



# Piedmont Chapter



ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINES COAST GUARD SPACE FORCE NOAA USPH

## March 2026 Newsletter

Stay current on News of Interest to you....

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## Piedmont Chapter – President’s Message

### SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER – PHEW!!!

- Sadly, as I reported in a blast email a few weeks ago, we lost LTC Claude Cooper, USA (Ret) on Monday night, 9 February after a very long struggle battling several illnesses and hospitalizations. We will miss him!!! Please continue to pray for Louise and the Cooper family. (please see page 11)



- We started 2026 with 94 members and have been focused on the past 2 months, and will be this month, renewing members whose membership expired in 2025. PLEASE – if you haven’t renewed yet for 2026 and beyond, go online to [moapiedmontsc.org](http://moapiedmontsc.org) and follow the simple steps to do so. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND MEMBERSHIP AS WE ENJOY OUR CHAPTER CAMARADERIE AND SERVE OUR VETERAN COMMUNITIES. \$25/year and please renew for multiple years.

- We also started the new year with 2-chapter leadership changes: we welcome LTC Neil Lark, USA (Ret) as our new Chapter Vice President; and thank COL Wayne Beam, USA (Ret), our former Vice President, for continuing to serve as our new Legislative Liaison Director. Thank you, gentlemen, for serving.

- **WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** LCDR, Craig Martin, USN (Fmr) and his wife Donna; MAJ (Rev) Mark Perkins, USA (Ret) and his wife Anne; and Maj John Carine, USMC (Fmr) and his wife, Kay. We will welcome them at our membership meeting on 19 March, and I’ll present them with their service/MOAA lapel pin.

- Our “**Levels of Excellence**” submissions for our chapter and our newsletter have been submitted and we expect another “5-STAR” year for 2025. Notification is expected in April / May.

- **BIG NEWS:**

Our Scholarship Committee has received applications from 4 JROTC applicants applying for our 2026 scholarship. I have read all 4 of them and think the committee will have a tough time selecting the awardee – they are all superstars!!!! We will announce the awardee in April and in our May Newsletter, and we plan to introduce the awardee, the awardee’s parents and the JROTC leader at our July membership meeting.

- I want to thank our members again who donated to make this JROTC scholarship possible, as well as giving us the ability to help with monetary support for our veterans’ nursing home and veterans’ cemetery. A REMINDER – We now, as a 501(c)19 non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable veterans organization, serve our communities and our selected veterans’ organizations “from the cradle (almost, with JROTC) to the grave (the “Dolly” Cooper Veterans Cemetery),” and with the Clemson ROTC programs and our Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in between). As we continue to raise funds internally and externally, I expect we will get to a point soon where we will have the option of increasing the amount of the scholarship stipend or increasing the number of scholarships we award. And as we prepare to solicit outside businesses, we, the

membership, need to continue setting the giving example. Yes, tax season is upon us – perhaps using all or part of a tax refund would work, as well as contributing for a 2026 tax deduction for next tax season. You can do so online at our new website mentioned above or send a check to our Treasurer at the address listed in the 19 March meeting RSVP section on page 4.

• **HELP PLEASE – WE NEED A NEW CHAPTER SECRETARY!**

Please let me know if you or anyone you know is interested.

**RECENT HAPPENINGS:**

- We hosted the Air Force JROTC leaders for a luncheon roundtable discussion on 13 February. It was very helpful for them to be able to share program successes and get helpful ideas from the others to meet some of their program challenges. We will offer a similar luncheon discussion for the Army JROTC leadership soon.
- We had an excellent luncheon and update on our South Carolina National Guard from Colonel Jeff Heaton, Chief of Staff, SC National Guard at Tucker’s Restaurant on 15 January.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Hilda and I will host our quarterly “New Member Welcome and Orientation” on Friday, 6 March at 0930 at our home.
- Our Thursday, 11:30, 19 March membership luncheon meeting will be at Carson’s Steak Warehouse in Anderson – right behind Tucker’s Restaurant. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Ed Litoborski, an amateur astronomer. Please join us to enjoy camaraderie with our other members, a great luncheon, and what I think will be a very different and interesting guest speaker! Bring a MOAA-eligible guest.
- Our Piedmont Chapter is co-sponsoring a “Vietnam Veterans Symposium” at the Anderson County Museum on Saturday, 28 March from 1:00 to 2:00. Please see the flyer info on page 7. If you are interested in being a discussion panel member, contact LTC (R) Tom von Kaenel at 864-643-9197.

