



April 2025

# SENTINEL

## Chapter Awards



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[From the President](#)

[Chapter Leadership](#)

[Membership Updates](#)

[Monthly Luncheons](#)

[2025 Programs](#)

[Luncheons/Meetings](#)

[JROTC Scholarships](#)

[Veterans Scholarships](#)

[Legislative Affairs](#)

[Community Outreach](#)

[Wellness Corner](#)

[Membership Benefits](#)

[SENCLAND Website](#)

[SENCLAND Facebook Page](#)

[MOAA National and NC Chapters Websites](#)

[MOAA National Newsletter](#)

[About the Sentinel](#)

[Statement of Affiliations](#)

[Embroidered Apparel](#)

[SENCLAND Nametags](#)

[SENCLAND News](#)

## FEATURED PROFILE

[Sponsors](#)

## April 2025 Message from President Allan Turner – [sencland.president@gmail.com](mailto:sencland.president@gmail.com)

We had a very informative meeting on March 4th with Shannon Jordan, Community Engagement Coordinator from Cape Fear Life Care who gave



a very interesting and interactive presentation on their services. Her focus was on their patients who have dementia, which is her area of expertise. Lots of great questions and she brought along a lot of printed information.

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday 1 April at the [Bluewater Grill](#). We need to have a good headcount by Tuesday 25 March and ask that you please RSVP by then. This deadline, set by the Bluewater, is to ensure they

have the correct set-up, staff and meals on hand for our meetings.

Please send in your RSVP in as early as possible. It really does help our planning and makes your check-in process go a lot smoother.

For our 1 April meeting, we are pleased to have Shane Fernando, who is the CEO of Thalian Hall. He will provide us with a fascinating history of this important Wilmington historical landmark and their renovation project. Please see additional details for these events on the [Programs](#) page.

## Welcome!

Please welcome our newest member:

**Richard “Ritt” Schiano, CAPT, USNR (Ret.)**

**and his wife Pat**

Continued on next page.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued



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

### *Happy Birthday!*

**Happy Birthday to all our April born members; May you have many more happy, healthy years ahead.**

Complimentary tickets to the Thursday 4/3/2025 Justin Moore Concert:  
Thanks to past President Joe Irrera, we will have 30 complimentary lawn tickets to the Justin Moore concert at the Live Oak Bank Pavilion available at the 1 April meeting. They will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Each member can claim a maximum of two tickets. Since this is occurring just two days after the meeting, you will need to be present to claim. Concert starts at 7:00 pm.

### *Many Thanks*

Once again, thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to our Scholarship and Outreach programs. Our JROTC, Veterans Scholarships and Veteran Outreach programs, in addition to our BG Jim Carper Scholarship Fund are doing great work in our catchment area. 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. Read through the [MOAA's Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions](#) on pages 14 and 15, check-out other events in the [SENCLAND News section](#), and this month's [Member's Profile on Colonel Mike Gosma, USAFNG](#).

### *SENCLAND Challenge Coins*

The SENCLAND Challenge Coin will continue to be offered for \$5.00 each at 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](mailto:senclandchapter@gmail.com)

### Officers

**Allan Turner**, CAPT USNR (ret), President, SENCLAND Chapter

**Tom Welke**, CAPT USN (ret), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Barry Coyle**, CAPT USN (ret), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Mike Apicella**, COL USA (ret), 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Mark Steelman**, CAPT, USNR (ret), Programs Chair

**Greg Cook**, CAPT, USN (ret), Special Events Chair

**Albert H Schroetel**, COL, USAF (ret), Membership Co-Chair

**Leslie Roberson**, LtCol, USAF (ret), Membership Co-Chair and Nametags

**Dianne Jinwright**, LtCol, USAF (ret), Public Affairs, Facebook, Media Publicity

**Marco Vialpando**, MAJ, USA (ret), Surviving Spouse Coordinator

**Mike Apicella**, COL, USA (ret), Outreach

**Allen Allegretto**, CDR, USNR (ret), Webmaster, Member Communication System Manager

**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 Updates

Submitted by Al Schroetel and Leslie Roberson, Membership Co-Chairs



# Welcome

### Please welcome the Chapter's newest member:

**Richard "Ritt" Schiano, CAPT, USNR (Ret.)**

**Ritt and Pat live in Brunswick Forest, Leland**

## MEMBERSHIP

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership Roster:** The chapter's membership roster is available in the password protected 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](mailto:downeast@bellsouth.net) or Allen Allegretto at [allegrettoa@yahoo.com](mailto:allegrettoa@yahoo.com)

