



December 2024

SENTINEL



December 2024 Message from President Allan Turner – sencland.president@gmail.com



Greetings and Happy Holidays!

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our 5 November meeting and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our special Holiday 3 December meeting at the [Blue Water Waterfront Grill](#). We need to

have a good headcount by Tuesday 26 November and ask that you please RSVP by then. This deadline is set by the Bluewater to ensure they have the correct set-up, staff and meals on hand for our meetings. Our special guests for our 3 December meeting will be the Local Cape Fear Chordsmen Barbershop Quartet who will treat us to patriotic and holiday music.

We had a very interesting and informative presentation at our 5 November meeting by our very own Chapter member COL Dan Monahan, USAF (ret), who talked to us about his career and time while assigned as a pilot to the USAF Support to the White House Airlift.

For our 7 January meeting, we are pleased to have a presentation by General Curtis M. Scaparrotti USA (ret). General Scaparrotti was the former Commander, U.S. European Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe.



Continued on next page.

Chapter Awards



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued



President's Message (Continued) Submitted by President Allan Turner

Welcome!

Please welcome our newest member MAJ David James, USA (ret) and his wife Sara.

Happy Birthday!

- Happy Birthday to all our December born members; May you have many more happy, healthy years ahead.
- Happy 388th Birthday to the U.S. National Guard on 13 December.

Many Thanks

Your contributions to our Scholarship and Outreach programs are very much appreciated. Many thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to these programs. Our JROTC, Veterans Scholarships and Veteran Outreach programs, and our BG Jim Carper Scholarship Fund are doing great work in our catchment area. Outreach Chair Mike Apicella identified three Veterans in our catchment area that were recently presented with checks to assist with financial and medical difficulties. Also in November we will be presenting a total of 15 scholarships to Veteran students at UNCW, CFCC, and BCC. Without your generosity and continued support we would be unable to help these deserving individuals. Thank you again so much for your support!

Please keep reading your newsletter in its entirety! You can find more MOAA news throughout the newsletter and also please read the [Featured Member's Profile, Harrison Smith, Colonel U.S. Air Force \(Retired\)](#)

SENCLAND Challenge Coins still available.

The SENCLAND Chapter now has its very own Challenge Coin! Initial sales have been strong but we have many left and will continue to offer them at \$5.00 each at upcoming chapter luncheons/meetings and other functions.



Chapter Leadership

Below is a list of Officers, Board Members, and Service Directors that comprise the SENCLAND Chapter's leadership. You can contact chapter leaders by emailing senclandchapter@gmail.com

Officers

Allan Turner, CAPT USNR (ret), President, SENCLAND Chapter
Tom Welke, CAPT USN (ret), 1st Vice President
Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (ret), 2nd Vice President
Mike Apicella, COL USA (ret), 3rd Vice President

Board Members

Joe Irrera, COL, USMC (ret) Immediate Past President
Ken Klassen, CDR USN (Ret), Past President
Bob Doleman, MAJ USA (Ret), Secretary, Veteran Benefits & Resource Support
Anna Marie Allegretto, ITC USNR (Ret), Treasurer
Barry Coyle, CAPT USN (Ret), Legislative Affairs Chair
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), Newsletter Editor, Sponsorship Coordinator
LeeRoy Hanna, LTC USA (Ret), JROTC Scholarships & Leadership Awards Chair, Historian
Leon Rooks, MAJ USAR, Wellness Chair
Tim Johnson, CPT, USMC, Veteran Scholarship Chair
Irene Glaeser, COL USA (Ret), Programs and special Events Chair
Albert H Schroetel, COL USAF (Ret), Membership Chair
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), Public Affairs, Facebook, Media Publicity
Sandi Adams, Surviving Spouse of David Spetrino, CAPT USN (Ret),
Surviving Spouse Coordinator
Mike Apicella, COL USA (Ret), Outreach
Allen Allegretto, CDR USNR (Ret), Webmaster for SENCLAND.org
Karen Murphy, Social Committee

Service Directors

Greg Cook, CAPT, USN (ret) US Navy Service Director
David Renquist, CAPT USPHS, Public Health Service Director
Dianne Jinwright, LtCol USAF (Ret), USAF Service Director
Thomas C. Jones, BG USA (Ret), US Army Service Director
Doug Holdstein, COL USMC (Ret), USMC Service Director
Frank Roberts, LCDR USCG (Ret), USCG Service Director



LEADERS

Our Mission

The mission of the SENCLAND Chapter is to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.



