

**MOAA**<sup>®</sup>  
Military Officers Association of America

May-June 2024

# HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

## BOARD NEWS:

Last March (has it been that long?) the High-Country Chapter had a general membership meeting and dinner at the Boone Golf Course club house with catering by Casa Rustica. Colonel Jeri Graham, USA (Ret.) was our guest speaker and caught us up on current happenings in both the national and state levels of the Military Officers Association of America.



*Boone Golf Course club house Fairway Cafe*



*George and Colleen Brudzinski  
checking people in*



*Melanie Trado and Patsy Alley  
create beautiful decorations*



*People gather before dinner to socialize*

You can contact the High Country Chapter of MOAA through the following avenues:

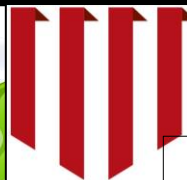
Website: [www.hccmoaa.org](http://www.hccmoaa.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HCCMOAA](https://www.facebook.com/HCCMOAA)

E-Mail: [hccmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:hccmoaa@gmail.com)

**Serving our Veterans and Community**





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## General Membership Meeting (cont.)



**Frankie Groff, Chapter President,**  
**begins with opening remarks**



**Colonel Jeri Graham, USA (Ret.)**  
**was our special guest speaker**



**Various HCCMOAA members make**  
**announcements and ask questions**





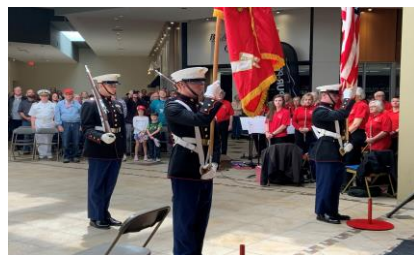
# HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

## MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

As we've done in the past, the High-Country Chapter of MOAA takes pride in honoring and remembering local veterans who have served our nation. In particular, on Memorial Day, we seek to recognize those community members who provided the ultimate cost for their sacrificial service. In preparation for our regular Memorial Day remembrance at the Boone Mall, our chapter will place American flags on veteran gravesites at Mount Lawn Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial Day, 25 May at 11:00 am. All gravesites marked with the decal of a saluting veteran will receive a flag. Our Boone Mall remembrance ceremony will be held on Monday, 27 May 2024 at 1100am.



*Photos of past programs*



Do you have a veteran loved one buried in a family cemetery, or a cemetery other than Mount Lawn Cemetery? Would you like to place a flag and decal on his or her grave-site in your family internment grounds? If so, the High Country Chapter is making flags and decals available for private family use at this year's Memorial Day activities in the Boone Mall for a donation of \$10.00. It's a great way to honor your family members with respect and pride of country.



### A HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY



The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the war ended in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.





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## OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Your High Country Chapter continues to provide opportunities to gather as a unique community within our community, as well as opportunities to serve our larger community. Looking ahead in the calendar we will be doing the following activities. Come along and make a difference in the high country.

### Flags Over Our High Country Veterans Flag Placement

*Saturday, 25 May, 1100am, Mount Lawn Cemetery*



### Memorial Day Remembrance

*Monday, 27 May, 1100am, Boone Mall*

### Fellowship and Fun General Members Meeting

*Thursday, 18 July, 5:00pm, Blowing Rock Sports Pavilion*



### Sponsored Road Clean-up

**TBD**

### Fall Fund Raiser – Pancake Breakfast

**TBD**



**Serving our Veterans and Community**



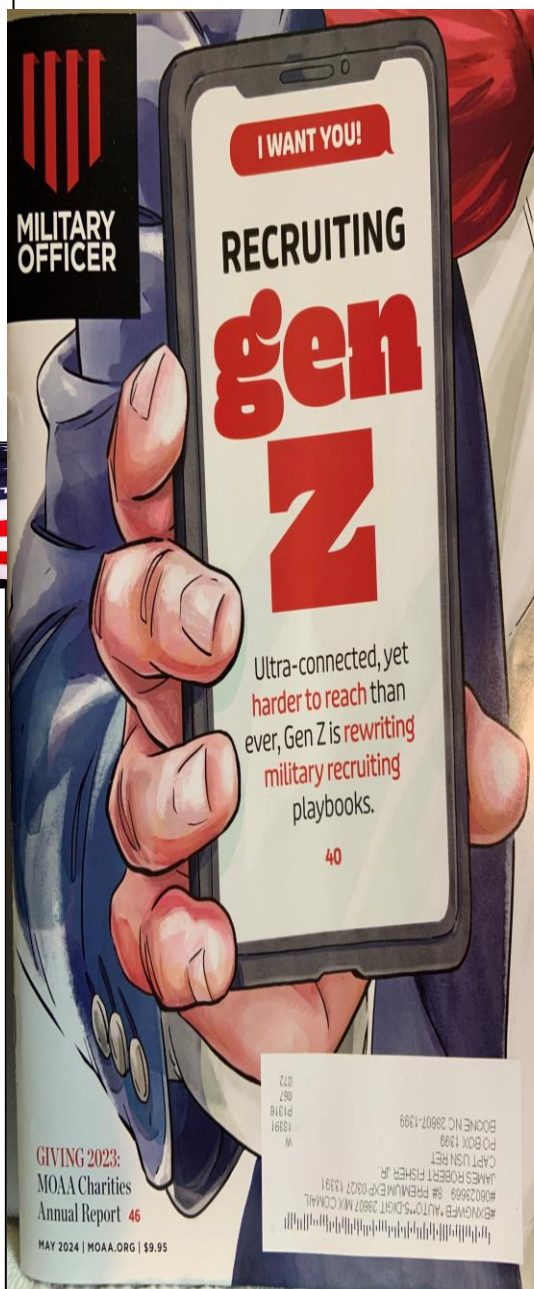
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## NATIONAL NEWS

