

TriangleGram



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TRIANGLE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 19861
Raleigh, NC 27619



VOLUME IV

NUMBER 3

JUNE 2017

Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 12 July 2017

Speaker

Dr. Dr. James G. Merrill

Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System

Please see the last paragraph of Dr. Merrill's BIO for his discussion topics.

1800 - Social time, Cash Bar

Cheese/fruit platter, registration & raffle ticket sales

1915 Dinner

Printable Reservation Form Inside

Reservations MUST Be Received by Friday, 7 July 2017

The Triangle Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan organizations

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CDR Dean Block

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. So far, the weather has been pretty good to us, in my view. As you know, with the Durham Bulls game, we tried something new for our May outing. It appeared to be well received, but we would like your feedback and ideas on what to do for our social event next year. We want to hear from everyone, both those who attended and those who chose not to. No idea is a bad idea. In the next few weeks we will be sending out an online survey to gather your opinions and ideas. Please make your voice heard. Our goal is to offer a program you value and enjoy. Thanks.

Speaking of enjoy, one of my favorite times is when we award our annual scholarships. This year we are awarding three \$1,000 scholarships at our 12 July dinner. We are also pleased to welcome Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System as our speaker for the evening. Please come out and help honor our scholarship recipients and learn more about the vital work of our school system.

At our March dinner, it was suggested that we could help make single members, especially surviving spouses, more comfortable by establishing a special table where they could sit together for dinner and the program. In response, we are doing just that. If you would like to be a part of that table, there will be a place on the reservation form for you to so indicate.

I attended the second quarter North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC) meeting 12-13 May. Our chapter, thanks to the work of LTC Ken Tigges, received 4-star Col Marvin J. Harris Communication awards for both our website and newsletter. Thank you, Ken! One of the challenges discussed at every quarterly meeting is that of membership. Chapters in North Carolina and all around the country face this issue. And yet the need for strong voices supporting our veterans, retirees and active duty personnel has never been greater. MOAA is critical to the success of those efforts. I believe that expanding our membership is a job for each of us. More than likely, we all know people eligible for membership in MOAA; maybe they are already a member of national MOAA. I urge you to invite them to one of our meetings and encourage them to join with us. Thanks for efforts and see you on the 12th!

Special Reserved Table

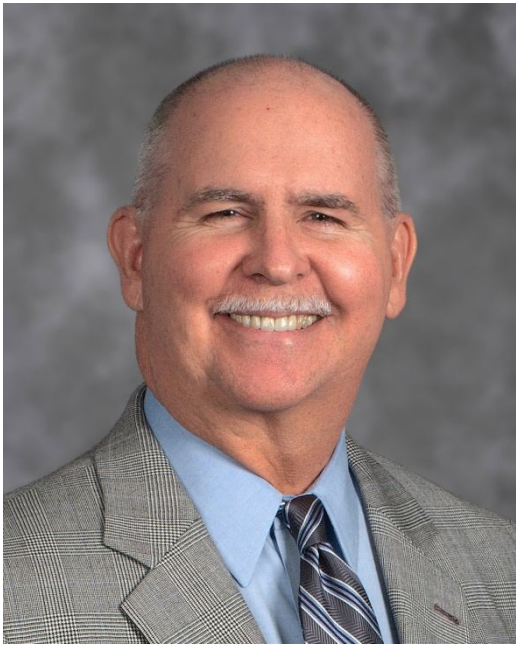
CDR Dean Block

At our March meeting, attendees suggested that a table for "singles," primarily surviving spouses, be reserved so that, if they desired, those folks could sit together for the dinner. We are responding to that suggestion by setting up just such a table for the July 12 dinner. If you would like to be a part of that table, please so indicate on the reservation form. If this proves popular, we will make it a regular part of our planning.

Dinner Speaker

Dr. James G. Merrill

Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System



Dr. James G. Merrill was named the 9th Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System in the summer of 2013.

Following his arrival, he helped guide a new Strategic Plan for the nation's 16th-largest district built upon support from thousands of educators, parents, business leaders and community groups. While the plan takes root in the district of almost 160,000 students, Dr. Merrill has worked closely with county commissioners to significantly improve funding for teachers and children.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Merrill served seven years as superintendent of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools, six years as superintendent of the Alamance-Burlington School System and 16 years in the Wake County Public School System. He began his career in 1973 as an English teacher.

