



NEWS and ACTIVITES:

Its not news that MOAA membership is comprised of individuals and couples that have incredible stories of leadership, combat, and military experience. Watauga High School MC-JROTC students have taken advantage of those stories by listening to a series of MOAA members discussing what life lessons they learned while serving this nation. The most recent speaker was BG Jim Walker, USMC (Ret.) who was the top lawyer for the Marine Corps.



VETERANS INTERVIEW:

Meet Doug May, High Country Chapter President. Doug was in the Marine Corps from 1967 to 1973. He went to the 2nd Marine Air Wing in Cherry Point in 1969 to fly the A-6 Intruder. In 1970, Doug was assigned to the 1st Marine Air Wing in Iwakuni, Japan. In 1971, he returned to the 3rd Marine Air Wing in El Toro, California, flying the F-4 Phantom. In 1972, he joined the wing staff at headquarters, 3rd Marine Air Wing. Doug left the Marine Corps in 1973, received his MBA and PhD in Colorado and moved to Boone in 1982 where he became a professor at Appalachian State University for 30 years, retiring in 2012. Doug joined the High Country Chapter of MOAA in 2005 and was asked to join the Board of Directors for a 2-year term. Doug was elected Board President in 2018.



ACTIVITY NEWS FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- The High Country Chapter recently cooperated with the city of Boone to "Adopt a Street" to ensure trash pickup and maintain a clean environment for the community. The chapter was originally scheduled to clean the Industrial Park Drive area near "BooneShine Brewing Company" last January. However, snowy weather forced us to cancel the event. The chapter will reschedule the community event and get the word out to you after the next board meeting in March.
- WHS MCJROTC programs continue to be conducted at the high school with chapter members making an impact on the students. Note the article and picture featuring BG Jim Walker above.
- The mask mandate in Boone is scheduled to be lifted on March 7, 2022. That will allow the High Country Chapter to definitively schedule a quarterly fellowship gathering. We'll let you know of a date and location soon.





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HIGH COUNTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES:

1. A Board of Directors meeting was held at Ransom’s Restaurant 2 February 2022. Topics of discussion included:
 - Adopt-a-Street cleanup plans
 - WHS MCJROTC program support
 - Logistics and discussion for our next general fellowship membership meeting
 - Feedback on preliminary research for 2021-2022 Level of Excellence Awards
 - Possible joint meeting with the New River Chapter and High Country Chapter with a tentative date in June
 - Fundraising efforts and discussions
 - Applying for the Harris Communications Award for website and newsletter
 - Discussion of utilizing other sources of social media to keep chapter members informed.
 - The Board of Directors meeting will be held March 2, 2022 at Ransom’s Restaurant.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HIGH COUNTRY BOARD:

Officers -

- President: Doug May (USMC)
- 1st Vice: Fred Schmitt (USCG)
- 2nd Vice: Frankie Groff (Spouse)
- Secretary: Lance Campbell (USA)
- Treasurer: George Brudzinski (USMC)
- Chaplain: Jim Fisher (USN)



Directors -

- Patsy Alley (Spouse)
- Jim Brannam (USA)
- Jim Walker (USMC)
- Ted Alley (USAF)
- Ben Covington (USA)
- Bob Love (USN)
- Marvin Williamsen (USA)

LOCAL ISSUES: How Is The War In Ukraine Impacting North Carolina Veterans?

The following is part of a report from WTVD, RALEIGH. <https://abc11.com/stress-russia-ukraine-veterans/11600282>

"When I hear NATO, to me, NATO should be the front line of defense for all of Europe," Michael Kacher, a veteran who served three tours overseas, told ABC11. "Any country that is free should be standing up to fight for freedom - because what else is there?" Kacher is just one of more than 700,000 veterans living in the North Carolina - among the largest populations of veterans in America - and many of them served on the front lines.

"When we fought the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, it was more about fighting an ideology," Kacher explained. "Now it's these countries are no longer going to be countries. They're going to be USSR. They're going to be Russia. Freedom is so much more than an ideology. Freedom is a way of life." Kacher, however, warned the troops don't need to see combat to experience mental health issues.