**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.



## Membership Updates (Continued)

Submitted by Allen Allegretto, Member Communication System Manager

### New Payment System Coming Soon

National MOAA has partnered with digital payment company **Cheddar Up** to provide a free and easy payment system for all MOAA chapters. Our SENCLAND chapter has successfully tested and plans to roll out this improved system during 2025 to collect payments for events, dues, and donations.

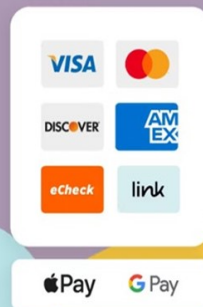
**Cheddar Up** provides a payment system similar to online shopping that you are familiar with. Other benefits include: save your payment info, recurring payments, and ability to pay by credit cards and mobile devices at Chapter events. Payment by cash or check will still be available as a convenience for our members.

You can preview this system using this link: <https://sencland-items.cheddarup.com> The first live use will likely be for the June JROTC scholarship presentations picnic. **Stay tuned for more information.**



# MEMBERSHIP

# Paying on Cheddar Up





## SENCLAND Monthly Luncheon

**Date: Tuesday 1 April 2025**

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

**Time:** Please arrive before 11:30AM to have time to register and make menu selections.

**Price: \$30.00**

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

**Menu Selection:**

1. Classic Chicken Caesar Salad
2. Shrimp Tacos
3. BW Cheeseburger w/seasoned fries
4. Grilled Chicken Club w/seasoned fries

Menu Choices are made at event, at your table (no pre-orders).

**Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, 25 March**

## Upcoming 2025 Programs

- April 1: Blue Water Grill - Shane Fernando, CEO of Thalian Hall
- May 6: Island Way Restaurant, Oak Island – Bill Kawczynski, UNCW Director of Military Affairs
- June 6, Chapter Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards (Need volunteers for planning committee)
- July (TBD) Annual Social at Sea Spray Clubhouse
- September 2: Blue Water Grill, CAPT (Ret) Frank (Tank) Michael, MOAA National Update



# LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

# PROGRAMS





# LUNCHEONS / MEETINGS

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



## Monthly Luncheon Meetings

March 4, 2025  
Luncheon/Meeting  
At the [Bluewater Waterfront Grill](#)



*Shannon Jordan, the Community Engagement Coordinator for [Lower Cape Fear LifeCare](#) (formerly Hospice) was the guest speaker at the SENCLAND MOAA March 4th Meeting/Luncheon. Shannon gave an excellent overview of the programs offered at LifeCare which includes Hospice, Palliative Care, Dementia Care, Bereavement and Grief Counseling, and the White Shirt program that honors veterans. SENCLAND spouse Anne Grinnell shared some of her experiences as a volunteer for LifeCare during the Luncheon/Meeting.*



## April 2025 Luncheon/Meeting



*The next MOAA SENCLAND luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025, 1130, hrs. at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill on Wrightsville Beach. Our featured presenter will be Mr. Shane Fernando, CEO, Thalian Hall Center for Performing Arts. He will provide us with a fascinating history of this important Wilmington historical landmark and also discuss his vision for the Hall's future. This includes renovations and additions of state of the art performing spaces, a community area, and an education center. If you love the Thalian, this one is for you!*

Shane Fernando has been serving in the arts and public administration fields for over twenty-five years. He is CEO of Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, At 167-year-old, the center is one of the oldest continually operating venues in the United States. Shane was recognized as *Presenter of the Year* by the North American Performing Arts

Managers & Agents in 2019. A major focus of his work over the years has been to engage students through education, employment, service, and advocacy.

Prior to his work at Thalian Hall, Shane served as the founding executive & artistic director of the Wilson Center, oversaw institutional development at Cape Fear Community College, and served as director of Campus Life Arts and Programs and adjunct professor at UNC Wilmington; he also worked in the United States Senate. When he served as UNCW senior class president, he spearheaded the concept and fundraising of the Millenium Clock Tower, still the largest student organized gift in the nation.

