

Welcome 2024



December 2023

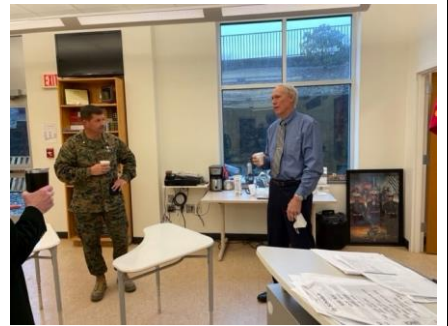
HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NEWS

2023 IN REVIEW

JANUARY



The High Country Chapter maintained its strong partnership with the Watauga High School MCJROTC by participating in a series of presentations by chapter members.



FEBRUARY

Valentine's Day dinner at a local venue. Red was pretty much the color pattern of the evening.

MARCH



Former High Country Chapter member Jerry Harper was married to his beloved Lisa by our chapter chaplain. The Harper's have become "flat-landers" when Jerry accepted a MCJROTC teaching position at a high school in Statesville, North Carolina.



High Country
Military Officers

Serving our Veterans and Community

hcmoaa.org

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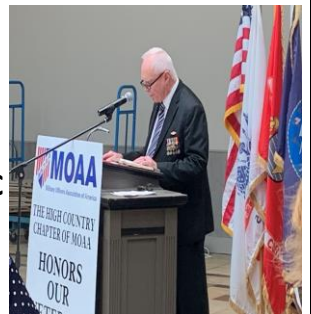
APRIL



April was a busy month. Members and local volunteer groups marked veteran grave sites, chapter members participated in a street clean-up, and chapter support continued with the App State ROTC unit.



MAY



Once identified, groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, DAR, App State ROTC Scabbard and Blade Honor Society, and local individuals placed 651 flags on veteran graves. Additionally, the chapter sponsored the annual Memorial Day Remembrance ceremony at the Boone Mall.

JUNE



After Memorial Day had passed chapter members collected the flags. They will be placed on the grave sites on Veterans Day.

July was a bitter-sweet month with the passing of founding member Colonel Benjamin Wilson Covington. He served in the United States Army as a Cavalry officer for over 28 years. As the Director of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America, he was instrumental in the construction of the Veteran's Memorial in downtown Boone.



JULY



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AUGUST



Vacation time for members and families!



One of the recurring community activities of the High Country Chapter is a semi-annual "Adopt A Street" clean up. As a twist, the Town of Boone, NC, challenged all the participating organizations to bring back the most unusual item found to the celebration party at the Boone Facilities Plant. Cash prizes would go to the most unusual item with the best told story. Our team brought back a perfectly usable and functional wheel and tire, which one of our members took home to functionally use. Perhaps our members have the gift of exaggeration because a cash prize was awarded to the High Country Chapter.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Our fall function was a barbeque dinner at the sports pavilion in Blowing Rock. Members enjoyed an evening of fun, fellowship, and chapter up-dates by our chapter president, Frankie Groff,



NOVEMBER

A Veterans Day Honor ceremony continues to be the High Country Chapter's primary focus in November. The event is a partnership between mall administrators, the Watauga Community Band, MCJROTC Color Guards from the high school, and local leadership. Additionally, the chapter places flags in a local cemetery to honor veterans and their families.



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DECEMBER The High Country Chapter board met in early December to assess the year and begin planning for....2024! Happy New Year everybody!!



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HIGH COUNTRY BOARD:

<i>President</i>	<i>Frankie Groff</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Fred Schmitt</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Lance Campbell</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>George Brudzinski</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Jim Fisher</i>
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	<i>Doug May</i>

Board Members

Patsy Alley
Adam Greene
Bob Love
Rick Williams
Melanie Trado
Eric Timmens
David Hollis

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.

Go online and visit our website for more news and information
hcmoaa.org

Serving our Veterans and Community

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 for more information.*
3. *Did you know MOAA has a jobs board for veterans and spouses seeking new employment opportunities? Go to [Help \(indeed.com\)](http://indeed.com) for more information.*