

The Summit (JUN 2017)

# The Summit Newsletter



The High Country Chapter of the MOAA was formed in 2004 and serves Avery, Mitchell, and Watauga counties. The Military Officers Association of America is a non-profit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. 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, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.



Where our battles take place

# President's Remarks

The work of the Veterans Memorial Committee is progressing and we hope to remain on schedule. Three finalists have been selected from a pool of 19 who submitted design proposals. The three artists are: Suzie Hallier, Sculptor; Clint Button, Carolina Sculpture Studio and Wesley Wofford, Wofford Sculpture Studio. These artists will submit in-depth proposals with construction details and costs to our executive committee. Scale models of their designs will be on display at the Jones House in Boone on July 4<sup>th</sup> during the parade hours, approximately 10:30am to 12:30pm. All three satisfied the rigid criteria we established and capture the spirit of what a Veterans memorial should symbolize. Thanks to Col. Covington and his committee for a great job!

In an earlier email I mentioned the tragic situation regarding a severely injured MCJROTC cadet, Alex Weaver. Our board received an update on June 7th. The young man is paralyzed from the chest down and unfortunately the prognosis at this stage is unlikely to improve. Many of you have inquired about donations and the following information is provided. LtCol Gerald (Jerry) Harper, USMC is the point of contact and a fund has been established via Watauga High School. You can send donations to Watauga High School, 300 Go Pioneers Drive, Boone, NC, 28607. Please mark the envelope "attention LtCol Harper." Checks can be made out to Watauga HS and please put "for Alex Weaver" on the note line. Please communicate directly with Jerry if you have any additional questions at [harperg@wataugaschools.org](mailto:harperg@wataugaschools.org)

The Board is working on some exciting opportunities to have fun and raise funds at the same time for the Veterans Memorial and our general fund. We're looking at a Golf Tournament later in the summer, a bowling event on the 5th November and the possibility of a new venue for our pancake breakfast. More details will be provided as they become available.

Fred Schmitt  
President

PS: For those of you who were not able to be there here are the remarks made on the campus of Appalachian State University for Veterans Day by our first VP Capt (DR) Doug May.

<http://appalachianmagazine.org/videos/id/677>



Watauga County Relay for Life support

## CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

President: Capt Fred Schmitt USCG

1st VP: Capt Doug May USMC

2nd VP: CAPT Charles Rhodes USN

Secretary: LTC Dave Garvin USA/MAJ Marvin Williamson USA

Treasurer: MAJ Dinah Pinney USAF

Past President: MAJ Bob Gibbard USA

### BOARD MEMBERS:

LtCol George Brudzinski USMC (PP)

CPT Nick Friedman USA (PP)

LTC Ron Branch USA

COL Ben Covington USA (PP)

LTC Ed Groff USA

CoL John Alley USA (PP)

LTC Michael Halus USA



Cadet Gabe Long receives our chapters 2017 Scholarship Award from our President (Capt) Fred Schmitt with the commander of the Watauga Marien Corps JROTC program (LtCol) Gerald Harper in support.

# Veterans Corner.

By Mike Halus

## [VA Announces Adoption of American Cancer Society Mammogram Screening Guidelines](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is adopting American Cancer Society (ACS) breast cancer screening guidelines that give women a choice to begin screening at age 40. The guidelines also recommend starting yearly mammograms by age 45 and then every other year from age 55. The guidelines apply to women at average risk for breast cancer and complement VA's already-extensive program for breast care for Veterans.

### **New DFAS Mailing Addresses**

**The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:**

**Retired Pay:Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200**

**Annuitant Pay:Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300**



**The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time.**

**The telephone and fax numbers are not changing.**

**Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information:**

**<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>**

Comments and suggestions on the Veterans' Corner, questions on Disabled American Veterans, and help with veteran VA and other Claims call Mike Halus at 828 260-0620.

## Upcoming Events

1. Blood Sweat and Gears support 23-24 Jun
2. Last Thursday of the Month, JUN 28 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company.
3. Board meeting July 12<sup>th</sup> 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
4. Last Thursday of the Month, JUL 27 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company.
5. Board meeting AUG 2nd 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
6. November 5<sup>th</sup> 2PM “10 High Country Lanes” Strikes for Troops. Mark your calendars now. More information to follow.

## Resources

Please copy and paste the following links to your links list on your computer. <http://www.facebook.com/hccmoaa>  
e-mail: [hccmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:hccmoaa@gmail.com)

High County Chapter Home Page

<http://hccmoaa.org/index.html>

North Carolina Council of Chapters Home Page

<http://www.moaa-nc.org/>

National MOAA Home page

<http://www.moaa.org/>