**REMINDERS:**

- In addition to bringing a MOAA-eligible guest on 19 MAR, please let me know if you have a potential MOAA member I can help give MOAA and Chapter info too.
- MOAA’s “Advocacy-in-Action” is a very important opportunity to reinforce MOAA National efforts with our US Congress to enact legislation critical to the support for all of our servicemen and women (past, present and future), our retirement benefits, benefits for our surviving spouses, and disability pay for our combat-wounded veterans. Log on to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org); click on “ADVOCACY” and click on “LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER.” Pick the pay and benefits issue that concerns you the most and send the prepared letter to our US Congress legislators, or reword the letter as you feel appropriate.

## **THIS DAY, 1 MARCH, IN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY:**

- 1713 -- Colonel James Moore commanded a colonial force, mostly from Indian tribes, to lay siege and destroy the Tuscarora's Fort Neoheroke in North Carolina that opened the territory up to expansion and occupation by settlers from Europe.
- 1942 -- The "Flying Tigers" volunteer air force under the command of Claire Chennault moved to an RAF bomber base after successful air defense of Rangoon in Burma; renamed in 1989 to Yangon in Myanmar.
- 1999 -- US warplanes dropped over 30 laser-guided bombs on military targets in northern Iraq.

Respectfully,

Mel

Mel Case; Colonel, Infantry (Ret)  
President, Piedmont Chapter, MOAA  
904-304-8871  
melcaseusma64@comcast.net

## **Piedmont Chapter – 19 March MOAA Membership Meeting**

**Date/Time: 1130 Thursday, 19 March 2026**

**Place: Carson's Steak Warehouse in Anderson**

**Address: 150 W Beltline Blvd, Anderson 29625 (just above Tucker's on the hill)**

**Speaker: Ed Litoborski, Amateur Astronomer**

**Cost: \$25 per person (includes tax and gratuity)**

**RSVP and pay at [www.moapiedmontsc.org](http://www.moapiedmontsc.org) (follow the "Event and Activities" prompt) or Mail Checks: Alex Glass, 106 Moorhaven Dr, Liberty, SC 29657**

**Email: [aglass1949@gmail.com](mailto:aglass1949@gmail.com) / Phone: 843-801-1509**

**Checks payable to: Piedmont Chapter, MOAA**

**Dinner RSVP Date: NLT, 17 March 2026**

**If paying at the door use a CHECK NOT CASH!**

**Thank you**

Spouses and guests are encouraged to attend. If you are a prospective member and wish to attend this function, and/or join the chapter, please send in your reservation or contact the following:

**Chairperson Membership:**

**Howard Stammerjohn**

**Phone: 864-964-1631 / Email: [piedmont.moaa@aim.com](mailto:piedmont.moaa@aim.com)**



## Piedmont Chapter – Proposed Meeting Dates, Venues, and Speakers For 2026!

**21 May 26:** 1130 Luncheon – Carson’s Steak Warehouse, Anderson SC  
Speaker: Major General Richard Wholey, USARNG; Commanding General, 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (and Piedmont Chapter member).

**16 July 26:** 1130 Luncheon - ?  
Speaker: TBD

**17 September:** 1730 Dinner – Occasions at Wedgefield, Central SC  
Speaker: Clemson ROTC update

## Piedmont Chapter – New Members / Membership

2026 Chapter membership renewal is underway. There are many Chapter members that have the opportunity to re-up and continue the fine work that is underway. We are making a difference, and we need all hands onboard. We have 3 new members onboard! So, let's keep the ball rolling!

Capt. John Carine, USMC (Fmr), 520 Drayton Circle, Anderson 29621,  
912-674-4793 [johnbcarine@gmail.com](mailto:johnbcarine@gmail.com) ...wife is Kay

LCDR Craig Martin, USN (Fmr), 306 Avenue of Oaks, Anderson 29621,  
864-634-0813 [cmartin43@gmail.com](mailto:cmartin43@gmail.com) ...wife is Donna

Rev MAJ Mark Perkins, USA (Ret), 408 Greenbriar Ln, Anderson 29625,  
716-940-9150 [rev.mark.perkins@gmail.com](mailto:rev.mark.perkins@gmail.com) ...wife is Anne

**Wear that military gear and keep those chapter business cards handy.** When you meet a potential member, please obtain their email address and/or phone number for me to follow up. Tell your contacts how we support **ALL** veterans, of **ALL** ranks, and **their military families.** Thank you for your membership, dedication and faith in MOAA and the Piedmont Chapter mission.