Dr. Merrill has earned numerous accolades and awards, including the 2005 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year award and the 2013 Virginia Superintendent of the Year honor. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Education awarded him the Outstanding Achievement Award. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education honored him with its Distinguished Leadership Award.

Dr. Merrill was a Morehead Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill earning a bachelor's degree in secondary English. He earned his master's degree in education administration from Appalachian State University and his doctorate from UNC-Greensboro.

Discussion Topics by Dr. Merrill

Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking – the 4 Cs—are the cornerstone of the strategic Plan that drives classroom instruction in the Wake County Public School System.

Dr. Merrill will discuss what the above means for today's teachers, students and the larger community.

Scholarships to be Presented at July Meeting

Col Bob Penny

The 2017 MOAA Triangle Chapter JROTC Scholarships will be presented at our 12 July membership meeting. The selectees are Noah Hammond and Bailey Gregory from Sanderson High School's Air Force JROTC program and Jeffrey Tran from Cary High School's Navy JROTC. Each will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship. Unfortunately, Jeffery will not be able to attend because he has already begun Plebe Summer at the US Naval Academy. We will have the pleasure of having Jeffery's parents at our meeting to receive his scholarship certificate.

All three cadets served as leaders of their respective high school JROTC units. Each earned a grade point average of over 4.0 weighted (includes Honors and Advanced Placement (college-level) courses). All three volunteered thousands of hours serving their school and local community. Bailey Gregory will attend the University of Alabama – Huntsville and will become a cadet in their Army ROTC program. Bailey has also been selected for the Univ. of Alabama's Charter Scholar Scholarship which covers 67% of her tuition all four years. Noah Hammond will attend The Citadel and has been selected to receive an Air Force ROTC Scholarship. Jeffery Tran, as mentioned above, earned an appointment to the US Naval Academy.

Please plan on attending this meeting so you can meet these impressive future military officers. Also, thank you for your continuing contributions to the Chapter's Scholarship Fund!

Scholarship Fund Update (as of 7/1/2017)

Col Bob Penny

Our goals are to grow the fund to \$5000 and continue awarding at least three scholarships annually to deserving JROTC cadets from the twenty high school units we support. With your donations, we now have \$3,661 in the Scholarship Fund. After our presentation of scholarships to this year's recipients at our July meeting, \$661 will remain in the fund. That means we really need to build up the fund for next year's scholarship selectees.

These MOAA scholarships are one of the primary ways we interact with our community and show our support for future military leaders of all Branches. Your board members believe it is imperative to keep this program and make it even stronger. To do that, we need members to continue to contribute. That can easily be done when you sign up for membership meeting attendance and meals.

Registration for Military Exchange Use for Veterans

COL Matt Segal

The following is a recent article from the Military Times that you might want to share with friends who will be eligible to use military exchanges starting in November.

All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at the military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said, and some may be able to shop prior to the program's full launch.

Some veterans who register at VetVerify.org will be invited to be beta testers, with the ability to shop online earlier than the planned Nov. 11 launch date. Officials said the sooner veterans register on the site, the better their chances of being chosen as a beta tester.

The exchange websites offer tax-free shopping, as well as discounted pricing. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites: shopmyexchange.com; shopcgx.com; mymcx.com; and mynavyexchange.com.

VetVerify.org uses information from the Defense Department's Defense Manpower Data Center to verify a veteran's status; veterans will receive notification of their acceptance as online shoppers or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they can take to update those records.

Doing this process ahead of time will allow veterans to start shopping Nov. 11, or earlier if they are among the "beta testers" chosen to try out the system in advance of the launch. This new benefit, which would increase the online shopping base by an estimated 13 million veterans, applies only to shopping online at the military exchanges, not at the physical buildings on military installations. Until now, online military exchange shopping was available only to active-duty, reserve and Guard members, retirees, 100 percent disabled veterans and their dependent family members, and certain others.