Shane also serves on the boards of the Association for Performing Arts Professionals (APAP), Arts North Carolina, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County, as well as secretary of Coastal Horizons. He is immediate past-president of the North Carolina Presenters Consortium and he is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA).

Shane has worked as a technician, performer, and director in over 150 Wilmington theatrical productions. He was recognized by the Wilmington Theatre Awards in 2015 as Best Director of a Musical for his production of *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. The Opera House Theatre Company production of *Newsies* that he directed in 2022 was recognized as Best Musical. Shane is also a backyard beekeeper.



## PROGRAMS

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





# SCHOLARSHIPS



## JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

Submitted by LeeRoy Hanna, LTC (ret) USA,  
Leadership Awards/Scholarship Chair

*We would like to thank everyone who donated to the scholarship/outreach programs and ask you to keep these important programs in mind. Please consider a donation to these worthwhile projects now. We are always accepting applications for outreach support. Thank you again to all our generous contributors.*

### JROTC Scholarship & JROTC Leadership Awards Support

#### JROTC Scholarships Program

We will be awarding scholarships at the picnic in June. The applications have been posted to our website and emailed to each school. We are awaiting scholarship application submissions. We should receive them later in March.

#### JROTC Leadership Awards Support

All awards and certificates for presentation at all 19 schools this spring are on hand. The following schools have given me their presentation dates:

SCHOOLS	DATES & TIMES	VOLUNTEERS
New Hanover HS	TBD	
North Brunswick HS	April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1730	COL (Ret) John Melia
Whiteville HS	April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1700	LTC (Ret) Lee Hanna
South Brunswick HS	April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1800	
Hoggard High School	May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 1800	CMDR (Ret) Dave Everette
Heide Trask HS	Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 1400	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
West Brunswick HS	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1800	
Ashley High School	May 13 <sup>th</sup> , TBD	CWO2 (Ret) David Foster
East Duplin HS	May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 0800	
Lejeune HS	May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1600	
Topsail HS	TBD	
James Kenan HS	May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 0830	
Northside HS	May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1700	
East Columbus HS	TBD	
South Columbus HS	TBD	
Wallace-Rose Hill HS	Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> , Completed	COL (Ret) David Benton
Laney HS	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1730	

If you would like to volunteer for one of the available schools please contact me at [MACHanna@aol.com](mailto:MACHanna@aol.com) or call (910) 617-1829. I hope to have the remaining dates by the end of March.



## SCHOLARSHIPS



## JROTC Awards & Scholarship Program

Submitted by LeeRoy Hanna, LTC (ret) USA,  
Leadership Awards/Scholarship Chair

### JROTC Leadership Awards Support (Continued)

COL (Ret) David Benton made our first presentation of the year at Wallace-Rose Hill HS on March 13th. He is shown here with Cadet CPT Mario Nunez.



**COL (Ret) David Benton congratulates Cadet CPT Marion Nunez at Wallace-Rose Hill High School.**

---

*We would like to thank everyone who donated to the scholarship/outreach programs and ask you to keep these important programs in mind. Please consider a donation to these worthwhile projects now. We are always accepting applications for outreach support. Thank you again to all our generous contributors.*

---

## Veteran Student Education Scholarship

Submitted by Tim Johnson, Capt., USMC, Scholarship Coordinator

As part of the Student Grant Program we have asked the recipients to send us some words about what the receiving the scholarship means to them. Rather than read out each letter at the meetings we decided that we would publish excerpts from some in the ***SENCLAND Sentinel Newsletter*** over the next several months.

From UNCW Student:



***" Thank You so much for the scholarship I received. It means so much for me and my family as I try [to] navigate through school, work, and family life. [This] gives us an extra boost [at a] time [that] we really need it."***

ABIGAIL ROARK

From UNCW Student:



A former US Army infantry soldier with a combat deployment in 2014-2015 timeframe sent us his heartfelt thanks along with the following pearl of wisdom:

***"The richest people look for and build networks, everyone else looks for work."***

JOSHUA FEURER

We wish Abigail and Joshua strong success in building their futures.

