



# DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

## ON POINT NEWSLETTER

### August 2022 Newsletter

## In This Issue

- **ICYMI: In Case You Missed It**
- **At Work**
- **PSAs**
- **Leaderboard**
- **Save the Date**
- **Community Calendar**

### #ICYMI

#### Richard Childress Racing Host Veterans Coffee Event



In early July, over 150 veterans and friends of veterans joined the Richard Childress Racing (RCR) Veterans Coffee event held on the grounds RCR in Welcome, NC. The morning event was hosted by Trellis Supportive

Care/Don Timmons and the good people of Richard Childress Racing. Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Terry Westbrook, attended as the keynote speaker to the large gathering that included information booths, Veterans Service Officers from the town of Clemmons, and a wide range of

veterans from mainly the Vietnam and the Gulf War eras. A summary of the veteran's coffee event can be seen at the below web address from WXII 12 News.

See other photos from this event [Here](#)

## **U.S. Coast Guard 232nd Birthday Celebration Elizabeth City**



On Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, one of the Federal Governments oldest organizations recognized and celebrated its 232<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. The United States Coast Guard was established in 1790 and once served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until Congress

launched the Navy Department eight years later.

The day of events began on base in the U.S. Coast Guard's new Etheridge Dining Facility. A renaming ceremony was held in commemoration and honor of Chief Steward Louis C. Etheridge. As Captain of a ship's gun crew, Etheridge and his men engaged a pack of German submarines over the course of three days that resulted in the sinking of multiple attacking U-boats and ultimately saving the damaged vessel and crew.

At the conclusion of the ceremony but the beginning of the day's events, patrons were treated to a U.S. Coast Guard flyover that set the tone for a successful U.S. Coast Guard birthday of great festivities. Attendees of the celebration enjoyed rides, music, food, games and much more.

See other photos from this event [Here](#)

## **A Salute to Fallen Officer**

Wake County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ned



Byrd, United States Air Force veteran, was killed in the line of duty on Thursday, August 11th.

With deep gratitude for Ned Byrd's service to our Nation and our State, please join us in praying for the deputy's friends and family. We honor him for a life of service, dedication, and sacrifice. May he forever "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win".

*W. E. Gaskin*

LtGen. Walter E. Gaskin  
NC DMVA Secretary

## NCDMVA At Work

### Making the Impossible Possible for our Veterans



Two employees of the Wilmington Veterans Service Center are being recognized for their hard work for veterans.

Mrs. Lisa Ramos, and Mrs. Teresa Nifong are both assigned to the Wilmington Veterans Service Center. Mrs. Ramos works daily with veterans to investigate and eliminate funds erroneously being taken from Veterans' Compensation.

In one such case, a veteran came to her after contacting the Veterans Administration Regional Office (318), and Congressional Representatives about his missing money. Ramos was able to point out to the VA that the Disabled Combat War Veteran was never given the opportunity for due process. In the end, the Veteran was extremely happy with the outcome, and he wanted to "thank [Ramos] and the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs" for doing what he thought was "the impossible". Mrs. Lisa Ramos and her staff should get all the credit for taking ownership of this resolution.

Mrs. Teresa Nifong, who also works with veterans daily, was advocating for a

young veteran recently. The former soldier had been released from the United States Army and Nifong had submitted the veteran's claim with all the supporting evidence to the VA.

The Veterans Administration rejected the claim stating the veteran was seen at a Robinson Health Clinic while assigned to 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Nifong never gave up because she knew somewhere down the line, the VA had made a mistake that could make life very difficult. She was able to contact the VA and point out the mistakes that were overlooked by that Regional Office. Nifong went above and beyond to rectify this veteran's inquiry.

These two women exemplify how hard our employees within Regional III/ Wilmington Veteran Service Center work to assist our Veterans and their families.

***Thank you DMVA Staff for all you do!***

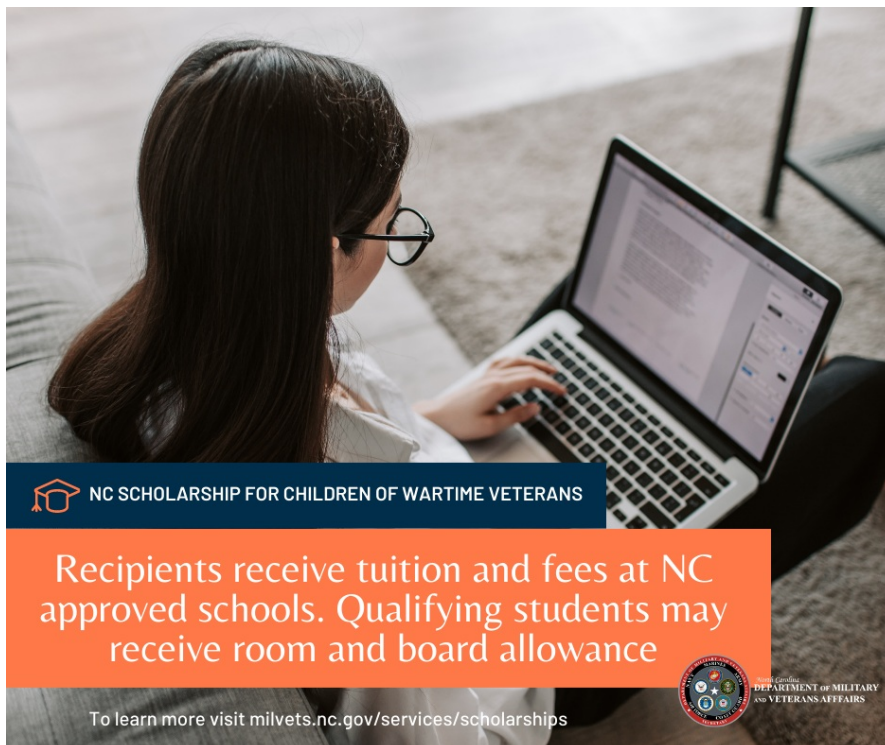
Featured in the above photo from left to right is Mrs. Lisa Ramos, Mr. Frank Johnson and Teresa Nif


