year](#).
- Continued uncertainty [surrounding the shrinking TRICARE retail pharmacy network](#).
- Plans to consolidate specialty care in large military hospitals and medical "centers of excellence," which could create challenges for beneficiaries required to travel for their care.

Communications from MOAA members to lawmakers were instrumental to halting proposed medical billet cuts. We hope you will continue to engage with your lawmakers as we advance our [legislative priorities](#) for the 118th Congress, including the preservation of your earned health care benefits.

Facing a Career Challenge? This Military Spouse's Story Will Motivate You

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By: Brian Anderson

Whether you're a servicemember, a veteran, or a military spouse, you've invested a lot in your education and professional development. Along with finding professional success, you may feel the urge to contribute to a better world. With these skill sets and aspirations, it's not uncommon for MOAA's team of career transition consultants to encounter those who find it challenging to land suitable employment or maintain a satisfying career.

Meet Cameron Cruse. MOAA recently hosted a highly insightful conversation with this military spouse, mother of two, who never saw herself becoming the "Bag Lady."

[WATCH NOW: [The R. Riveter Story](#)]

As a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of handbag manufacturer [R. Riveter](#), Cruse set out in 2011 to provide mobile, flexible income for military spouses across the country. She knows the challenges you face and offers some tools and insights to overcome those obstacles.

A [Shark Tank survivor](#), Cruse touches on a range of strategies and tactics for you to consider in achieving your vision of success:

- Start with your "why." Her light bulb moment came when she realized her "why" was to create mobile income for military spouses no matter where the military sends them.
- Cruse had the "why," but still needed the "how." Her business model went from assembling items in her garage and attending local craft fairs to managing 45 employees in Florida and 35 "remote riveters" all over the nation. She encourages you to stay flexible as you begin any career or entrepreneurial journey.
- Choose courage over staying comfortable when you're starting a new professional path. Be willing to try something new to see where it gets you and love what you are doing – otherwise, Cruse said, whatever you're doing won't feel like it is enough.

The goal for Cruse was never simply handbags – it was about making a positive impact, providing military spouses with an inspiration, and empowering our community to be the best it can be.

Want to hear more about the R. Riveter story and her experiences on *Shark Tank*? [Click the link](#) and receive a copy of the webinar today, and check out [MOAA.org/Events](#) for more upcoming webinars.

New MOAA Event Series Offers Resources for Younger Professionals

By: Kimberly Bruce

With graduation season around the corner, millions of college students are preparing to walk across the stage and step into their first post-college job. And as exciting as this time is, many are anxious as they try to get ready to navigate the workforce.

To help prepare students and new graduates, MOAA is hosting a series of hourlong workshops focusing on every aspect of the job process – from getting into the right mindset to navigating a job offer.

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[REGISTER TODAY: [MOAA's Virtual Workshops for Early Career Professionals](#)]

The sessions kick off in early February, but MOAA hosted a Jan. 6 webinar with young career professionals offering their insights. Register [at this link](#) to watch the event, and check out three key tips they shared:

1. Use Your School's Resources

"Taking advantage of the different resources your college or university has available is really going to make the difference, and it's important to start doing that now," said Celine Hamilton, a former MOAA member service representative who now works as a campus recruiter for IT and business consulting firm CGI.

Most campuses have a career center or host job fairs to help you begin to prepare for the workforce. These can be great places to get a little extra professional help, so don't be shy – stop by.

2. A 'No' Now Can Be a 'Yes' Later

Nearly everyone faces rejection at some point in their career, but don't let that discourage you from continuing your job pursuit.

"Jobs are always going to be hiring, so maybe it's not this (position), but they could circle back next job cycle if you've taken that extra step of initiative," said [Nicole Cross](#), a graphic designer with MOAA.

So be sure to follow up your interview with a thank you, since you never know when an employer may remember you for another great position.

3. Don't Worry, You'll Find Your Way

"I remember feeling a lot of pressure, especially during my senior year of college, because it seemed like everyone knew what they were going to do," said [Libby Michael](#), MOAA's digital content specialist. "It seems like it because everyone is talking about it, but that's not everybody's case."

If you feel a little lost, you are not alone. You will find your path to a great job that you studied and worked hard for ... and MOAA's resources can help make that transition work.

[Register today](#) for the full slate of hourlong workshops, or share the link with a friend or family member seeking success in the early stages of their professional journey. Get more career resources from MOAA at [MOAA.org/Careers](#).