Each year since 2017 the SENCLAND Chapter has, as an organization, endeavored to raise funds for this worthy cause and continue our tradition of taking care of the troops. We have done stellar work as an organization and will continue to do so. We should, though, recognize that the need far outstrips the funds. *If anyone has any good ideas to assist in adding to the war chest please feel free to speak up.*



## SCHOLARSHIPS





## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



[www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction)



## Legislative Affairs

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

### In Washington

The news out of Washington continues to focus on the flurry of Executive Orders (E.O.'s) being issued by President Trump and implemented by his new Department of Government Efficiency and Cabinet Secretaries. These E.O.'s are designed to reorganize and down-size the Federal Government while reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Many of these orders are being challenged in courts and some actions have been temporarily halted pending further legal actions. It will be interesting to see the final outcome of these challenges.

MOAA will hold the annual Advocacy in Action (AIA) event in Washington on 9 April 2025. MOAA AIA participants will contact every member of Congress in one day. This year's AIA topics are: improved funding for unaccompanied military housing; additional protections for toxic exposures; passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act; enhancing stability and accountability in the Military Health System; improving support for VA caregivers. MOAA is once again encouraging all members to sign up for the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. This site makes it easy to contact your elected federal officials and express your support for legislation of interest. You can help make Advocacy in Action a year-round activity while keeping these topics front-and-center for our elected officials.

On 14 March (the deadline day) Congress passed, and the President signed, another Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY 2025. This CR funds Government operations through the end of FY 2025 on 30 September. Congress has now passed three CRs to fund the government at FY 2024 spending levels since the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2024. This CR contains an unusual number of adjustments to programs to align spending with the priorities and changes of the Trump administration. A full-year CR is very disruptive and expensive, but better than having no budget at all.

A reminder that the deadline to obtain a REAL ID driver's license or identification card is 7 May 2025. After that date, Real ID credentials will be required to board airlines or access Federal buildings and properties, including military installations. It does not look like the deadline will be extended again. You can use other forms of identification that show citizenship, such as a passport, but a REAL ID card is more convenient. Detailed information can be found at: [Official NCDMV: N.C.REAL ID](#).

## Legislative Affairs (Continued)

Submitted by Barry Coyle, Legislative Affairs Chair

### In North Carolina

A key focus of the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly is expanding residential property tax relief for disabled veterans. Several bills are under consideration, each proposing different levels of tax relief. However, the fate of these bills depends on various factors, including potential opposition from counties, cities, and towns that could lose tax revenue.

#### Current Law

Under existing law, only veterans who are 100% disabled qualify for property tax relief. The current benefit provides a \$45,000 deduction from the appraised value of a qualifying veteran's residence.

#### Proposed Legislation

1. Increase Disabled Veteran Property Tax Benefit (H 299)
  - o Raises the homestead exclusion from \$45,000 to \$54,000.
2. The Heroes Homestead Act (S 128)
  - o Increases the exclusion from \$45,000 to \$76,500.
3. The Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption Act (S 143)
  - o Grants a full exemption of the appraised value of the residence for qualifying disabled veterans.
4. The Disabled Veteran Residence Tax Relief Act (H 118 and S 228 – Identical Bills. H 118 has 64 sponsors, S 228 has 9 sponsors)
  - o Reduces the disability threshold from 100% to 50%, allowing more veterans to qualify.
  - o The exclusion amount is indexed to the veteran's disability rating.
  - o Example: A veteran with a 70% disability rating would receive an exclusion equal to 70% of the appraised value of their home.
  - o Surviving Spouse Benefit - The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran is eligible for tax relief, with the exclusion amount being the greater of:
    - The exclusion amount in place at the time of the veteran's death, or
    - A \$45,000 deduction from the appraised home value.

To qualify, the surviving spouse must provide certification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs confirming that the veteran's death was due to a service-connected condition as of January 1 of the preceding tax year. These legislative efforts aim to ease the financial burden on North Carolina's disabled veterans and their families. We encourage all members to stay informed and advocate for the bills that will best serve our veteran community.

On 12 March, Barry Coyle and Ray Pelletier briefed the Brunswick County Veterans' Coalition on the SENCLAND legislative program and pending legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly. The briefing was well-received and included a lively discussion of current legislative issues.