"It's a constant what-if, and taking that much stress and putting that much on you, it mentally drains you and mentally wears on you," he added. "I look at this, and if this turns into another full-blown war, how many of my friends that are still in the military are going to end up getting reactivated? How many just got out that are going to get recalled? And it's not just the troops that are going through it. You have all the family members back home, friends, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters."



PAGE THREE – NATIONAL NEWS

DID YOU KNOW?:

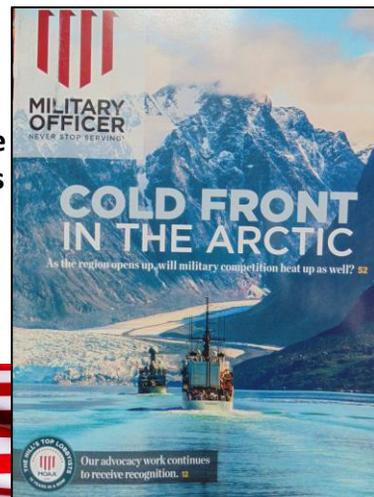


That for the 15th consecutive year, THE HILL named National MOAA to its list of top lobbyists? MOAA has been identified as those “who stand out for delivering results for their clients in the halls of Congress and the administration.” What does this mean and how does it apply to us in the High Country? MOAA provides input on COLAs, Tricare issues, and military concerns.

Do you have an issue you want addressed? Any MOAA member may propose a resolution which should address a legislative or management issue related to MOAA’s missions and goals. The Resolutions Committee will review all submissions. Email your proposal by March 16 to msc@moaa.org for consideration.

MOAA FEBRUARY 2022 MAGAZINE:

Who enjoyed the “bomb cyclone” of cold last month? Well, the February issue of the Military Officer magazine addresses how the frozen north has become an area of regional competition between the Artic Circle nations. Each of our military services have significant roles up there in the protection of our nation. Other news articles inform us of 2022 Tricare prices and an expert’s notes on how to gain your best advantage in regard to this year’s taxes...what’s new, what to check and what may change. It’s good to be informed.



NATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT:

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veteran’s association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former 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, Space Force, Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.



HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

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HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER MOAA FUNDRAISER MERCHANDISE:



We are still selling our High Country Chapter MOAA 24 oz insulated tumblers. These tumblers are triple-walled, stainless outside and inside, with a copper lining to keep things super HOT or COLD. They are Laser-engraved with the MOAA Logo. The Tumblers are selling for \$30.00 each, 2 for \$50.00 and we only have 23 remaining in inventory. When they're gone, they're gone, so don't wait too long to get them. Contact our Treasurer, LtCol George Brudzinski at hccmoaa@gmail.com or GBrudzinski@skybest.com or 828-963-3475 to get free, YES, free, delivery while supply last.

We continue to sell our challenge coin that commemorates both the High Country Chapter, as well as the Watauga County Veterans Memorial which is located on King Street in Boone. The memorial provides a location for veterans to gather for ceremonial purposes and visitors to Boone often stop at the memorial to reflect on the service that the military provides to the citizens of this nation.



These coins can be utilized for various challenges, gifts, and affirmation of services. Consider purchasing one and challenge each other at local social events and chapter gatherings. Cost is \$10 and can be purchased at our upcoming membership meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS:

1. Are you having an upcoming birthday or anniversary coming up in the next three months? Notify our newsletter editor at chapjrfisher@gmail.com with the subject title MOAA CELEBRATION and any details you'd like to include and we'll put it in our regular newsletters as an affirmation of the occasion.
2. Keep an eye out for upcoming events...but stay flexible as we schedule around lingering Covid issues. You'll want to keep an eye out in 2022 for fellowship functions, the Blood, Sweat and Gears fundraiser in June, a Social Hour Venue, and a potential PUTT-PUTT golf family tournament. Stay turned for more information regarding times, dates, and additional activities.

