



HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Your High Country Chapter board met at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 at Bocca Bistro restaurant in the Walmart parking lot to discuss the status of the chapter and to plan for up-coming events.



Following protocol we began with the Pledge of Allegiance, an Invocation by the chaplain, and reports from our various officers.

Our Secretary reviewed last meetings notes, our Treasurer reported that our fiscal status was positive, and our Legislative Affairs officer addressed various issues impacting veterans (note appropriate page in the newsletter).

Of particular note were the following:

- * Membership dues are necessary to maintain the many community support programs that are a positive impact on our high country. Please remember to pay membership dues.
- * It is important that our members support our upcoming activities such as the Pancake Breakfast, and Memorial Day activities. Volunteers are an important part of our chapter.
- * Consider becoming a member of our board in a role of leadership or community liaison.

Contact the High Country Chapter of MOAA through the following avenues:

Website: www.hccmoaa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HCCMOAA

E-Mail: hccmoaa@gmail.com

Serving our Veterans and Community



HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

HCCMOAA + DAR = Community Strength

Our High Country Chapter MOAA was honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) – Daniel Boone Chapter NSDAR on 18 Mar 2026 with the presentation of a \$750.00 check to help us continue honoring and remembering our Veterans. The New River Chapter MOAA was also presented with a \$750.00 check.



Nancy Cornwell, Regent, Daniel Boone Chapter made the presentation during their luncheon meeting to LtCol George Brudzinski USMC (Ret) representing out High Country Chapter and CDR Mik Mikulan USPHS (Ret) with the New River Chapter MOAA.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 18, 2026
7:30 - 10:30
 ☛ **Boone United Methodist Church**
New Market Blvd

Tickets \$10.00
Available at the door
 or
email: hccmoaa@gmail.com



Celebrating **22 years** of service to the High Country

- Providing scholarships to JROTC Programs
- Holding Veterans Day & Memorial Day Ceremonies at Boone Mall
- Placing flags on veterans' gravesites at Mount Lawn Cemetery
- Established the Watauga County Veterans Memorial

BOONE the BEAUTIFUL

Our next "Make Boone Beautiful" clean-up day will be Saturday, 25 April 2026, from 1000am – 1200noon.

We will meet at the BooneShine Brewery parking lot (465 Industrial Park Drive, Boone, NC).

The chapter will provide vests and trash bags. You bring gloves, sturdy boots, and a willing spirit. See you there.



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MOAA[®]
Military Officers Association of America
APRIL - MAY 2026

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS: MEMORIAL DAY

Volunteers Needed to Place Flags at Mount Lawn Cemetery



When: Saturday, 23 May 2026

Time: 1000 am

Where: Mount Lawn Cemetery

Pick-up and Removal will be on Saturday, 30 May, 2026, at 1000 am

Your High Country Chapter honors the grave sites of veterans who have served this country and have passed to their final resting place. The High Country Chapter is inviting volunteers from local support and service communities to join us for the placing of over 600 flags on veteran graves Saturday, 16 May 2026. Also, if your loved one is buried in a different location, and you would like to place a flag on their grave, flags will be made available for a donation to the chapter.

Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Boone Mall



When: Monday, 25 May 2026

Time: 1030 Watauga Community Band
1100 Formal Service begins

Where: Boone Mall

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of the month of May. It is also considered to be the unofficial beginning of summer.

Memorial Day is a time for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel.



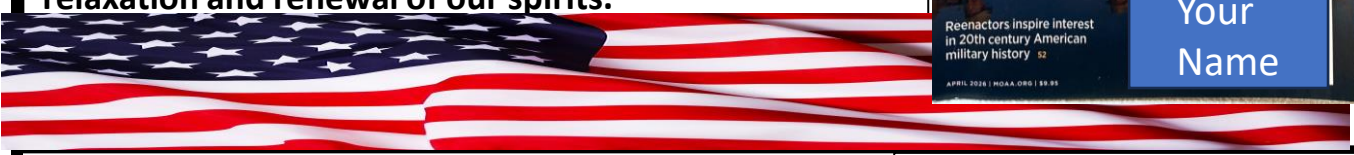
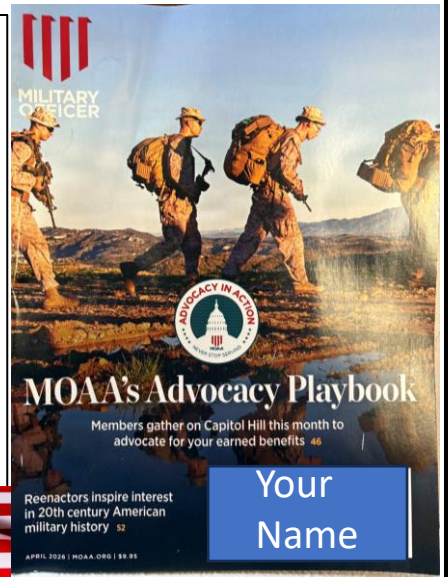