**"Never Stop Serving"**

Howard  
864-964-1631



## Piedmont Chapter – Birthdays

### MARCH

George Bailey  
Congresswoman Sheri Biggs  
Steven Graham  
Chris Kiser  
Tim McKnight

### APRIL

John Andrews  
Todd Davis  
Robert McCall  
Rebecca Minton  
Jhan Nixon  
Allan Sloan  
Russell Street  
Tom von Kaenel  
Marilyn Hollis  
Sharon Jacobs  
Penny Schriver  
Bill Williams



If you don't see your name mentioned in YOUR month,  
Please call Howard Stammerjohn, (Membership), 864-964-1631

### Treasurer's Report

Everything is going well here so far this year! Thanks to everyone using the website for payments it is performing just as we would like! Membership drive seems to be going smoothly but we'd love to see more and keep those donations for our charitable causes coming! Free meal winner for March is Linda Wilson. See you all at Carsons!

### JROTC Scholarship

Four highly qualified applicants have applied for the scholarship. The scholarship awardee will be announced in April!

V/R, John Benson

### Fundraising

Nothing new to report at this time.

The Piedmont Chapter webpage is now operational and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.moapiedmontsc.org/>

- Please send photos and information to Hal Cannon. ([hcannon80@yahoo.com](mailto:hcannon80@yahoo.com)).

V/R, Hal Cannon

## Our Own Backyard

We are co-sponsoring this event!

### The public is warmly invited to attend: "Vietnam Veterans Symposium"

**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 28**  
1:00pm -2:00pm

**ANDERSON**  
COUNTY MUSEUM  
202 E. Greenville Street, Anderson

## HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, & FRIENDS

*Sponsored by: Vets Helping Vets, MOAA Piedmont,  
Fort Prince George Chapter DAR & Semper Fi Barn*

### **12:00pm-1:00pm: Unguided Museum Tour**

Tour the museum, meet veterans and families.

### **1:00pm-2:00pm: Panel Discussion**

Join a panel discussion "Echoes of Vietnam- The war at home and abroad" Hear memories of Vietnam and its aftermath

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Email:  
[semperfibarn@gmail.com](mailto:semperfibarn@gmail.com)  
or call: 864-643-9197



## JROTC Awards

JROTC Awards Ceremonies are coming up in April and May. Presenters are needed to attend the ceremony and present the MOAA medal on behalf of the chapter. Many of you have done this in the past but we are always looking for volunteers. We have dates and times for several so far. Please contact Janelle Merritt if you are interested and if you would like to present at a specific school. We have all services represented among our 13 schools that are scattered over the 3 counties. [janellemerritt@bellsouth.net](mailto:janellemerritt@bellsouth.net)

## REPOST

**The local ID replacement in the Clemson area has moved!** Their building is undergoing renovation that'll take approximately one year. They are now temporarily located at 107 Rockmount Rd, Easley SC 29640. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 0800-1545 (lunch 1200-1300) 803-299-1353. Call before you go, they're experiencing computer issues due to the move.

<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/>

## Military News

### **VA reorganization projected to cost at least \$312 million**

By Patricia Kime

A planned restructuring of the Veterans Health Administration will cost an estimated \$312 million over five years and require an initial investment of \$521 million, according to a top congressional appropriator.

The reforms, known as the Restructure for Impact and Sustainability Effort, or RISE initiative, are expected to begin this year with an aim to reduce the VHA's administrative overhead and improve hospital services and clinical care.

Initial VA briefings to congressional lawmakers did not include the potential costs of the restructuring, but Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., said Wednesday she initially was told it would be "cost neutral."

During a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, however, Wasserman Schultz, the senior Democrat on the House subcommittee that funds the VA, said the up-front costs will be more than a half billion dollars, but that would be reduced over five years to \$312 million as a result of savings.

She pressed VA Secretary Doug Collins on his plans for funding, given that the department's fiscal 2026 budget is set.

"You're planning on doing this immediately in this fiscal year, is that correct?" Wasserman Schultz asked. "Do you expect that you'll be sending the committee a reprogramming request for approval?"

Collins said he believed that the VA could cover the costs “inside our current authorizations for appropriations” without having to ask for extra funds or file a request to Congress.

“This is going to come out of our regular account funds. We’re just moving people here. There’s not an accounting for this in that situation,” Collins said.