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS





## Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions

March 2025

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has always advocated for a strong national defense, with a particular focus on the people whose service and sacrifices make it possible. Maintaining this strength requires both sufficient funding and a capable workforce. However, the nation's growing debt and fiscal challenges pose a significant risk to future prosperity and place increasing pressure on our ability to sustain a robust force.

Given this reality, ongoing budget scrutiny to find efficiencies and savings is not only appropriate but necessary. However, early results from these exercises and actions have highlighted the need for thoughtful implementation and greater caution as budget reviews continue. There have been opportunities to reconsider and reverse rapid decisions when their negative consequences became evident; a prime example came in the protection of military spouses with existing remote-work arrangements from a return-to-work directive that would've significantly harmed military families. We must balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining a strong and prepared all-volunteer force, ensuring the nation upholds its promises to those Americans and their families who commit themselves to uniformed service and sacrifice for their country.

Those who serve and have served in uniform make extraordinary commitments and sacrifices — not only for our national defense, but for the very ideals that define America: freedom, security, and prosperity. Military members uphold the foundation of economic prosperity and freedoms all Americans enjoy — foundations built by veterans. These servicemembers swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, many putting their lives on the line, to make this happen. They don't join to get rich or receive accolades, they join to defend and protect liberties often taken for granted. In return, they expect the nation to honor its commitments and uphold promises made to care for them and their families both during and after their service. Fulfilling these promises is essential to ensuring those who wear the uniform — and their families — continue to encourage future generations to serve.

Despite statements to the contrary, some of the cuts made to the federal workforce and budget have negative consequences for the uniform services community, veterans, and families. Veterans, who make up approximately 30% of the federal workforce, are being dismissed. The speed of current actions is preventing recognition of the previous commitments made by the nation through veterans' hiring preferences. Similarly, military spouses who are granted a federal hiring preference are also being let go. For military spouses, the impact extends beyond household income—their job loss directly impacts the readiness and retention of their uniformed partners. Military families increasingly rely on dual incomes, and the loss of that second income stream plays a significant role in the decision to remain in service. These preferences were not established as handouts, but as a strategic investment recognizing the vital role of these workers in supporting recruiting, retention, and overall warfighting readiness.

Unfortunately, in the rush to make reductions, broad assumptions have emerged that veterans and spouses are simply being handed employment. In reality, their unique skillsets, experience, and dedication are highly valued and difficult to replace. Many of these individuals sought federal jobs so they could continue to serve the country and, in some cases, keep their military family together, when they could have commanded higher salaries in the private sector. As demonstrated in previous reversals and during DOGE updates that have highlighted a need to clean up the inevitable mistakes, some of these actions should be reversed quickly to eliminate inadvertent impacts on national defense.

## Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions (Continued)

The pace of current actions underscores the need to apply lessons learned and proceed with greater caution as budget reduction efforts, such as those announced for DoD, take place. As in previous budget-cutting exercises, it is not unusual for operations and maintenance and military personnel accounts to receive the most scrutiny. These tend to be the easiest areas to generate quick savings, free from the political or contractual concerns associated with other parts of the budget.

Once again, the right statements about supporting the uniformed service members and families who bear the burden are being made. But history tells us budget discussions often lead to reductions in "people programs" — housing allowances, healthcare benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, compensation, and manpower reductions themselves. These cuts may appear to offer immediate savings, but they have often proven more expensive thanks to unintended long-term costs:

- **Retention and Recruitment Risks:** Reductions in benefits make military service less attractive, weakening our ability to maintain a skilled and ready force.
- **Readiness Degradation:** Morale and stability among servicemembers decline when financial security is undermined.
- **Historical Lessons Ignored:** Past budget reductions, such as those seen during the 2014-2016 sequestration period and after Operation Desert Storm, led to force management challenges and cost more to correct. The costs to hastily reverse force reductions made without connections to actual defense strategies were significant. Even more costly was the extensive loss of experience, as new recruits replaced experienced members (who were in many cases paid to depart).