"It's an honor to now provide this service and benefit to our well-deserving veterans. Once a Marine, always a Marine," said Cindy Whitman Lacy, Marine Corps Exchange Director of Business and Support Services at Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs, in a statement today announcing the verifying website. "This initiative is one of many ways to keep our community connected."

Army and Air Force Exchange Service CEO Tom Shull formally proposed the idea of expanding the benefit to honorably discharged veterans on May 14, 2014, noting that it would provide a modest benefit to those who had served but left the military short of retirement.

"The exchanges began working to recognize the service of millions of veterans without exchange privileges while generating additional financial support for critical budget-constrained quality-of-life programs," Shull said, in a statement. "We are proud to stand with our sister exchanges as we welcome our veterans home to their military family and protect and preserve hard-earned military benefits."

The exchanges currently provide more than \$300 million a year from their profits to support military quality of life programs. The veteran's online shopping benefit is expected to increase that monetary support. In a Jan. 18 DoD memo, officials noted that AAFES will invest about \$1.8 million a year to cover costs associated with the expansion of the online platform. If 0.3 percent of the newly eligible veteran group, or about 45,000 veterans, shop online, that cost is expected to be recouped.

"We are excited to be welcoming our shipmates back to the NEX," said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, CEO of Navy Exchange Service Command, in a statement. "Inviting veterans to shop online is just another way for us to honor them for their patriotism and service to our country."

Senior reporter Karen Jowers writes about military families, quality of life *and consumer issues for Military Times*. She can be reached at kjowers@militarytimes.com.

2017 Triangle Chapter Annual Dues

It is dues time for CY 2017 for those of you who are **not** life members of the Triangle chapter (verses national MOAA). Please note that National MOAA membership differs from Chapter membership, so if you are a National MOAA Life member, you are still responsible for paying local chapter dues which fund all the work our chapter does with your generous support. Having said that, there is a chapter life membership option available for current Triangle Chapter members. Information on that is further on down in this article! Otherwise, please include your dues with the dinner reservation for the upcoming dinner reservation. If you will not be attending the dinner meeting, you can pay by mail or online.

There are two ways to pay your annual dues to your Triangle Chapter- USPS or on line:

USPS:

- Include dues with (or without) your reservation form for an upcoming dinner that is in the back of each TriangleGram issue and mail it to LTC Harrington at the address on the reservation form.
- If you want to pay before the TriangleGram comes out and you are not currently a chapter life member, you can just mail a check for the dues (\$25 annually; \$5 for surviving spouses) to LTC Harrington (making sure you note on the check it is for “2017 annual Triangle Chapter MOAA dues.”) Her address is 4000 Winston Hill Drive, Apt 108, Cary, NC 27513

HOW TO PAY ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES ONLINE:

- Go to the MOAA (National) website (MOAA.org).
- On the page that appears there is a title line in red near the top. Click on the word “Chapters” (a drop down menu will appear, but just click on the word “Chapters”).
- The page that appears after step 2 will have a green box on the right that says “Pay Your Chapter Dues”. Click on the box.
- The next page will ask you several questions under the words “Getting Started” to identify the chapter you are in (Triangle Chapter). After you identify the chapter continue to the next page and identify yourself as a “Regular Member” where it says “Dues Category”.
- Continue through the process. One of the fill ins asks for your MOAA number, but if you do not have it do not worry and continue populating the rest of the information.

Chapter Life Membership

If you want to become a chapter life member, the cost is roughly ½ that of national MOAA life dues. Here are our rates and remember that to participate in this program you must be current with your annual dues (paid up through CY 2015) and your chapter life membership is transferred to your surviving spouse, if applicable. Here are the current rates:

Age 50 and under: \$300	Age 81-85: \$100
Age 51-55: \$275	Age 86-90: \$ 75
Age 56-65: \$250	Age 91-95: \$ 50
Age 66-70: \$225	Age 96-99: \$ 25
Age 71-75: \$175	Age 100+: Free
Age 76-80: \$150	

If you are interested in obtaining a life membership, please contact one of your board members

