

MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters Six Legislative Priorities for 2025

1) Secure and increase funding for the North Carolina Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans (Wartime Scholarship).

Reward/Impact: By strengthening this scholarship program, we honor the sacrifices of North Carolina's veterans while investing in the educational success of their children. Expanding and protecting this funding provides stability for military families, promotes higher education, and ensures dependents have the opportunities their parents fought to defend.

2) The establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in ALL North Carolina counties and jurisdictions, coupled with increased funding to adequately support Veterans Suicide Prevention programs at the local community level.

Reward/Impact: This ensures that every veteran across the state has equal access to justice, rehabilitation, and lifesaving resources. By expanding treatment courts and suicide prevention funding, North Carolina will reduce recidivism, save taxpayer dollars, strengthen families, and most importantly—save veterans' lives.

3) Expand property tax relief for North Carolina veterans.

Reward/Impact: Providing greater property tax exemptions ensures financial stability for disabled veterans allowing them to remain in their homes and communities. This measure

reduces economic hardship, honors military service and sacrifice, and demonstrates North Carolina's commitment to supporting veterans and their families long after service.

4) Adjustments & Improvements to NC Property Tax language and exclusions.

Update statutory language to reflect current 38 CFR guidance for Veterans and surviving spouses. This technical change to the NC General Statutes—along with updated eligibility requirements on the NCDVA Form 9—is urgently needed. (NO COST)

Reward/Impact: Many surviving spouses across North Carolina are negatively impacted because state law does not align with current VA Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) eligibilities. Additionally, the current \$45,000 property tax exclusion for 100% disabled veterans fails to reflect today's economic realities and excludes veterans with significant—but less than 100%—disability ratings.

5) Advance HB 288 POW/MIA Flag/State Bldgs. & Schools

Reward/Impact: Passing HB 746 ensures that North Carolina visibly honors those still unaccounted for, reinforces public awareness of the sacrifices made by service members and their families, and demonstrates the state's unwavering commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind

6) Expand support and resources for veterans and dependents affected by toxic exposure.

Strengthen state-level programs to address the long-term health impacts of toxic exposure (such

as burn pits, Agent Orange, and contaminated water). Ensure that dependents also have access to screenings, healthcare resources, and financial relief when impacted by a veteran's service-connected exposure.

Reward/Impact: By addressing toxic exposure comprehensively, North Carolina can close critical gaps in care, reduce long-term health costs, and honor its obligation to veterans and their families. This investment saves lives, supports dependents who often bear hidden burdens, and demonstrates leadership in safeguarding the health of future generations.