If increasing focus on warfighting and meritocracy is a target, then addressing harder but more lucrative places to generate savings should be in the plan. Though more difficult given the amount of associated political considerations, there are opportunities to generate savings through responsible defense budget reform:

1. **Efficient Program Management:** Allowing defense leaders to shutter outdated programs, weapon systems, and infrastructure through a BRAC would free up significant funds.
2. **Acquisition Reform:** Addressing inefficiencies in the procurement process would reduce costs.
3. **Long-Term Fiscal Planning:** Instead of making hasty cuts to meet short-term budget targets, policymakers should focus on sustainable financial strategies that prevent costly course corrections.

The men and women in uniform understand their duty to serve and protect this nation. It is the nation's duty to ensure their sacrifices are honored — not just with words, but with policies that reflect the value of their service. Budget constraints must be addressed — even within DoD and the VA, but cuts should not come at the expense of those who have given so much. By working together — lawmakers, advocacy groups, and the American public — we must find fiscally responsible solutions that uphold our commitment to those who serve.

MOAA stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we, as a nation, fulfill the promises made to those who serve and have served — along with their families. Now is not the time to erode our service-members' earned benefits. Rather, it's time to find solutions.

### Jim Carman, CAE

Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Vice President Council/Chapter and Member Support

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

201 N. Washington Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2539

800.234.6622; ext 107

Direct: 703.838.8107

[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)





# OUTREACH

*"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 \$1,500 dollars to grant to deserving individuals in need of financial assistance. In 2024, the community outreach committee through SENCLAND MOAA awarded 3,000 to seven deserving Veterans in the Wilmington area.

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 Web page. I can be reached at [endodoc97@gmail.com](mailto:endodoc97@gmail.com) if you have any further 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.

***Thanks for your support with this program that services our Nation's Veterans in Need.***

### Committee Members

**Mike Apicella – Chair  
Hondo Davids  
Leon Rooks**

## Wellness Coordinator's Corner

Submitted Leon Rooks Wellness Chair  
[leon.rooks@hotmail.com](mailto:leon.rooks@hotmail.com) or 910-799-2488

### *News from the Wellness Corner...*

I hope you all are well.

April is just days away which brings beautiful lawns, trees with green leaves and pollen. April also has a couple of main events; they are taxes and Easter. I want to focus on the latter, as that is the most important. In doing so I sought out to refresh my mind on the meaning of celebrating Easter.

You see, "Easter is important because all of Christianity revolves around the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent to us to die for our sins. If he did not die for us or did not rise again after three days,



then Christianity is based on nothing". But, Jesus was crucified and died on a cross, placed in a tomb, and on the third day Jesus was resurrected as he said.

So Easter embodies the heart of Christian theology, demonstrating the power God and his love through the resurrection of Jesus Christ offers us salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.

**HAPPY EASTER SENCLAND MOAA**

*Wellness Team*  
**Leon Rooks – Chair**  
**Stephen Bird**  
**Karen Murphy**



WELLNESS



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:allegrettoa@yahoo.com) , or call: 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.gbstores.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 Leslie Roberson, Nametag Program. The SENCLAND Chapter offers the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost is \$15 per name-tag 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 the minimum number required by the vendor. Nametags are delivered at monthly luncheons and chapter events.

You can order your nametags either online, in person at a meeting, or by mailing a personal check and order form as follows. Pay for your nametags (s) in one of the following 3 ways:

1. **ON-LINE:** PayPal Payment can be made at: SENCLAND: Membership: (<https://sencland.org/membership/?tp=Nametags>) 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/membership/>) and click on the tab for "Membership" on the home page and scroll down to "SENCLAND Nametags").
2. **In Person at a meeting** (cash or check), please print the page of the Newsletter with the SENCLAND NAME TAG boxes (below), complete it, and bring it with you to a meeting. You can turn it in and pay at check-in. The Treasurer will provide the POC your form.
3. **Mail Personal Check and Order Form:** Please print the page of the Newsletter with the SENCLAND NAME TAG boxes (below), complete it, and mail it with a check to SENCLAND MOAA to:

**SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA**  
**P.O. Box 10015**  
**Wilmington, NC 28404**

## MOAA SENCLAND Nametags Available for Purchase (Continued)

After paying (on-line or via mail), send an e-mail to Leslie Roberson, [lesliecotu@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliecotu@hotmail.com), include the information you want on the nametag (1) name, including nick name if you prefer, (2) rank, (3) military service, and (4) current duty status. Nametags for spouses only require the person's name and nickname if desired.