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NATIONAL MOAA NEWS

MOAA PUBLICATIONS

Remember the old steel helmets and C-Rations of your time in the military? Some of you will say, "Oh Yeah!!" and others will say, "What??...we remember Kevlar and MREs!" The April edition of MOAA Magazine takes us back in time to review what our "ripened" brothers and sisters experienced back in the last century. There are also great articles regarding spinal health, the 2026 Advocacy Playbook, and opportunities for rest, relaxation and renewal of our spirits.



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.



Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day in the United States to honor the contributions and sacrifices of military spouses. It was first recognized by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 and is a time to acknowledge their support for service members and their families.



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 for more information.
3. Go to [Help \(indeed.com\)](http://indeed.com) for information about jobs for veterans and spouses seeking new job opportunities



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT – QUICK REFERENCE – US Federal Legislation

Bill	Issue Area	Status	Momentum	Member Action
Major Richard Star Act	Concurrent receipt for combat-injured retirees	Awaiting reintroduction	Long-term priority	Contact Congress
Caring for Survivors Act	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation reform	Awaiting reintroduction	Moderate	Contact Congress
Veteran Caregiver Act	Caregiver financial security	Highlighted Feb. 24 hearing	Building bipartisan support	Express support
GUARD VA Benefits Act	Stops claims exploitation	Moving in committee	Strong	Express support
TAP Promotion Act	Transition Assistance reform	Gaining traction	Growing	Monitor & support
Love Lives On Act	Survivor remarriage protection	Expected reintroduction	Moderate	Express support

North Carolina Legislation

Bill	Issue Area	Status	Barrier	Member Action
H.B. 118	Homestead exclusion increase (\$45K → \$61K)	Passed House	State budget unresolved	Contact NC legislators
S.B. 660	Expanded veteran tax relief	Awaiting Senate action	Budget uncertainty	Contact NC legislators
H.B. 213	Veteran benefits workplace posters	Awaiting floor vote	Legislative bandwidth	Express support
H.B. 114	Spouse hiring preference	Committee study	Workforce timing	Monitor

High Country Chapter NC 21



Our High Country Chapter Legislative Affairs Advocate, Adam Greene, reminds us that we make a difference when we contact our elected officials. Here's what to do in 2 minutes:

* Call your NC legislator and say - "I'm a constituent and veteran. I support H.B. 118 and S.B. 660. Please resolve the state budget so these benefits can take effect."

* Call your Member of Congress and say - "I'm a constituent and MOAA member. I support the Major Richard Star Act and caregiver legislation." Phone calls are the most effective.

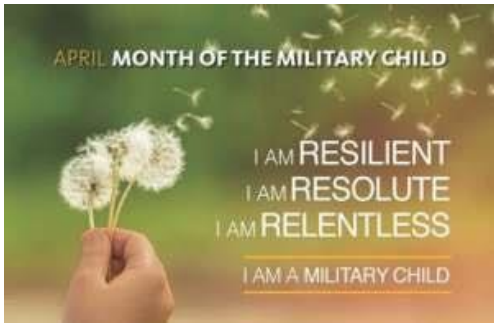
Full report & contact info:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PprYITaM5ht2ADtINqfRewU1KlhFRiNy?usp=sharing>



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BACK PAGE: Other Days to Remember



Blue Ridge Honor Flight

Blue Ridge Honor Flight started as a dream in 2005. To date, the National Honor Flight programs have been responsible for flying over 170,000 WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans to our nation's capitol to experience their memorials. The next Honor Flight from Asheville NC will be on 18 April 2026. For more information you can contact the organization at info@blueridgehonorflight.com or 828-776-0650.



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