

MOAA®
Military Officers Association of America

OCTOBER 2026

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

During the 6 October 2026 High Country Chapter board meeting the following agenda was followed with discussion topics.

1630 Social Gathering

1700 Meeting called to order

- *** Pledge of Allegiance**
- *** Invocation**
- *** Secretary's Report**
- *** Treasurer's Report**
- *** Legislative Update**

1720-1800 Discussion included

- *** October GMM**
- *** Memorial bench**
- *** Veterans' Day**
- *** Future fundraiser**







A major topic of discussion was the purchase and placement of a granite bench that would be located with other benches between the town Hall and the Veterans Memorial which the High Country Chapter sponsored over a decade ago. The final design has not been decided upon but it would similar to the example of the New Hampshire noted above.

November Board Meeting will be held at South End Brewing on King St, north of the Fire Dept. @ 10 November 2026 with a 4:30 Social and meeting commencing at 5:00. You are invited to comee and provide input.

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



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HAPPENINGS – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our Fall General Membership Meeting was held last Thursday, 8 October, at the Daniel Boone Inn. After a time of fellowship we enjoyed all-you-can-eat dinner of fried chicken, Salsbury Steak, biscuits, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, applesause, slaw, and a choice of dessert (chocolate cake, strawberry shortcake, or banana pudding). After dinner our special speaker was introduced by Adam Greene. Our speaker was David Jackson, President and CEO of the Boone area camber of Commerce. David provided an informative discussion of Boone's two money-making months (July and October because of Boone's reputation as a destination location), why maintaining our roads is so important in the reinforcement of a tourist economy, and the impact on the town's economy because of an anticipated drop in AppState college applications due to a decline in the age-appropriate population, which is having an impact on colleges across the nation..







Additional topics addressed by Mr. Jackson included the beautiful road work now finished on Howard Street, continuing issues associated with covid and Helene, the necessity of educating future health care workers, and how Boone is an excellent location for establishing a "Creative/Innovative Economy" where local arts and crafts producers become an even more significant influence in our local economy. Afterwards Melanie Trado, our High Country Chapter president, presented Mr. Jackson with a token of our appreciation

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING













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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

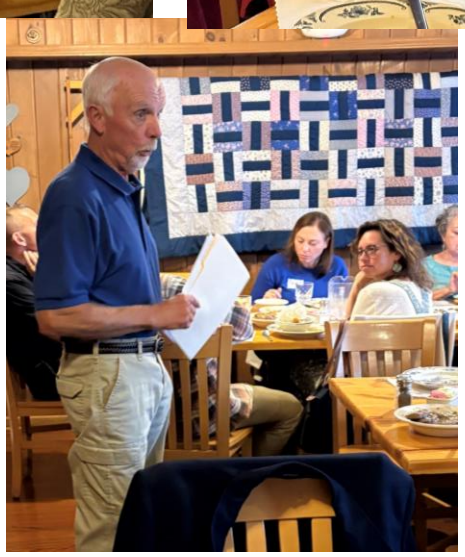
















George Brudzinski addresses High Country Chapter finances to everyone's fascination and wonder.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Jack, our server, is going to college next year and plans on joining the Navy ROTC program. Jack is a reminder of how important our scholarship programs are for our local ROTC students. "GO NAVY!"

Somebody eat this dessert, please, before I'm forced to.





DAN'L BOONE INN RESTAURANT
Serving Family Style

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

North Carolina Veterans Update

Fort Bragg Land Transfer Clears Congress
20 acres at Fort Bragg has been granted to the State of North Carolina in order to provide for the foundation of a State Veterans Home. The property is located in the Fort Bragg Training Area in Harnett County and would be transferred to the state for a veterans home under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. GovInfo
North Carolina's state budget already provides funding associated with the new facility. The federal action addresses the separate requirement to make federal property available for the project. The Senate approved the land transfer September 29. NC Governor
For High Country members, the project is part of the same statewide State Veterans Home system that includes the Black Mountain State Veterans Home in Western North Carolina.