**If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Roberson at the email above or (703) 470-3392.**

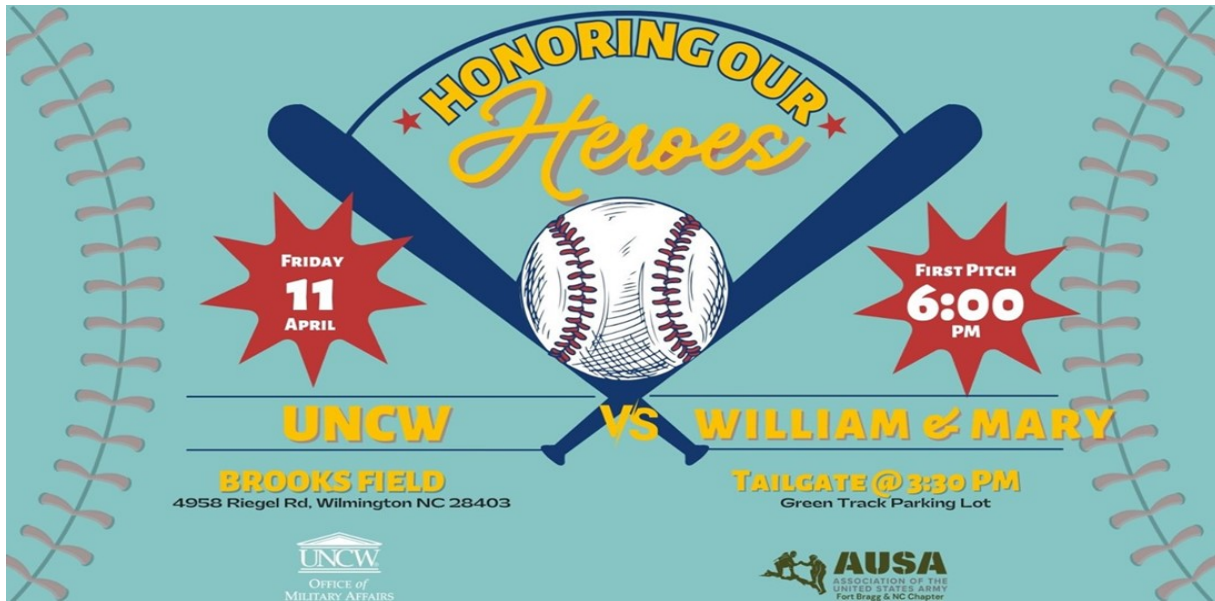
	<b>SENCLAND NAME TAG NAME/RANK/SERVICE BRANCH/STATUS</b>
<b>1</b>	<p>FIRST/NICK NAME _____</p> <p>LAST NAME _____</p> <p>RANK _____</p> <p>SERVICE BRANCH _____</p> <p>STATUS _____ Active Duty, Reserve or Guard, Retired, Former Officer (not retired)</p>
<b>2</b> (Form for a spouse's nametag)	<p>FIRST/NICK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



# SENCLAND NEWS

## SAVE THE DATES

### April 11 2025, UNCW Men's Baseball



The UNCW Men's Baseball is hosting their annual Honor Our Heroes Baseball Game on Friday, April 11th! All are invited! Tailgate begins at 3:30 PM Game starts at 6 PM Admission is free.

SENCLAND Member Irene Glaeser plans on going. **Contact Irene to get a small group together- could be a lot of fun!**

### April 10, 2025, Veterans Comedy Night



The Cape Fear Veteran Resilience Project is proud to announce a Veterans Comedy Night co-sponsored by the Dead Crow Comedy Club. The host that's scheduled is Army Veteran Chris O'Meara. Bring your battle buddy or significant other for a night to remember. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided with alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Don't miss out on this unforgettable evening! Admission is free! Only 30 spots available so please register at: <https://vrpcomedyeventbrite.com>

