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Membership Dinner

CCMOAA will be holding its annual membership dinner at the Taberna Country Club, 19 March 2020, at 5:30-8:30 P.M. An RSVP Form is attached, please have your RSVP back to Randy Bogle no later than the 12th of March 2020. It will be a special evening with award presentations and a guest speaker, Mr. Jim Brumit, NC State MOAA Council President. We will be installing the following officers to the Board:

- Randall Ramian – President
- Randy Bogle – 2nd Vice President
- Jerry Kirk - Director

The Vietnam Wall

We are three weeks away from The Vietnam Wall arriving in New Bern. There will be extensive media coverage leading up to the Wall's arrival along with opening and closing ceremonies. The latest Vietnam Memorial information is on [Facebook](#) or you can follow it on the [Web](#). Regardless, of your information source, please plan to visit.

If you ride motorcycles, be part of The Wall escort leaving Goldsboro and arriving in New Bern – details on Facebook. The Wall will be erected at Lawson Creek Park, if you would like to volunteer, the signup sheets are posted online for docents, parking attendants, traffic control, and security. [Volunteer links](#) are being provided on Facebook and the Web.

Voting (non-partisan announcement)

The Primary Elections will be held this week, Tuesday, 3 March 2020. Please go online to check your [voter information](#), find out where to vote, or download the primary ballot. If you need help in getting an absentee ballot or getting to the voting center (either curbside or booth) contact someone on the Board and they can provide transportation.

Legislative Report

North Carolina is forging ahead with its goal of making this a military and veteran friendly State. The latest NC House and Senate Bills are:

- SB 188/HB 650-Tax Exempt Military Retirement
- HB 945- Property Tax Exemption for Military Disabled
- HB 641-Veteran Suicide Prevention

Please look at these bills and [contact](#) or meet your State Representatives or State Senators and persuade them to support passage of these bills. It is but a phone call or email to meet our primary mission of "Continuing to Serve".

The Widows Tax Repealed:

Some 65,000 surviving military spouses have a lot to celebrate. The elimination of the "Widow's Tax" will be phased in over a three-year period, starting on Jan. 1, 2021. Surviving military spouses can expect to receive their full benefits by Jan. 1, 2023.

MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), said of the news, "This will be the culmination of the efforts of many over the last four decades: military and veteran service organizations, the media, an amazing army of surviving spouses, The Military Coalition, and members of Congress and their dedicated staffs."

As with all legislation, there are exclusions. MOAA published [5 Things You Need to Know About the Widows Tax Repeal](#) included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Inform yourself so you can help [DFAS](#) and others help you. For widows/widowers know that DFAS calls the widows tax, "SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination".

Public Affairs Program – SECURE ACT

There is a lot of buzz around the Secure Act and what it will mean to your retirement. MOAA recently published an update, "[More About What the SECURE Act Means for Your Retirement Account](#)". If you still have questions, especially after the Stock Market's reaction to the Corona Virus, call your investment counselor and ask for a review. If you do not have an advisor, there are several excellent financial counselors in the New Bern area, call one and ask for a free review.

Public Affairs Program – CORONA VIRUS

There is a lot of misinformation about the virus, its causes, and its remedies. Here is an excellent [video](#) by a health official on the Corona Virus – the video covers the entire lifecycle of the contagion and how to protect yourselves.

Report: Dozens of Military Medical Facilities Will Stop Treating Families, Retirees

By: Karen Ruedisueli

[A recent article published by Military.com](#) gives us the first look at the Defense Health Agency's plan to move approximately 200,000 military family members, retirees, and their families and survivors into the TRICARE civilian network.

Congress directed this rightsizing of the direct care system as part of [comprehensive Military Health System \(MHS\) Reform legislation](#) included in the FY17 NDAA. Specifically, Sec. 703 of the legislation

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required DoD to develop an implementation plan to restructure and realign military treatment facilities (MTFs). The congressional intent of these changes is to sharpen focus of the MHS on readiness of both operational forces and the medical professionals.