Legislative Snapshot

Fiscal Year 2027 has begun. Federal agencies began FY 2027 operating under a continuing resolution that provides funding through **December 11, 2026**. The White House
The FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act remains unfinished. MOAA National continues advocating for provisions and works toward final legislation. MOAA
The Major Richard Star Act reached an important procedural milestone. A path is being considered toward House consideration addressing the retirement-pay offset affecting certain combat-injured military retirees. MOAA
H.R. 9237 remains unresolved. The Take Care of America's Veterans Act has not returned for final House consideration. MOAA National continues advocating for the omnibus veterans package.
The 2027 cost-of-living adjustment will soon be determined. Adjustment of 3.5% to 3.6%.
High Country housing policy is moving from discussion toward potential action. Boone Town Council discussed using a new state-administered workforce-housing program that makes federal Helene recovery funds available for homeownership projects in Watauga County.
Additional Helene recovery money is available for local infrastructure. North Carolina has opened a second $65 million round of grants. NC Governor
National Army policy has a direct Boone connection. App State Army ROTC is participating in an Army Holistic Health and Fitness pilot in partnership with the Beaver College of Health Sciences.

High Country Chapter NC 21 MOAA Military Officers Association of America

Our High Country Chapter Legislative Affairs Advocate, Adam Greene, reminds us that we make a difference when we contact our elected officials.

** 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://docs.google.com/document/d/19UwGXuVfjpO6cjvWkK2kHkIKNuMyjzTW/edit?





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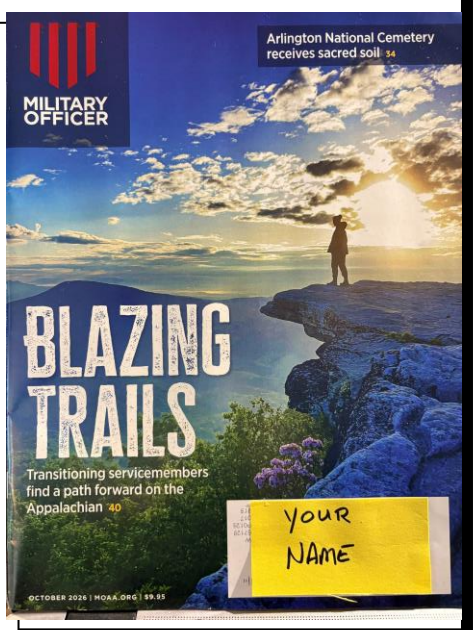
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NATIONAL MOAA NEWS

MOAA PUBLICATIONS

October's edition of Military Officer Magazine has two interesting articles, both of which should interest members of the High Country Chapter. One article, "Transitioning servicemembers find a path forward on the Appalachian Trail" addresses how service members utilize the trail as a psychological separation between military service and civilian service. The other article discusses a "Sacred Soil" concept where soil from foreign American cemeteries are placed in Arlington National Cemetery as a token of honoring those service members who died and were buried overseas. Two great articles…..take a read!!



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.



This upcoming month of November is also recognized as Military Family Month and Warrior Care Month. It is important to remember our families, brothers, and sisters which make up these two groups. Don't forget them! Give them a hug, or write them a letter to let them know they are loved and appreciated.

DHA WARRIOR CARE RECOVERY COORDINATION PROGRAM

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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) for information about jobs for veterans and spouses seeking new job opportunities***



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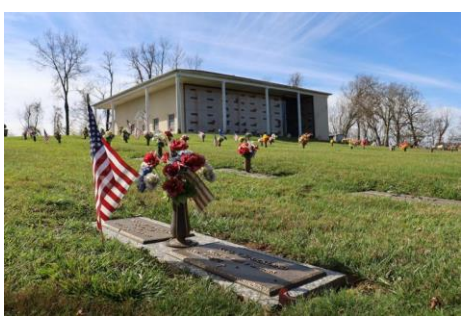
UPCOMING EVENTS

Mount Lawn Cemetery Partnership

The High Country Chapter has had a special partnership with Mount Lawn Cemetery for the past several years. As we've done in the past, we will continue to place American flags on the gravesites of local military members who are laid to rest in the cemetery. Our dates for our upcoming activities are as follows.

- ***24 October, 1100 – Inspect the graves and place identifying decals.***
- ***1 November, 1100 – Place flags at Mount Lawn Cemetery***
- ***11 November, 1030 – Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony at the Boone Mall***
- ***14 November, 1100 – Collect flags at Mt. Lawn Cemetery***

As always we seek the assistance of volunteers from a variety of community organizations. It's a two hour evolution, offers opportunities for fellowship and service and, of course, honors our veterans.







Happy Birthday Navy
Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Happy Birthday Marine Corps
Saturday, 10 November 2026