Have you read the May 2024 issue of Military Officer Magazine yet? One of the primary issues addressed is the concern over recruiting the current generation into military service. You and I know how important your commitment was to the safety and security of our Nation. It is important to emphasize that .....>

### MOAA MAGAZINE:



<... commitment to the youth in our community. Members of your High Country Chapter are faithful to speak this message at local schools, AppState, community ceremonies, and with our local political representatives. Your presence at these gatherings show that military service has made a difference in your lives.

### 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.*

### GETTING INVOLVED WITH MOAA ON A NATIONAL LEVEL:

1. As a nonprofit veteran's association MOAA is a nonpartisan organization that does not lobby for any political party or affiliation.
2. National MOAA does have opportunities for members to impact legislation on national and state levels. Go to MOAA's online legislative Take Action Center at [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction) for more information.
3. Go to [Help \(indeed.com\)](http://Help.indeed.com) for information about jobs for veterans and spouses seeking new job opportunities.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs





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## REMEMBER OUR HISTORY PAGE



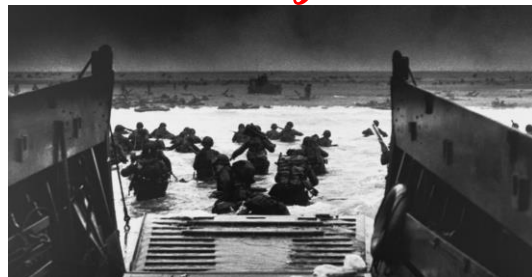
## May-June Military Events



May 7 1915 – British vessel LUSITANIA sunk by a German submarine ushering the United States into World War One.



May 30 1943 – The Aleutian Islands are retaken from the Japanese by the US 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division



June 6 1944 – D-Day, the battle for the continent of Europe begins.



June 14, 1775 – The Continental Army is established by the Second Continental Congress. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY ARMY!!** (*Take a soldier to lunch and/or buy him or her a drink!*)



June 14, 1777 – John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag, ..hence Flag Day.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We recently received news that our High Country Chapter has been recognized for several National Level awards established by MOAA Headquarters in Washington DC.

The Level of Excellence award recognizes chapters which are outstanding in community activities, membership participation functions, and services provided such as scholarships, speaking engagements and local involvement. (*So, stay involved, you make a difference!*)

The High Country Chapter was awarded the Col Marvin J. Harris Communication award for excellence in membership communication. This includes the newsletter and our excellent website at [www.hccmoaa.org](http://www.hccmoaa.org), as well as our facebook page, for providing chapter information, national news, and visual content. Check them out on a regular basis.

### HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER 5 GOALS:

1. To protect the rights and interests of members by supporting national and state initiatives.
2. To highlight the contributions of the military throughout the Chapter area.
3. To contribute to Chapter area communities by focusing on military related projects and programs.
4. To support and enhance interaction among and between all Chapter area military organizations.
5. To foster fraternal relations among those who serve and have served and family members of deceased member officers.





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## THE BACK PAGE

### UPCOMING NON-MOAA BUT WORTHY ACTIVITIES



The Daniel Boone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring Wreaths across America. You can sponsor a wreath(s) in honor and memory of a veteran by contacting the Boone DAR chapter at the following website....at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/41705/Overview/?relatedId=16698> or by contacting Chapter Treasurer Rachelle Jones at [jones.rachelle@gmail.com](mailto:jones.rachelle@gmail.com).



ALSO...  
↓



### LIBERTY! THE SAGA OF SYCAMORE SHOALS

The Official Outdoor Drama of the State of Tennessee begins its 45th season June 7, 2024 at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton, TN and continues every weekend in June beginning each evening at 8:00 PM in the Fort Watauga Amphitheater.

The concept of outdoor drama offers a very unique format in which to present a theatrical performance. Without a doubt, experiencing live theater, beside the cool waters of the Watauga River, with Fort Watauga as the backdrop to the play, is unlike any other. Theatrical lighting, professional sound, and a host of unexpected effects to thrill all.

*Liberty! runs every weekend in June in the Fort Watauga Amphitheater at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton, TN. June 7-8, 2024... June 14- 15, 2024...June 20-22, 2024 ... June 27 - 29, 2024*  
*Performances begin nightly at 8:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM.*

*Veterans Tickets are \$7.00 per performance. There is a veteran's recognition event scheduled for 20 June. For more information, contact: Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, 1651 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, Tennessee, (423) 543-5808, [Info@FriendsOfSycamoreShoals.org](mailto:Info@FriendsOfSycamoreShoals.org)*