Membership Update

Submitted by Al Schroetel, Membership Chair



MEMBERSHIP



Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome the newest Chapter member,

- Major David James, USA (Ret.) Dave and Sara live in Wilmington (Beau Rivage).

We try to keep abreast of the status of all of our members, so please let me know any significant life events or relocations of our members. Just send an e-mail to downeast@bellsouth.net or text me at 910-352-4378.

Invite a friend or neighbor to a Chapter Luncheon!

This is a great time to invite a friend to one of our monthly meetings or special events. Not only are guests always welcome, but this is also how we can make potential members aware of the benefits of Chapter membership.

The Chapter's membership roster is available in the password protected

Membership Roster

section of the Chapter's website. This roster is updated every month so you will always have the most current list. If you would like assistance accessing that section, please contact me at downeast@bellsouth.net or Allen Allegretto at allegrettoa@yahoo.com





SENCLAND Holiday Luncheon

Date: Tuesday 3 December 2024

Location: Bluewater Waterfront Grill, 4 Marina St, Wrightsville Beach NC 28480. [Bluewater Map](#)

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm—Please arrive before 11:30AM to have time to register and make menu selections. Dress is festive holiday attire.

The price for the Holiday Luncheon is \$40.00

1. Sweet and unsweet iced tea, soft drinks, taxes, and gratuities.
2. Beer, wine, and cocktails are available for purchase.
3. Payment is made at check-in using cash or check only.

Three Course Menu:

Garden Salad and Dinner Rolls

ENTRÉE Choices:

Served with chef's selection of starch and seasonal vegetables.

- Shrimp and Grits with mushrooms, shallots and Cajun cream sauce
- Hoisin Baked Salmon with sweet Asian sesame glaze
- Grilled Chicken Marsala with mushroom marsala sauce
- Flank Steak with shiitake mushroom sauce

DESSERT Choices:

Flourless Chocolate Cake (gluten free)
 Cheesecake topped with raspberry sauce
 Fresh berries with whipped cream

Entree choices are made at the event, at your table (no pre-orders).



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS



PROGRAMS

Upcoming 2024 Programs

Irene V. Glaeser Programs and Special Events Chair

SAVE THE DATE

7 January 2025: General Curtis M. Scaparrotti USA (ret), former Commander, U.S. European Command and NATO, Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

More details will follow in the near future. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.



SENCLAND
SOUTHEASTERN NC
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LUNCHEONS /
MEETINGS

"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."

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MOAA

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

**November 5, 2024
Luncheon/Meeting**



Colonel Dan Monahan, USAF (Retired) was the featured presenter at the November 5th Luncheon/Meeting. His presentation on providing airlift support to the White House was informative, captivating, and at times, humorous, filled with stories of encounters with dignitaries, close calls, and travels exotic places. After his presentation, Chapter President Allan Turner presented him with the chapter's "Speaker's Gift".



Additionally, during the luncheon the chapter held its annual business meeting where Chapter President Allan Turner led the members through the approval of two proposed bylaw amendments and its proposed 2025 budget.

November 2024 Luncheon/Meeting



SENCLAND Holiday Luncheon Program

The next MOAA SENCLAND luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 1130, hrs. at the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#)

A festive occasion to end the year! The SENCLAND MOAA holiday luncheon entertainment will be provided by the Cape Fear Chordsmen, a Barbershop Quartet singing group that has been delighting Wilmington audiences since 1987. Come out and join us for a fun filled event!



LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."



Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Coordinator

The 2024 season has been a very successful College scholarship year for SENCLAND MOAA, with 15 awards made to students at **University of North Carolina Wilmington, Cape Fear Community College, and Brunswick County Community College (BCCC)** for a total of \$7,500. Within these awards were \$1,500 from the BG/NG James Carper foundation, \$3,000 from The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 885, and \$3,000 directly from MOAA.

The UNCW ceremony was held on November 6th at 15:00 in the offices in the Veterans Building on UNCW campus. It was a small ceremony with about twenty student/veterans, faculty, family, and friends in attendance. We awarded six \$500 awards and 3 of the awardees were present to accept as others had class commitments. Attending from MOAA were Tom Welke, Gene Palmer, Chrissy Sandford, and Tim Johnson.