In May, the VA moved \$343 million from funds marked for contracts and administration to pay for outside health care without asking Congress. Reprogramming requests require detailed accounting from the department as well as approval of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, but Collins insisted that the shifting the funds, obtained from the closure of the VA’s diversity and inclusion offices and cancellation of hundreds of contracts, did not require such a request.

The VA notified Congress after the fact — a move that irritated both Republican and Democrat lawmakers.

“This should have come in the form of a reprogramming request,” House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole, R-Okla., said at the time. “Obviously, we have authority there and the chairman has authority there.”

On Wednesday, Wasserman Schultz asserted that the appropriations subcommittees for military construction, Veterans Affairs and related agencies is responsible for funding the VA’s reorganization and must approve any internal transfers to cover its costs.

“I look forward to the report that you are statutorily required to submit to the Appropriations Committee so we can see on paper exactly what your plan entails, including robust and appropriate justifications,” she said.

Wasserman Schultz also noted that according to a briefing she received, the VA expects to save \$1.7 billion from “personnel actions” resulting from the organization — the first time a dollar amount has been announced on the potential savings of the plan.

Under the reorganization, the VA will decrease the number of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs, which provide oversight, administrative, budgetary services and support to VA medical centers, from 18 to 5 and create health service areas, or HSAs, within the VISNs to focus on medical centers and the communities where veterans get medical care.

The VA has lost 30,000 personnel in the past year as a result of resignations, retirements and attrition, as well as plans for an additional reduction of 24,000 jobs, which officials say were mainly positions created during the COVID-19 pandemic that are no longer required and have been vacant for at least a year.

Wasserman Schultz wanted to quiz Collins on the projected personnel savings but was not given additional time for her questions, which came at the end of a two-hour hearing.

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Bost, D-Ill., had established a hard stop at the start of the event and held lawmakers to strict time limits during the hearing, which was marked by combative exchanges between Collins and Democrats upset by the administration’s response to the death of [Minneapolis VA Medical Center nurse Alex Pretti](#).

Numerous Democrats took Collins to task for a social media statement he made after the killing of Pretti by federal agents.

“You lead a large organization with employees that are hurting in the wake of this killing ... it would be helpful to show just some of the courage that our many veterans have shown in their service by standing up and calling out what is wrong, particularly with respect to Mr. Pretti and

his life, his life's work," said Rep. Herb Conaway, D-N.J. "Will you stand up for him and show just a little bit of the courage that our veterans show every day?"

Collins said repeatedly throughout the hearing that he would not answer questions regarding Pretti or the investigation into his death. In response to Conaway, he bristled.

"I show the courage of a 27-year veteran sitting in front of you and will not be spoken down to. I've been asked and answered the question," Collins said.

The administration has not released its proposed fiscal 2027 budget, which was due in the first week of February. Collins said an updated cost estimate for the RISE initiative will be included in the budget.

About Patricia Kime

Patricia Kime is a senior writer covering military and veterans' health care, medicine and personnel issues.

## **SC Legislative Affairs**

### **A few Bills of Interest to Veterans, Service Members, Families in SC (filed legislation)**

**H.4575**- A concurrent resolution to memorialize the United States Congress to adopts the Major Richard Star Act to allow all medically retired service members to receive full access to their retirement pay and benefits.

**H.4600**- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 12-37-220, relating to property tax exemptions, so as to exempt a certain percent of the fair market of an owner-occupied residential property if the owner is a Veteran with a service-connected disability.

**H.4646**- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by enacting the "Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act" by adding Chapter 83 to Title 44 so as to allow residents of nursing homes to authorize the installation and use of a monitoring device in their room, with exceptions; to provide certain protections from civil liability for conduct authorized by this chapter; to require notice to visitors and other residents of the use of monitoring devices; and for other purposes; and by amending Section 44-81-40, relating to rights of nursing home residents, so as to add the right to use a monitoring device as a right for residents of nursing homes.

**H.4700**- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 12-37-220, relating to the home and vehicle property tax exemptions for disabled Veterans, so as to allow disabled Veterans who are not totally and permanently disabled to claim a percentage of the exemption equal to the percentage of the disabled Veteran's service-connected disability.

**S.0754**- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 51-3-60, relating to use of facilities free of charge by disabled Veterans, so as to allow any South Carolina resident who is a Veteran to enter any state park free of charge.

