

THE CATAWBA VALLEY OFFICERS DISPATCH



November 2025

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER
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President's Comments: LTC "Davy" Davenport

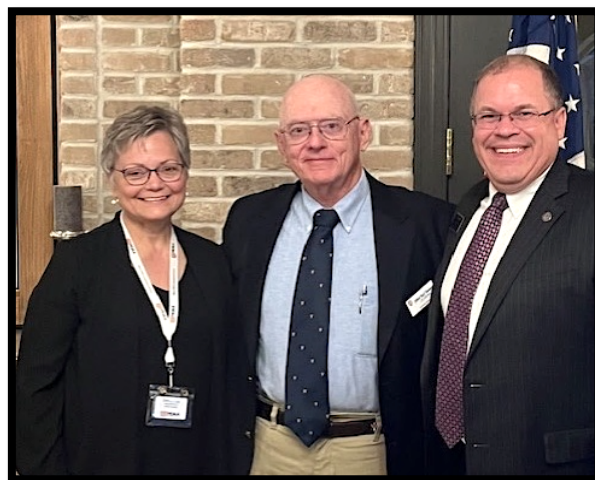
Veterans Day is a week or so away. This is a time when the civilian community pays their respects to the military Veterans who raised their hands and took an oath to defend our nation, at all costs! Many of today's elderly Veterans were drafted into service and served with honor and courage alongside those who volunteered. Unfortunately, some of those "Brothers in Arms" from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War have left the ranks and passed on to eternal peace, but many are still among us! So, now we're going to honor them and all the Veterans in our communities who have served in uniform to defend our country's freedom and its national interests throughout the world. My hope is that the civilian populace will hold National Guard and Reserve forces in equally high esteem as the Veterans who served or are serving full-time on active duty. Guard and Reserve members now carry an unexpectedly huge part of ongoing military missions, and to do this, they often make great personal sacrifices, such as: breaks in civilian career progression, disruptions to private business activity, interrupted academic pursuits etc. I feel it's also important for each of us Veterans to participate in, or at least be present at, Veterans Day events in our towns and cities. This is a strange time when military service members are thrust into unorthodox roles in civilian metropolitan and border areas, and a time when they're spread thin in volatile "hotspots" all over the globe. So, taking part in Veterans Day ceremonies here in our local communities reinforces our military's image and shows the civilians that we are grateful for their gestures of respect and honor.

Well, here we are again, right in the middle of another legislative quagmire that resulted in a government shutdown and an NDAA that's stuck in the political mud. This impacts military operations, training, acquisitions, R&D, and quality of life programs. What a shocking situation: military paychecks at risk, delayed PCS moves, fewer day care facilities, reduced spouse employment opportunities, etc. Meanwhile, the SECDEF mandates that tough "Warrior" fitness standards be vigorously instilled throughout the services—give it your all, but maybe no payday? Obviously, this perennial scenario frustrates commanders and negatively impacts the well-being of the troops and their families. Thus, MOAA's Government Relations team is now working even harder on behalf of servicemembers, including retirees! Let's all use MOAA's Legislative Action Center to help the push for passage of the Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5401/S. 2002).

One last thought, I'd like to remind everyone that our chapter's traditional Christmas Charity Dinner at Lake Hickory Country Club will be held on the evening of December 11th, a Thursday. The club will be decorated to reflect the season; we'll have a sumptuous dinner, a wonderful musician, and a very nice prize for our charity raffle. Anyone of us who still fits into the service dress or mess dress uniform is encouraged to don it for this event; alternatively, some may opt to wear military medals or insignia on their jackets. For me, it's always nice to have a photo taken in front of the club's Christmas tree as a keepsake or to use as a featured element on one's Christmas greeting cards. Reservation slips for this event are on page five of this newsletter. Chapter members are absolutely welcome to bring guests to this holiday event.

Mr. Jon Jones, Veteran Smiles official, was Guest Speaker at our chapter's last meeting/dinner at Lake Hickory Country Club. Mr. Jones is Assistant Dean at the Eastern Carolina University of Dental Medicine. The Veterans Smiles program is an integral element of the ECU Dental School and eight of its satellite dental care facilities throughout our state. Veteran Smiles provides dental care to Veterans in need who do not meet the VA's 100% disability criteria for care under the VA. So, Veteran Smiles provides no-cost dental care to them and to Veterans who can't obtain care via Medicare, insurance, etc. Fourth-year dental students perform all dental procedures under the auspices of a resident dentist at each facility. ECU's community service centers feature high-tech equipment, thus enabling speedy and positive outcomes every time. Free dental care has been provided to 480 Veterans thus far. Retired USAF Captain Donna Culp was present at the dinner; she was the spark that first started the program in 2018. She and Mr. Jones recounted some amazing dental care success stories. At the conclusion of this fascinating presentation, our Chapter President presented a \$500 check to Mr. Jones, as a donation from our chapter to the Veteran Smiles program. Further info on this program is at www.veterans.ecu.org.