The **Cape Fear Community College (CFCC)** held Veterans Day celebration in their Union Station Hall on November 11th at 11:00. It was well attended by staff, faculty, and the public with well over 50 people in attendance including the CFCC President, Jim Morton. The program included an honor guard from H & S Battalion USMC an invocation and benediction from The Honorable Jonathan Barfield and various speeches from local veterans. Representing MOAA were Chrissy Sandford, Gene Palmer, and Tim Johnson. As part of the celebration we awarded six scholarship grants of \$500 a piece to student veterans. Following the ceremony all were treated to a buffet lunch.

The final awards presentation for this season occurred at the **Brunswick County Community College** on November 14th. A modest ceremony and luncheon was well attended by staff and faculty plus local veterans. The color guard was provided by the American Legion Post 543 from St James with a key note address from BG/USA Dr. Edward Naessens, the director of Engineering at CFCC. In attendance from MOAA were Allan Turner, Gene Palmer, and Tim Johnson. We presented 3 awards to Student Veterans and following the ceremony we were treated to a full lunch.



SCHOLARSHIPS



"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."



Community Outreach

Submitted by Mike Apicella, Outreach Chair

This year SENCLAND Community Outreach Program has \$3,000 dollars to grant to deserving individuals in need of financial assistance. I am pleased to announce that our chapter has received a Grant from the National MOAA organization in the amount of \$1,000. This Grant should help sustain the viability of the program. Thus far this year, the outreach program has awarded \$2,750 in grants to deserving veterans in need of financial assistance. The Committee made two presentations on October 18 at the Veterans Service Office in Wilmington NC (see the November edition of this newsletter for the pictures).

In November, the committee presented a check for \$700 to Garland Brigman to help him cover the cost of comprehensive dental treatment at the Eastern



Carolina University School of Dental Medicine at the Bolivia Campus in Brunswick County. Picture from right to left: Dr. Caprio, Clinic Director; Dr. Owens, Senior Dental Student performing Mr. Brigman's treatment, Mr. Brigman, and Mike Apicella, the SENCLAND Outreach Director.

Please contact me if you know of any Veterans that may benefit from one of these Community Outreach Grants, Mike Apicella, Chairperson, Community Outreach Committee. The grant request form is in the Outreach Section of the SENCLAND webpage. I can be reached at endodoc97@gmail.com if you have any questions about the program.

Grants are made to qualified individuals with the following needs: Housing, Food assistance, Employment, Health (including behavioral health), Family support, Community reintegration, financial assistance, Legal assistance, Transportation, and Emergency relief. In addition, donations can also be made to the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter to help support the Outreach Grant Program.

The committee still has \$250 in grant money remaining. The grant process for the 2025 National MOAA Outreach Program open up in December. Thanks for your support with this program that services our Nation's Veterans in Need.

Committee Members

Mike Apicella – Chair
Hondo Davids
Leon Rooks



OUTREACH



"Please be aware that participants attending MOAA SENCLAND Chapter events may be photographed or recorded for Chapter products."





LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



You can support MOAA's legislative priorities by contacting your elected officials to make your voice heard at MOAA | [Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.quorum.us).



Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

2024 General Election

The 2024 General Election is finally over! Results of the Presidential race are widely known. Closer to home, all our local State and Federal elected officials were returned to office, while some new faces appeared in County elections. New terms for people elected in November will begin in January. I will update our elected officials' contact data on our Website when new office assignments are finalized.

In Washington, D.C.

The current Congress reconvened in Washington from 12 - 21 November and will meet in final session 3 - 19 December. So far, there has been no action on the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Appropriation bills. It now seems likely that Congress will pass another Continuing Resolution (CR), which will fund most Government agencies at FY2024 levels well into FY2025.

In North Carolina

The North Carolina General Assembly convened briefly on 19 November to consider additional funding for disaster relief following Potential Tropical Cyclone 8 and Hurricane Helene, and to override some Governor's vetoes. The General Assembly may convene again in December to consider additional aid for the stricken areas. No military, retiree or veteran legislation is under active consideration in either Chamber.

"Open Season" for Federal Medical Programs

It's that time of year to review your Medicare, TRICARE, and/or FEDVIP plans to see if you want to make any changes in your current coverage. These changes must be made during the plans' "open season" period. These dates are:

- Medicare: 15 October – 7 December 2024
- Tricare and FEDVIP: 11 November – 9 December 2024

REAL ID Deadline

The Federal requirement to have a REAL ID card for air travel, and entry to federal buildings and installations is now 7 May 2025. This deadline has been extended many times and is likely to be extended again. But, just in case it's not, you might want to get your REAL id card well before any rush in May. It's pretty easy to do, if you plan in advance. All requirements can be found on the NC DMV Website at: Official NCDMV: N.C. REAL ID.