For a complete list and further information got to: [scdva.sc.gov/legislative-bills-interest](https://scdva.sc.gov/legislative-bills-interest)

## In Remembrance



1940 Claude 2026



## Claude Everette Cooper Jr.

**November 16, 1940 — February 10, 2026**

### **Clemson**

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Claude Everette Cooper Jr., 85, a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Born November 16, 1940, in Fayetteville, NC, he was a son of the late Claude Everette Cooper Sr. and Martha Lee Martin Cooper.

He was a 1958 graduate of Sumter High School and enrolled in Clemson University in the Fall of 1958. He spent two years at Clemson and then enlisted in the Army. He served as a Special Forces medic in Vietnam in 1963-64. After completing his enlisted service in the Army, he returned to Clemson University and graduated in 1967. While at Clemson, he was a member of Delta Kappa Alpha fraternity, where he developed lasting friendships with his treasured fraternity brothers. He was also a member of the Central Dance Committee and Tiger Brotherhood and served as student manager of the Clemson baseball team. Upon graduation from Clemson, he re-enlisted in the Army and attended Officer Candidate School for his commission. While at OCS, he was president of his class and later inducted into the US Army

Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. His fellow OCS classmates have remained lifelong friends.

Claude served 28 dedicated years in the United States Army. He served two tours with Special Forces units in Vietnam and also completed assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 7th Special Forces Group, and ROTC. His exemplary service earned him numerous accolades, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, four Meritorious Service Medals, The National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Master Parachutist Badge. Because of his unique opportunity to serve separate tours as an enlisted combat medic and as a commissioned combat infantryman, LTC Cooper is one of a rare breed of soldier in the history of the Army to have received both the Combat Medic Badge and Combat Infantryman Badge. These honors reflect not only his bravery but also his dedication to serving his country.

Upon retiring from the Army, he served as the Director of Administrative Support Services at Appalachian State University. In the summer of 2014, Claude and his wife, Louise, moved to Clemson. His passion for Clemson University was evident throughout his life, as he attended as many sports events as possible and held the position of head of research with Clemson Corps and chairman of the Scroll of Honor Memorial Committee. Claude was an associate member of the Clemson University Emeritus College, an honor he received due to his academic service at ASU along with his long relationship with Clemson Corps.

Claude was also an author. He wrote four books: a memoir titled "Leavings: Honeycutt to Cooper Ridge;" "Finding Strong," co-written with his daughter, Leigh Cooper Wallace; "Deacs," a history of his local Clemson Fraternity; and "G.O.A.T.S of Clemson Baseball," an opinion piece of Clemson's best baseball players and teams from 1896 until 2022.

In his leisure time, Claude enjoyed a variety of hobbies which included reading, completing jigsaw puzzles, and tackling word puzzles. Claude and Louise cherished their time with children and grandchildren. One of his favorite family times would be the 40 years of annual beach trips with his large extended family.

Claude is survived by his devoted wife of almost 58 years, Louise Dickert Cooper; his children Julie Cooper Hodge (Sam Rose) and her children Riley and Regan; Holley Cooper (Dana Baker) and their children Cadence and Cori Quick, and Zoe and Juliet Larrick; and Graig Cooper (Silvia Munari) and their children, Auburn Cooper, and Oliver and Sofia Munari-Cooper; his son-in-law Chris Wallace (Arleen) and his children Jacob Wallace (Jordan) and their children Lynleigh and Keenan, and Haleigh Wallace Parker (Rob).

He is also survived by his sisters Gail Harvin, Nancy Nohrenberg, and Pam Dean, and his brother Mike Cooper, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and loving friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved daughter Leigh Cooper Wallace who passed in 2012.

## Piedmont Chapter – Surviving Spouse Corner



### Surviving Spouse Corner: Getting to Know TAPS

By: Cheryl Toland

February 03, 2026

The [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#) directly supports all grieving the death of an active duty servicemember or veteran, regardless of the survivor's phase in their grief journey.

TAPS' team of experts, staff, compassionate volunteers, and peer-support networks stand ready 24/7 to embrace bereaved families, friends, and battle buddies and connect them with immediate and lifelong tangible resources and emotional care. This includes casework and education assistance, community-based connections, in-person events, a thriving online community, and the [National Military Survivor Helpline](#), (800) 959-TAPS (8277), which is answered by a knowledgeable, caring survivor care team member anytime, day or night.

TAPS was founded in the wake of a military tragedy following a 1992 C-12 crash in Alaska that took the lives of eight soldiers. Among the grieving family members was Bonnie Carroll, the widow of Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, USA. After realizing that no support network was in place for the families of the fallen, Bonnie spent two years researching best practices while navigating her own grief alongside fellow survivors.