Military.com obtained a memo that details the impacts of the proposed MTF restructuring. Highlights of the restructuring include:

- 50 hospitals and clinics will be impacted. Services at 48 MTFs will be reduced while two may be expanded. A full list is available on the [MOAA website](#).
- At 38 outpatient clinics, DoD recommends reducing the scope of MTFs to serve only active-duty servicemembers, while in many cases maintaining pharmacy services for all beneficiaries.
- It is estimated that approximately 200,000 beneficiaries who receive care at the MTFs identified for reduction in operations will transition to civilian providers in the TRICARE network. Based on TRICARE enrollment data included in the [FY19 Annual Evaluation of the TRICARE Program Report to Congress](#), MOAA believes this represents about 10% of the 1.95 million TRICARE Prime beneficiaries (not including active-duty servicemembers) enrolled to military primary care managers.

VA Announces Further Delay on Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases

By: Cory Titus

The VA just released its reasons for delaying presumption on four illnesses connected to Agent Orange. The four presumptive diseases-- bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like symptoms, and hypertension -- affect at least an estimated 83,000 veterans.

In its report, the VA announced plans to delay coverage to await the results of additional research. This decision is puzzling since the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) level of scrutiny has been met for the VA to add these presumptives to the list of veterans' [diseases associated with Agent Orange](#). NASEM's reports stated that [bladder cancer](#), [hypothyroidism](#), [Parkinson's-like symptoms](#), and [hypertension](#) fall among the health problems linked to Agent Orange exposure.

With the VA challenging the scientific community and requiring additional studies, [as occurred with the Blue Water Navy Act \(H.R. 299\)](#), more congressional action is required to get the VA to take care of veterans. Please [reach out to your representative](#) and ask them to support [H.R. 5610](#), the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act, which will mandate the VA cover these four illnesses connected to Agent Orange exposure.

Florida Chapter Dedicated to Feeding Veterans in Need

By: Blair Drake, Contributing Editor

Members of the [Treasure Coast \(Fla.\) Chapter](#) are dedicating their time to help local homeless and at-risk veterans. The chapter works with [Sarah's Kitchen](#), which was created in 2009 to feed the hungry in St. Lucie County when the unemployment rate hit 15%. Today, Sarah's Kitchen serves over 1,200 meals a week, including to more than 250 veterans.

In 2016, the Treasure Coast Chapter began partnering with Sarah's Kitchen to provide hot meals using their mobile feeding vehicle. Chapter members follow along with the food pantry and provide

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care packages, personal hygiene bags, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and other needed items. The mobile feeding units travel each week to parks and homeless camps, and they feed about 25 veterans and families during each mobile feeding.

According to Lt. Col. Bobbie Williams, USA (Ret), past president of the chapter, chapter members assist with feeding, collecting clothing and personal hygiene items, preparing care packages, and distributing clothing and care packets. They volunteer about 92 hours a month — approximately 1,000 hours annually.

The Treasure Coast Chapter's effort is one of many high-impact local programs the [MOAA Foundation](#) helps to fund through its Community Outreach Grant program. The chapter was one of 22 MOAA chapters that received a portion of the \$79,400 in grants awarded in 2019. The grant is helping the chapter and Sarah's Kitchen continue to provide hot meals, clothing, and hygiene packets and supporting local veterans Stand Downs.

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Installation of Officers and Board of Directors

You are cordially invited to our March 2020 Dinner Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2020



at

Taberna Country Club
401 Taberna Way
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 634-1600

Attire: Business

Social Hour (No Host Bar) at: 1730-1830

Dinner Served at: 1830

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jim Brumit, NC State MOAA Council President

Dinner Menu

Please Select One per Person:

___ Hand carved sirloin of beef with a red wine demi-glace, twice baked potato, vegetable medley, tossed garden salad

___ Baked stuffed flounder (lemon beurre blanc) with rice, vegetable medley, tossed garden salad

___ Chicken Saltimbocca (Sage, mushrooms, Prosciutto and Parmesan) with smashed new potatoes, vegetable medley, tossed garden salad

Dessert – Strawberry shortcake

Cost is \$34.00 per person. All Taxes & Gratuities Included.

Reservations for this event are requested by Thursday, 12 March 2020

Contact Randy Bogle (252) 631-3109/rbogle1968@gmail.com with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 19 Mar

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Enclosed for: _____ (\$34 /person). Mail check payable to: CC/MOAA.

Mail To: Randy Bogle, 4308 Periwinkle Place, New Bern, NC 28562