Wellness Coordinator's Corner

Submitted Leon Rooks Wellness Chair

leon.rooks@hotmail.com or 910-799-2488

Greetings SENCLAND MOAA.....

Well, 2024 is coming to an end. It has been a very busy year with many accomplishments that we can all be proud of. But before the year closes we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. It's not about the presents or the sparking lights but the meaning of the birth of our Lord and Savior who came to this earth to teach us how to live a meaningful life. So celebrating Christmas is okay even with Christmas Trees and bright lights. But include Jesus in your Christmas want you.

Couple of things that are important in December also;

- Review your TRICARE Benefits for 2025. The closing date is Dec 9 for coverage and cost.
- Please keep in mind those MOAA Members in Western NC along within all people and families in the region with your prayers as they struggle while trying to recover from the Hurricane on September 29th.
- As we enter this season of Thanksgiving and the Birth of our Lord, I hope you are reminded of the many blessings that we have received over the past year.

Finally, don't forget the Christmas lunch and program. I am told it is going to be a great meeting. Hope to see you on December 3rd.

Wellness Team

Leon Rooks - Chair

Stephen Bird

Karen Murphy

Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted Marco Vialpando Surviving Spouse Coordinator

SENCLAND Surviving Spouses

We all know that people who are alone during the holidays suffer from depression, this is especially true for Surviving Spouses. It would be beneficial if our Surviving Spouses were to connect with one or two of their fellow Surviving Spouses and just call each other every day or every other day and check on them to make sure that everything is okay.

Marco Vialpando

SENCLAND Surviving Spouse Liaison

910-530-4025, vipp6@yahoo.com



WELLNESS



SURVIVING SPOUSES





SENCLAND MOAA Membership Benefits

The MOAA SENCLAND Chapter Offers Outstanding Programs to its Members and Community

The SENCLAND chapter has meetings with outstanding programs ten months of the year, usually the first Tuesday of the month. The chapter meeting in June is a picnic where we include our JrROTC Scholarship winners and their families. The May meeting is held in Southport and the December meeting is a Holiday social. All other SENCLAND Chapter meetings are held at the Blue-water Waterfront Grill in Wrightsville Beach. Our Board meets several times during the year.

The *Sentinel*, our monthly newsletter is available electronically and in hard copy. Our chapter supports 18 local JROTC programs and provides generous Scholarships to High School students each year. We also have scholarships for veterans attending local colleges and an Outreach Program that helps local veterans and their families. The Chapter also supports Honor Flights that take veterans on all-expenses-paid flights from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM) to Washington, DC for a day of remembrance as they visit memorials and monuments built in their honor.

Join SENCLAND

To join the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter, click on the “Join SENCLAND” button to download and print the application form. Then email the application form to the Membership Chair Al Schroetel at downeast@bellsouth.net or mail it to the chapter at **SENCLAND CHAPTER MOAA P.O. Box 10015 Wilmington, NC 28404**

SENCLAND Website

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Webmaster, AllegrettoA@yahoo.com, or call: [910-617-2307](tel:910-617-2307)

The SENCLAND website (<http://www.sencland.org>) can help you stay informed about upcoming chapter events and current activities. It is easy to access and requires no logon. Our website provides Membership information, News and Events, calendar of chapter events, Legislative Information, updates on chapter programs including outreach, scholarships, and JROTC leadership awards, newsletter and meeting minutes, and a page honoring Fallen Heroes. It shows how to make donations and online payments. You can also read about our chapter mission and view current leadership.

Our chapter Membership Roster is also available on the website. This is the only page that requires log-on to access. If you need help logging onto the website to view the chapter roster, please email or call Allen Allegretto.

SENCLAND Facebook Page

SENCLAND Chapter Facebook Page - View “Like” and “Share” the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook posts with other members and prospective members. The web address for the SENCLAND Chapter’s Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/sencland>.





MOAA National and NC Chapters Websites

MOAA national website (www.MOAA.org) is a wealth of information for current, former, retired officers, and surviving spouses. Every chapter member is encouraged to visit and explore this site and take advantage of the resources available. Similarly, the North Carolina Council of Chapters website (www.moaa-nc.org) is also a great resource for what MOAA is doing at the state level as well as information on other NC Chapters.

MOAA National Newsletter

MOAA Newsletter - MOAA National members can easily take advantage of this free email newsletter which publishes news and information that is taking place at the national level. If you would like to receive this go to www.moaa.org, click on the “News & Info” pulldown menu on the upper right hand side and then click on “Newsletters”.