### 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](mailto:ltiller-travels@gmail.com).



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

## SENCLAND MEMBER'S PROFILE

### *Michael 'Mike' Gosma , Colonel , U.S. Air Force National Guard (ret)*



Colonel Gosma was recalled to Drill Status Guardsman (DSG) service after fully retiring. The picture above shows him (re)taking the Oath in his home while his son holds up the American flag from the front porch. *"I told them I would be willing to help when I first dropped my papers, so they took me up on the offer when they had 8 staff O-6s retire at the same time!"*

Colonel Gosma recently retired from serving in a part-time capacity as the Virginia National Guard A5/8 and is now a full time Senior Manager for Public Safety Operations & Strategy for Verizon Business Group. Prior to separating from active-duty Colonel Gosma served as an F-22 Maintenance Squadron commander. He says this "was by far the most exciting and dynamic assignment of my career." He is a 2001 USAF Academy (USAFA) graduate. While awaiting his Pilot Training start date, he met his wife Meaghan when she was assigned to the USAFA hospital as a registered nurse. They have now been married 21 years.

In 2007 Meaghan separated from service and went back to school to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Colonel Gosma transitioned to the F-16 and was assigned to Sumter, SC where their two daughters (Ellison and Chloe) were born. In 2011, he was reassigned to the USAF's Air-to-Air Weapons System Evaluation Program (COMBAT ARCHER) in Panama City, FL. His son Grayson was born in 2013 and, directly related, he completed his final Regular Air Force assignment shortly thereafter.

In 2014, Colonel Gosma transitioned to the Florida Air National Guard as a member of the 601st Air Operations Center (responsible for CONUS-Air Homeland Defense). Prior to his

command assignment, he was the Chief of the ANG 5th Generation Fighter Branch, F-35 System Management Office where he helped define US warfighter requirements and supported tactics development for the F-35 program. He also had the opportunity to transition to the F-35A as part of the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation cadre. He is a command pilot with more than 2,300 hours in fighter and trainer aircraft and a veteran of Opera-

**EDITOR:** Why did you join MOAA, what are MOAA's best benefits, and what MOAA services have you used? *I joined MOAA as part of my transition in order to be a part of the support and advocacy MOAA provides to service members and veterans. I can't think of too many better uses of my money (now), and time (down the road).*

**EDITOR:** Why did you join the SENCLAND MOAA chapter and what do you enjoy most about the chapter? *MOAA is a great organization, but at the national level it's a behemoth--it's nice to be a part of a smaller slice and get to know/serve with folks with similar life experiences and make an impact on the local community that we now call home.*

**EDITOR:** What activities do you most enjoy or most frequently engage in within your community or local area? *With 3 kids all involved in different activities, most of our time is currently consumed with driving them to youth group, baseball, dance, swim, soccer, theater...the list goes on. Beyond that, we are very involved in our local church and enjoy the local beach, food, and music scenes.*

**EDITOR:** Do you have other comments to share with SENCLAND members or other newsletter readers? *We certainly haven't been physically involved much since we moved here, but are so very appreciative of all that you [SENCLAND MOAA] do and we look forward to being able to plug in more as our kids get a little older and our commitments get a little fewer and farther between!*



## 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](mailto:sencland.president@gmail.com).



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

**1-800-247-2192  
[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)**

100392



---

*Whenever possible, please patronize our  
sponsors and let them know we all  
appreciate their support of our important  
initiatives.*

---

## SPONSORS (Continued)

Wilmington's premier bakery since 1985



Open 7 days a week




**APPLE ANNIE'S**  
BAKE SHOP

*Make Memories*


Proudly Veteran owned




University Square & The Forum



**Anne Leanos**, Navy Veteran, MBA  
Broker/REALTOR® | SELL, BUY, INVEST  
[anneleanos@gmail.com](mailto:anneleanos@gmail.com) | 309-868-2245

FOLLOW ME:  

<https://anneleanos.bhhscpp.com>

A member of the franchise system of BHI Affiliates, LLC.  


**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HOMESERVICES  
CAROLINA PREMIER PROPERTIES



*Whenever possible, please patronize our sponsors and let them know we all appreciate their support of our important initiatives.*

# SENCLAND SENTINEL

SOUTHEASTERN NC  
CHAPTER



MOAA

Place Stamp  
Here

THE SENCLAND CHAPTER  
of the  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 10015  
Wilmington, NC 28404

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

April 2025