MOAA CVC photo



Donna Culp, Davy Davenport & Jon Jones



We need volunteers for:

- Legislative Liaison
- Programs Chair

*(e-mail LTC Davenport:
davyd1948@gmail.com)*

**U.S. National Guard's 389th
Birthday is December 13th**

MOAA CVC Photo



BG Moore pins Legion of Merit medal on COL Tucker

Chapter member Colonel (Dr.) Dana Tucker's military retirement ceremony took place on October 7th, at the Army National Guard Armory in Mooresville. The Presiding Officer was Brigadier General Cristina Moore, who started her long career at West Point. General Moore recounted some of Dana's many deployments and achievements (in Iraq and the Balkans). The General then focused on Dana's great success as 139th Regiment Commander, which involved a broad range of training facilities and an officer commissioning school. Then, Dana was awarded the Legion of Merit medal from the Secretary of the Army and the Distinguished Service medal from the NC Guard Adjutant General. He also received a certificate of appreciation from the President of the United States. Mrs. Christine Tucker received a Military Spouse certificate of appreciation and a gorgeous flower bouquet. And then, Dana gave his final remarks, themed with inspiring insights and personal gratitude to his past comrades in arms—some of whom fell on the battlefield. All attendees then enjoyed a robust horderves buffet, provided by Dana and Christine Tucker. Besides Dana himself, there were many of our Catawba Valley Chapter members present at this wonderful event.

2025 Foothills Veterans Winter Stand Down: November 13th, from 0900 to 1300. At Broyhill Civic Center, 1913 Hickory Blvd. Lenoir, NC. Volunteer forms are available at: www.foothillsveteranshelpingveterans.com. BTW: Our chapter made a substantial donation from our Benevolent Fund to help support this important event.

“myAuth” Update: The replacement for the DoD’s DS Logon system has only begun migrating various military websites and services to the new myAuth system. Instructions for activating a myAuth account imply that the Okta Verify App must be used; actually, it’s use is optional. Instead, one could just establish a new username & password. Also, if you do not have a DS Logon account, you will be automatically prompted to establish that as a first step in setting up the myAuth account. Here’s the myAuth starting point website: <http://myauth.dmdc.mil>

New Veterans Services Director: Ms. Brittany Snyder will oversee benefits coordination, advocacy, and outreach programs designed to support Iredell County’s more than 15,000 veterans and military families. She is a U.S. Navy Veteran, with multiple deployments throughout the globe. The Iredell County Veterans Services Office is located at 200 S. Center Street in Statesville, and the phone number is: 704-878-3135

Veterans Day Discounts & Freebies: A great source for Veterans Day discounts is on the Military.com website. They have an extensive list of retail and dining discounts, some of which are totally free to Veterans. Their list is regularly updated; plus, their website has a continually present Discounts Center, with search capability. Their Veterans Day discount list is at: www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html. Some offers require proof of Veteran status via ID.me (at www.id.me/government). ID.me also has its own shopping feature (with search capability) that offers hundreds of discounts to Veterans, including for events and travel.

Free Tickets at Vet Tix: Who do you cheer on: Panthers, Hornets, Checkers, or a NASCAR racer? You might be able to do that in person without paying for high priced tickets. Veterans Tickets Foundation works to provide free event tickets to military, veterans, and first responders. They work with the teams and other sports related organizations to provide the free tickets; they’ve already awarded 31 million free tickets to the military community. Full info on the program and how to score tickets is at: www.vettix.org/partner/militarycom

Paper ID Card Still Good: According to government sources, legacy paper-based USID cards with extended expiration dates issued to specific populations – e.g. Reserve Retirees and Former Members eligible for retired pay and benefits at age 60 – as well as cards with indefinite expiration dates issued to retirees, dependents over age 65, and Permanently Incapacitated dependents, will all remain valid until DoD determines when those legacy paper-based cards will be terminated. Termination of paper-based ID cards will be announced well in advance of the actual termination date. If you want a new type ID card now, visit website: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>

USAA Subscribers Savings Account: Long-term USAA members may have accumulated substantial money in their somewhat obscure Subscribers Savings Account; surviving spouses ultimately have access to those funds. USAA bylaws specifically address what happens to the Subscriber's Account (a.k.a. Surplus Account) when the member dies. The surviving spouse has the option to cash out the account or roll it over into a new account in their name to continue their own membership. Contact USAA Survivor Relations team at 800-292-8294.

Renowned Military Clubs: MOAA Life Members receive a discount for joining the Army & Navy Club in Washington DC. A similar club is the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco. Besides their own lodging and dining services, both clubs are affiliated with over 200 reciprocal clubs around the world. Either of these clubs are interesting options for those of us who do a great of traveling. Further info on various levels of membership and the fees are available at: www.armynavyclub.org/ and <https://marinesmemorial.org/membership/>

Calling All Philanthropists: The end of the tax year is upon us. So, if you’re pumping up your charitable donations for tax purposes, please consider donating to our (501)(c)(3) Benevolent Fund, which is described on the next page. Throughout the year, we’ve been able to do a lot of good for Veterans in need by coupling our Benevolent Fund money with grants from MOAA/USAA. Be part of next year’s success story by donating now!

Surviving Spouse Newsletter: The September edition of the Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter newsletter is posted on the upper portion of the “Useful Links” page of our chapter website at: www.moaacvc.org.