About the *Sentinel*

The SENCLAND *Sentinel* newsletter is published monthly (except July and August) in time to provide information on upcoming meetings. We want this newsletter to be of value, but we do not aim to compete with established media, and we do not simply distill what MOAA National is publishing in *Military Officer* each month. We want to keep you informed about the chapter, our efforts to stay connected with each other, and our support of local military and veteran communities. Our newsletter is distributed electronically by email to our members when published. Current and previous editions are also available on our website at <https://sencland.org/documents/>.

We encourage you to provide content for publication in our newsletter and online. Simply send your notices, letters, articles, and photos to our editor, Dianne Jinwright (senclandsentinel@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month to be considered for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter. All items are subject to editing.

Statement of Affiliations

The SENCLAND *Sentinel* Newsletter is published by the SENCLAND Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations.





SENCLAND Chapter Embroidered Apparel

SENCLAND Embroidered LOGO Shirts, Caps, & Outerwear are now available at our Chapter Online Store hosted by Queensboro Shirt Co. You can access the store using: <https://senclandmoaa.qbstores.com>

You can save shipping cost if you are willing to pick up at Queensboro Shirt Co at 1400 Marstellar Street in Wilmington. Call Queensboro at [800-847-4478](tel:800-847-4478) after you have placed your order and tell them you want to pick up when ready. They will credit back the shipping cost and call you when ready for pickup.

MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase

Submitted by Chris Morin, Nametag Program. The Chapter is offering the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost of the nametags are \$15 per nametag and they will be the same style and size as in the past (with a magnetic clasp).

We will order Quarterly or when we have at least 10 paid orders. There are two ways to order:

ON-LINE:

Step #1: PayPal Payment can be made at: SENCLAND : Membership: (<https://sencland.org/membership/index.php?id=1636387310>)

This will take you to a window where you can pay for your nametag or nametags. (If that link does not work, go to the SENCLAND Website (<https://sencland.org>) and click on the tab for "News & Events" on the home page and scroll down to "SENCLAND Nametags").


Step #2: Send an e-mail to Chris Morin at villa_morin@hotmail.com including the information you want on the nametag (name, including nick name if you prefer, Branch of military service, rank and current duty status (Retired, former, active duty). Nametags for spouses only require the spouse's name and / or nickname if desired. [Use the form below as a guide](#).

US Postal Service MAIL:

Step #1: Complete the information on the form below and mail it with a check made out to SENCLAND MOAA (\$15.00 per ordered nametag) to:

SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA, PO Box 10015, Wilmington NC 28404





MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase (Continued)



	SENCLAND NAME TAG NAME/RANK/SERVICE BRANCH/STATUS
1	<p>FIRST/NICK NAME _____</p> <p>LAST NAME _____</p> <p>RANK _____</p> <p>SERVICE BRANCH _____</p> <p>STATUS _____ Active Duty, Reserve or Guard, Retired, Former Officer (not retired)</p>
2 (Form for a spouse's nametag)	<p>FIRST/NICK NAME _____</p> <p>LAST NAME _____</p>

Orders will be placed as soon as we have enough completed orders to meet the minimum required by the supplier, but no later than each calendar quarter.

When the nametags are received they will be available for pickup at Chapter luncheons or other events. If you have any questions, please contact Chris at villa_morin@hotmail.com or [703-798-1754](tel:703-798-1754).



(Example of completed nametag)





Third Annual Wreaths of Honor Program Underway

Submitted by Irene V. Glaeser Programs and Special Events Chair



The *Friends of the Battleship North Carolina* have launched the Third Annual Wreaths of Honor program, providing a unique way to honor the service of veterans and active-duty service members during the holiday season. Purchase a 20-inch evergreen holiday wreath for \$40 from the *Friends of the Battleship* and it will be displayed on the lifelines of Battleship North Carolina from December 7 through the first weekend of the new year. The wreaths will be decorated with ribbon and a personalized card with the name, branch of service, and years served of the individual being honored.

Purchasers will receive a photograph of their wreaths by email after it has been placed on the lifelines. Orders for the Wreaths of Honor must be placed by **November 22** and can be purchased online through the *Friends'* website at battleship-ncfriends.com/shop.

Last year's **Wreaths of Honor** program resulted in 230 veterans being honored with wreaths displayed on the historic Battleship during the holiday season. Proceeds from the sale of the Wreaths of Honor benefit the Friends' effort to Preserve the Legacy by helping fund programs, acquisitions, and restoration of Battleship North Carolina.



SAVE THE DATE

October 12, 2025, MOAA Sponsored Cruise to Bermuda

This six day cruise departs Norfolk, VA on 12 October 2025. Now is not too soon to reserve your stateroom. If you're interested and would like more information, please contact **Lorna Tiller**, our dedicated travel agent: at 910-343-1978 (Office) or 910-540-3390 (Mobile). Lorna's email is: ltiller-travels@gmail.com.

Submitted By President Allan Turner



Set Sail for Paradise with MOAA: Early Bird Discounts on a 6-Day Bermuda Getaway!

<https://www.moaa-nc.org/journal/?id=1723050859>

SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE



Thomas H. Smith, Jr. (Harrison), Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)



Colonel "Harrison" Smith served twenty-six years in the US Air Force from 1984 to 2010. Over his 26 years of service, he flew the KC-135 A/E/R/T models, EC-135, KC-10, and T-38 aircraft as a copilot, pilot, aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot. His decision to join the Air Force came to him in 1982

while he was cleaning dishes in the UNC Chapel Hill Chi Phi Fraternity kitchen. He was complaining to a fellow co-worker, who was an active cadet in the AF ROTC, going to pilot training after graduation, and whose father was a retired Air Force colonel combat fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, that he was not enjoying his course work at UNC Chapel Hill. His co-worker said to him, "why don't you join the Air Force"? The rest is history. 😊

Colonel Smith married his high school sweetheart in September 1984 and departed for pilot training at Columbus AFB, MS in October. 52 weeks later, he earned his Air Force Pilot Silver Wings, and he, his wife Beth, and their dog Simon left for Offutt AFB in Omaha, NE where he flew the EC-135 "Looking Glass," the KC-135E, and T-38A, the latter piquing his interest in Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) instructing in the T-38.

His most personally rewarding assignments were commanding flying units in the US and overseas, including three squadrons, a vice wing, and an air expeditionary wing in Kyrgyzstan (eastern Central Asia).



Colonel Smith acknowledges that "None of my Air Force career would've been possible without the love and support of my wife and two children who moved with me 13 times in our 26 years."

Upon retiring from the Air Force and settling back in North Carolina, then overseeing building their "forever home"

in Holden Beach in 2012-13, Colonel Smith taught AF JROTC at Laney High School in Wilmington from 2014 -2023 as the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor.

"I truly enjoy staying connected to the youth and the Air Force", he said.

EDITOR: Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *I respect the MOAA organization and joined it to be a member of a strong, principled organization of officers of various military services. I'm a Life Member and enjoy participating in SENCLAND Chapter activities now that I have retired from formal work. I know of the value of MOAA's lobbying efforts in Congress and have so far only read up and stayed active as a member. I am also a life member of the UNC Alumni Association, Air and Space Forces Association (AFA), and Order of Daedalions, a fraternal and professional order of American military pilots.*

EDITOR: Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *I attended SENCLAND MOAA Chapter meetings and activities back in 2010-11 and re-engaged in 2023 after I retired from teaching AF JROTC. I enjoy the monthly meetings, the annual pig picking, and beach get-togethers. The chapter officers and activities coordinators do a fantastic job of representing members' activities and organizing luncheons and get-togethers.*

EDITOR: What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *Now that I'm retired from teaching, I'm playing with the idea of part-time work, if I can find the right fit. I volunteer in my local church, I am in the church choir, and recently completed a 2.5-year duty as Church Council Chair. I am the new President of the Wilmington's Air and Space Forces (AFA) Bob Newman Cape Fear Chapter 366. I welcome all Air Force and other service members to join us at our quarterly meetings. I enjoy spending time with my family at the beach and in Raleigh. I also enjoy jogging, walking, fishing, boating, and traveling. My wife of 40 years, Elizabeth, and I, both 1984 UNC Chapel Hill graduates, are very proud of our two children, daughter, Cameron, and son, Forrest, and our two grandsons, Johnny, and Wright.*

EDITOR: Do you have other comments to share with SENCLAND members or other newsletter readers? *Thank SENCLAND MOAA for all you do to serve our community, and to support and cast the US Military in a positive light to those who may be ignorant of its greatness.*



SPONSORS

*The **SENCLAND Sentinel*** accepts sponsorships from our members and other supporters. If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities for yourself, your company, other veteran, fraternal, support organizations, or anyone else that appreciates the mission of SENCLAND MOAA, please email President Allan Turner, sencland.president@gmail.com.



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