Business Support for the Triangle Chapter

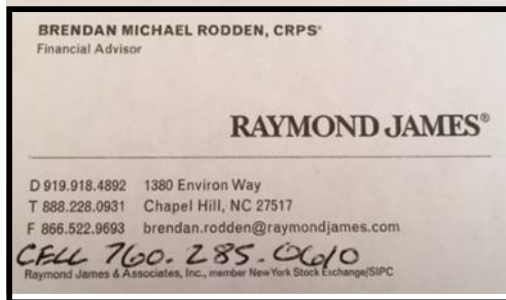
COL Matt Segal

As you know, members continue reaching out to local businesses and ask them to support our scholarship fund making a contribution of \$100 or more. In return, we will post their business cards in the TriangleGram for a calendar year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Support the businesses that support our chapter's scholarship fund so they can continue to support us while you enjoy their products or services!
- Tell your friends and family to support those businesses. When you or someone you have told about the businesses visits them, thank them for their support of our chapter!

If you know of a business that might want to support us in this way for an annual donation of \$100, please encourage them to do so. Print off a color copy of the TriangleGram and show it to the potential sponsor or have them check our chapter website ("Google" Triangle MOAA) to view recent TriangleGram issues. Once they have accepted, just let me know and we can take it from there!



Triangle Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

All telephone numbers are the 919 area code except as shown

Officers

President	CDR Edgar Dean Block, USNR	500-9567	falcon1941@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	LTC Antonio Scenna, USMC	914-310-5186	antonioscenna@aol.com
2 nd Vice President	Col Bob Penny, USAF	847-2453	penny.bob@gmail.com
Secretary	LtCol Chris Froeschner, USAF	840-3000	frosh90@gmail.com
Treasurer	LTC JoAnn Harrington, USA	274-3202	lhc.harrington@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

At Large Committee Chair	CAPT Bob Caron, USCG	650-2098	rrcaron61@nc.rr.com
Immediate Past President	Col Matt Segal, USA	632-4964	sega3245@bellsouth.net
Legislative/Liaison	COL Michael Flynn, USA	847-9695	mjflynn2@gmail.com
Public Relations	Vacant		
Personal Affairs	COL Tom Finnerty, USMC	605-0507	tfinne4565@aol.com
Newsletter	LTC Ken Tigges, USA	219-0356	ktigges001@att.net
Membership	COL Herb Segal, USA	845-2686	dukedocsegal@bellsouth.net
ROTC/JROTC Awards/Scholarship	Col Bob Penny, USAF	847-2453	penny.bob@gmail.com
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Sunshine	MS. Kay Stockett	788-0300	stockettkay@gmail.com
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Historian	Vacant		
Surviving Spouse Liaison	CAPT Bob Caron, USCG	650-2098	rrcaron61@nc.rr.com
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RIANGLE CHAPTER OF MOAA



Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 12 July 2017

**North Carolina State University Club
1800 Social (Cash Bar) 1915 Dinner**

Speaker

Dr. James G. Merrill

Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System

Please see the last paragraph of the BIO for the discussion topics.

RESERVATION FORM

LTC Harrington must receive your reservation by Friday, 7 July 2017

**Entrees: Chopped Cobb Salad with Grilled Chicken _____ or
Pecan Crusted Boneless Pork Cutlet with Maple Demi Glaze,
Buttered New Potatoes, and Sugar Snap Peas _____**

Entrees will be served with rolls and butter, fruit salad, French silk pie, iced tea, tea and coffee.
During the social hour (1800-1855) there will be a fruit and cheese platter.

Please Reserve _____ Meals at \$30.00 each

DUES

Active Duty, Former, or Retired Officer \$25.00; Widow \$5.00; Dues Amount \$_____

Contribution to the JROTC Fund: \$_____

TOTAL REMITTED \$_____

Member's Name _____ Please check here if you are a
surviving spouse and would like to sit at a reserved table for surviving spouses.

Name(s) of Spouse and/or Guest(s) _____

E-Mail address _____

Make checks payable to MOAA/TRIANGLE CHAPTER

Mail to LTC JoAnn Harrington, 4000 Winston Hill Drive, #108, Cary, NC 27513

QUESTIONS: Please call LTC JoAnn Harrington at 919-274-3202