In 1994, TAPS officially opened its doors to military and veteran survivors. Today, Bonnie and the TAPS team have supported over 100,000 military and veteran survivors as they grieve, heal, and honor the life of their loved ones.

Each day, an average of 26 new survivors connect with TAPS in search of support, resources, and community, such as:

- **Programs.** TAPS offers a wide variety of programming, seminars, online groups, and workshops. Learn more at [TAPS.org/programs](https://TAPS.org/programs).
- **Advocacy.** Efforts are dedicated to empowering survivors to use their voices to spark change while working closely with government leaders and lawmakers to advance policy and legislation that impacts life after unspeakable tragedy. Visit [TAPS.org/advocacy](https://TAPS.org/advocacy).
- **TAPS Magazine:** This quarterly publication, mailed to members/survivors, is a comprehensive resource for grieving families. Visit [TAPS.org/magazine](https://TAPS.org/magazine).
- **Facebook group.** In this group, a survivor can share and receive support from other survivors, staff, and professionals. Learn more at [Facebook.com/tapsorg](https://Facebook.com/tapsorg).

[RELATED: [Do You Know Where Your Military Paperwork Lives?](#)]

Gordon Johnson  
Chaplain



Guest speaker COL Jeff Heaton



Neil Lark, Mel Case, COL Heaton, Alex Glass and Wayne Beam



Swearing in of the new officers

# Piedmont Chapter 2026 Board of Directors

## OFFICERS

President	COL Melvin E. Case, USA	904-304-8871
VP/Programs	LTC Neil Lark, USA	864-934-1042
Secretary	(open)	
Treasurer	CPT Alex Glass, USA	843-801-1509
Past President	LtCol Wayne Watson, USAF	864-296-1815

## DIRECTORS

Public Relations/Publicity	COL Dale Ellenburg, USA	864-225-1073
ROTC/JROTC Awards	CDR Janelle Merritt, USN	864-617-1153
Membership	LtCol Howard Stammerjohn, USAF	864-964-1631
Newsletter	CDR Alan Erisman, USN	678-778-0183
Legislative Affairs	COL Wayne Beam, USA	843-814-7145
Social Media/Facebook	Ms. Marie Cole	
Webmaster	Ms. Marie Cole	
Chaplain/Personal Affairs	Rev (Col) Gordon Johnson, USAF	864-633-4995
Hospitality	Sharon Jacobs, Surviving Spouse	864-245-5501
	Penny Schriver, Surviving Spouse	864-224-4374

For Chapter property, anyone having equipment should notify TBA, Secretary, by email: TBA (the record keeper of all the Chapter property).

Next Board meeting: 1000 07April at the Ravines clubhouse



## HELP MILITARY FAMILIES

**TODAY**

**ACT NOW**

You may have noticed some changes to the Take Action Website, it is now even easier to reach out to your lawmakers on these issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging in the halls of Congress. To learn more about the new changes, [click here!](#)

Take Action Now



## HELP THOSE IN NEED

Donate to help address emerging needs among currently serving and former uniformed service members, retirees, and their families.

Every donation, no matter what the size, makes a positive difference in the lives of uniformed service members and their families across the country.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Donate Now!

## JOIN MOAA!

### BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR CHAPTER

**Join MOAA:** If you want to join MOAA national go to [MOAA National](#). To learn more about the National MOAA membership benefits, click [HERE](#)

Become a Member Now!

Join our chapter: go to [moapiedmontsc.org](http://moapiedmontsc.org)

Disclaimer: The Piedmont Chapter of MOAA is affiliated with the South Carolina Council MOAA and the national MOAA organization and all are nonpartisan.

## HELP SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR!

### Association Member Benefits Advisors

AMBA works with small and large associations nationwide. We have the expertise to meet any association's needs, regardless of cultural, geographic, and economic conditions.



Contact Person: Michele Armesto, CLU, RHU 202-251-9488

Email: [michele.armesto@amba.info](mailto:michele.armesto@amba.info)

[Sponsor Website](#)



Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery the day after the Wreaths Ceremony on Saturday 13 December 2025.

**“ No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another”  
- Charles Dickens**

### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

A reminder from National MOAA: "As an organization exempt from federal taxation under Sec 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under the IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office."

### PIEDMONT CHAPTER LINKS:



### MOAA SOCIAL LINKS:

