

Mark T. Sandvigen **LCDR, USN (Ret.)**

Mark Sandvigen currently serves as the Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Legislative Chair of the Coastal Carolina Chapter of MOAA (CCMOAA). The Coastal Carolina Chapter hosts nine counties and officers from all the services supported MOAA.

Mark grew up in Oregon and left home at the age of 17 to enlist in the US Coast Guard. He served as a Hospital Corpsman at US Naval Hospitals and on USCG cutters and air stations. Upon discharge in 1976, he enrolled in Pre-Med at Southern Oregon University. Upon graduation, he decided against a medical career, and was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in the US Navy in 1980. While at sea, he served in combat systems billets on destroyers, cruisers, and amphibious ships. His shore tours were highlighted by appointments as a "subject matter expert" to major naval staffs in Europe and the United States. Additionally, while ashore, he was assigned to educational institutions where he earned Master of Science degrees in Space Systems Operations, Information Systems, and Business Administration.

Mark's civilian careers were spent applying his technical and engineering background in companies spanning space, science, communications engineering, information technology, medicine, and aviation disciplines. He retired as a senior executive in 2016 and moved to New Bern after a lifetime of PCS moves and business relocations.

Mark's major passion is veterans. He serves as Vice President of the Craven County Veterans Council, holds positions on CCMOAA's and the American Legion Whitehurst-Ware Post 539's Executive Boards. He also stays active in European affairs through his life-membership in Benjamin Franklin VFW Post 605 in Paris France. He is an active committee member, lecturer, and author for the New Bern Historical Society and has also served as board member of Craven County's Habitat for Humanity (veteran's housing project). *Still Serving* is his motto.

He is married to Cheryl Anne Pell, a retired clinical Social Worker and medical program director. Mark's hobbies are WWI, books, modeling, and motorcycles. Augmenting these pursuits, he is the Regional Director for the International Plastic Modelers Society, and a senior member of the Carolina Maritime Modelers Society.