



HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER EVENTS:

1. **VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY:** Although 11 November is still over a month away mark your calendar on this date as an opportunity to commemorate and honor our veterans who have served this great nation. COVID may have an impact on our planning so more details will be forthcoming.
2. **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP GET-TOGETHER AND DINNER:** On 28 October 2021, Thursday, you and your spouse are invited to the MOAA High Country Chapter dinner at the Appalachian Ski Mountain lodge, 940 Ski Mountain Road, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Social time begins at 1800 with dinner soon to follow. RSVP to Lance Campbell, lccampbellcrna@mac.com by 25 October.

HEALTH and BENEFITS:

1. **VACCINATION REMINDER:** COVID continues to be a health concern in our community. The number of positive cases has increased which impacts our social life, as well as necessitating increased responses from our health care providers at the Watauga Medical Center. If you haven't been vaccinated please consider doing so in order to beat this disease and return to normal life.
2. **VETERANS BENEFITS NEWSLETTER:** Do you receive the Veterans Benefits Newsletter? It's a great resource for pension benefits for surviving spouses, prevention of veteran suicide, finding your VA Disability rating online, Afghanistan Veterans support, and so much more. Go to Veteransbenefits@messages.va.gov.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

Recently receiving his third star, LTG John R. Evans, Jr was commissioned in 1988 as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Appalachian State University.

Now serving at Cadet Command, LTG Evans served as Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne). His earlier assignments include 82nd Aviation Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC where he served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Upon departing Fort Bragg in 1995, he served his first of three tours with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, KY. Other assignments include: Deputy Commanding Officer of the Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command – Afghanistan, Kabul Afghanistan; Chief of Staff of the Army Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC; and the Deputy Commanding General – Support for 2nd Infantry Division / Republic of Korea - US Combined Division in the Republic of Korea.



LTG Evans' military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with V device and numeral 2.

He is married to the former Carolyn Ruppel of Nashville, TN and they have two daughters.

Appalachian State University ROTC News:

The Mountaineer Battalion is off to a strong start this academic year with 125 Cadets enrolled in the program. Over this past summer the Cadets participated in a variety of schools and training opportunities to include Air Assault, Airborne, CTLT's across the country, Robin Sage and the National Training Center to name a few. The Mountaineer BN also sent 24 Cadets to Fort Knox for Cadet Summer Training, all of which performed well. To date App State has commissioned 982 2LT's since the program's beginning in 1969. LtCol Chris Kleman is the CO.



Mountaineer Battalion
"Fire on the Mountain"

Watauga High School Marine Corps JROTC News:

On Saturday, September 4th, 25 Cadets from the Watauga High School Marine Corps JROTC conducted a river cleanup on the Watauga River from Valle Crucis Park to the Watauga Gorge put in on Rt 321. The Cadets collected over 500 lbs of garbage and debris including old water heaters, tires, fencing and bottles and cans from the river. The Cadets conducted the cleanup and enjoyed great weather and good water conditions while learning canoeing techniques on canoes lent to them by the Mountain Alliance organization. Watauga Marine Corps JROTC encourages Cadets to engage in community service and this past weekend was a great kickoff to their year. Additionally, 12 Cadets ran the 9/11 Hunter's Heroes 5k in formation singing cadence to raise money for the families of fallen officers. Maj Mike Dubrulle is the CO of the program



Blue Star Mothers of the High Country

The Blue Star Mothers are offering a seminar to the public that assists family members to understand invisible injuries sustained in combat. "PTS and Family Dynamics" will take place on Saturday, 9 October, 0900-1200, at Alliance Bible Fellowship church on the 105-bypass. Seating is extremely limited. RSVP at findlaymarsha@yahoo.com



Closing Thoughts

COVID appears to be making a comeback, and it returns with many of the issues associated with the first go-around. In addition to everything that has happened in the past, with this new round there appear to be some controversial requirements that are stirring people up and causing stress due to uncertainty. Most people in our readership have taken the vaccine, and MOAA encourages that action. But, to relieve any stress associated with COVID, here's one simple suggestion go alleviate stress.....we live in one of the most beautiful regions in these United States with close proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Get vaccinated, put the top down, and enjoy the beauty of colors and all that life has to offer.