- NEWS FROM THE FIVE MILITARY BRANCHES -

ARMY: TRADOC at Fort Eustis was deactivated; simultaneously, Army Transformation & Training Command was activated in Austin. T2COM is to ensure the U.S. Army remains the world's most lethal and ready land force.

NAVY: A recent DoD contract has a firm integrating its newly developed "Blackbeard" long-range, hypersonic missiles into Navy and Army weapon system platforms, thus providing a new conventional deterrence capability.

MARINES: Navy christened the USS Louis H. Wilson, Jr, a new destroyer. General Wilson is a Medal of Honor winner who fought in the Battle of Guam and Vietnam, and later became 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

AIR FORCE: USAF recently held its second Decision Advantage Sprint for Human-Machine Teaming demo, an experiment showing how artificial intelligence can help make faster and smarter battle management decisions.

SPACE FORCE: A Systems Delta organization was just activated; its purpose is to align acquisition programs within mission areas, thereby synchronizing efforts and streamlining work between acquisitions and operations.

Benevolent Fund: Our four designated charities are: Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans (FVHV), Purple Heart Homes (PHH), Piedmont Veterans Assistance Council (PVAC), and Welcome Home Veterans (WHV). Make Benevolent Fund donations by sending a check to our chapter Treasurer. You may annotate the check to specify any of the above charities, or leave it to our Board of Directors that apportions out funds to the various charities. Frances Liburdi won the charity raffle at our last event and generously gave her winnings to the Benevolent Fund.

Treasurer: CDR Dave Olson, 485 26th Ave NE (Unit A), Hickory, NC 28601

2026: *General Membership Meetings/Dinners: (Dec 11, 2025) Jan 15, Mar 19, May 21, Sep 17, Dec 8*
Board Meetings: (Dec 4, 2025) Feb 26, Apr 23, Jun 25, Aug 27, Oct 22, Dec 17



CHAPTER PRINCIPALS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Chapter President: LTC "Davy" Davenport
1st Vice President: Captain "Judd" Taylor
2nd Vice President: Major Jim McCauley
Treasurer: Commander Dave Olson
Secretary: Major Dennis McClish
Chaplain: Reverend (CW3) Robert Herron
Programs Chairman: Vacant
Director: Vacant

Director: Colonel Joe Cansler
Director: Vacant
Legislative Liaison: Colonel (Dr.) Dana Tucker
Surviving Spouses Liaison: Mrs. Mary McClish
Membership Chair: LTC "Davy" Davenport
JROTC Coordinator: Lt Col G. Jane Harmon
Personal Affairs & TOPS: Colonel John Liburdi
Newsletter/Website: Colonel John Liburdi

Join National MOAA and this Chapter: MOAA is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, MOAA has made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving! Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service or the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The MOAA Catawba Valley Chapter covers six counties: Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell and Lincoln. Our chapter is active in the community through its Benevolent Fund (explained above) and JROTC support. The chapter also engages in ad hoc charitable support and activity, with emphasis on homeless Veterans. Please note that National MOAA and its affiliated chapters are nonpartisan, without any political party affiliation, bias, or designation. ***A one-page chapter membership application mail-in form is available via the "Join Chapter" button on our chapter website homepage at: www.moaacvc.org.*** Also, you can learn more about MOAA National and join at either Basic, Premium or Life level by visiting their website: www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa

*FYI: - Receive this newsletter via e-mail by requesting to: moaacvcnews@hotmail.com
- Directly access the MOAA "Legislative Action Center" at: www.moaa.quorum.us*



RESERVATION FOR MOAA CATAWBA VALLEY CHRISTMAS CHARITY DINNER



This is my reservation for MOAA Catawba Valley's Christmas Charity Dinner on December 11th, (a Thursday) at Lake Hickory Country Club. Cocktails/social time begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served in the Elijah Brown room at 6:30 p.m. Glenn Fox "Encore" will provide live oldies & holiday music. And, a very nice 'Jim Shore' Christmas themed prize will be raffled off, with all proceeds going to our chapter's Benevolent Fund. Attire: Mess Dress or Service Dress uniform encouraged, otherwise coat & tie.

Name of attendee(s): _____ & _____ & _____

Indicate number of entrée selections: Cordon Bleu _____ Baked Salmon _____ Veggi Platter _____

Please send this slip and your check **(\$40.00 per attendee)** to arrive no later than December 8th, a Monday, to:



Commander Dave Olson, 485 26th Ave NE (Unit A), Hickory, NC 28601

(Please be aware that participants attending this event may be photographed or recorded for MOAA media products.)

*VA's 24/7 Crisis Line: Dial 988 and press 1, or text 838255, or chat
online at website: VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat*

*VA's Fraud & Scam Protection reporting desk: VSAFE.gov and
1-833—388-7233*

*Surviving Spouse virtual chapter join e-mail: mssvc02@gmail.com
(S-S newsletter posted on "Useful links" page of our website)*

DoD ID Card Office Online at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

Ideas for Guest Speakers always welcome—no sales pitches please!

Tell prospective members about our website: www.moaacvc.org