[Visit our Flickr Page](#)

---

## Public Service Announcements


### Apply: NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans



 NC SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS

Recipients receive tuition and fees at NC approved schools. Qualifying students may receive room and board allowance

To learn more visit [milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships](http://milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships)



## Is it time to get our COVID-19 booster?



YOU HAVE A **SPOT.** | TAKE YOUR **SHOT.**

**While COVID-19 will continue to come in waves, we have the tools to move NC forward.**

Stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to help **prevent and protect** against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov).

The graphic features a dark blue background with a subtle wave pattern. On the right side, there are four circular inset images: a person wearing a face mask, a pregnant woman in a blue lab coat, a person in a white lab coat, and a person in a blue lab coat. The text is white and yellow, providing clear information about staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.

The CDC recommends anyone 18 years or older who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine get a booster six months after their second dose to help strengthen and extend protections against COVID-19.

The FDA authorized the boosters recently. The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster is also available and is recommended for individuals ages 18 and older who were vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months prior.

For full details click below

More Information

## Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

The Department of Veterans Affairs has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026. To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, [click here](#).

The Department of Veteran Affairs has **extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to Dec. 31, 2026.**



To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, click the button below.

More information

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Join VA's Education Network

Join VA's GI Bill® network by applying for education benefits!  
You'll gain access to tools and funding that help you pursue your educational and career goals, no toggling or troubleshooting needed.

Connect with your benefits by clicking the button below.

More Information

**You are not alone! Connect with Care Now.**



VA's top clinical priority is preventing suicide among all Veterans — including those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. As a Veteran, you can play a role in fulfilling this mission, and VA can equip you with tools to do your part. You can explore [suicide prevention resources](#) to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

[More information](#)

## Leaderboard



*U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael E. Langley is joined by his family during his promotion ceremony.*

*Washington, D.C., Aug. 6, 2022. Photo by Sgt. Karis Mattingly*

### **Senate Confirms First Black Marine for Fourth Star to Lead U.S. Africa Command**

The U.S. Senate recently approved the promotion of Marine Corps Lt. Gen Michael Langley to the rank of General. He is now the first Black Marine to receive a fourth star in the 246 year history of the U.S. Marine Corps. Gen Michael Langley formally received his fourth star at a ceremony in Washington, D. C..

## **U.S. Army Forces Change of Command Welcomes New General**

General Andrew Poppas became the 24th commander of United States Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., on July 8, 2022. The general now commands 216,000 soldiers as well as 190,000 members of the US Army Reserve and training to the Army National Guard.



General Poppas graduated West Point and was commissioned in 1988. He spent time with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in Virginia, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne in NC, and on the Joint Staff in Washington, DC, as well as a foreign officer in Greece. In 2005, he returned to Fort Bragg to command several units before moving on to Fort Campbell in Kentucky. At Fort Bragg and Fort Campbell, he was deployed three times to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

General Poppas then returned to Washington, D.C. where he served in several roles leading up to his command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and a fourth deployment to Afghanistan.

He and his wife of 22 years, Beth have three teenage children.

## **Save the Date**





# VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR & STAND DOWN

DURHAM

SAVE THE DATE  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2022  
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

VENDORS REGISTER HERE:  
[thejoelfund.org/resource-fair-vendor/](https://thejoelfund.org/resource-fair-vendor/)

ALL SERVICES ARE TO BE PROVIDED ON-SITE AND FREE OF CHARGE.  
NO SALES OR MONEY COLLECTION WILL BE PERMITTED, OTHER THAN THAT OF THE EVENT ORGANIZATION.

NCDMVA & NCMAC Presents

# North Carolina Defense Summit



## 27 SEPTEMBER

Raleigh Marriot Crabtree Valley

**Defense communities  
Installation leadership &  
those alike, come all**

**Topics of Discussion Include:**

Energy Resilience; Land Management;  
Installation and Community Advocacy; Military  
Quality of Life topics; Defense Industry and  
Military Contracting; Academic Research &  
Development; Legislative Initiatives and more

**Information and Registration**

**Coming Soon!**



**DMVA**

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Professional development that makes way to network with community leaders, officials in local, state & Federal Government focusing on resiliency, mutual support, coordination of key issues and mission assurance

@ncdmva



**9th Annual  
Global Soldier Festival**



**Sept 17, 2022 Jacksonville, NC**

**Are you the best food truck in NC?**

**Saturday-Jacksonville Commons**

**12noon-4pm FOOD TRUCKS/VENDORS**



**Register Today**

**704.380.7686/[www.bit.ly/9sfsemperfi](http://www.bit.ly/9sfsemperfi)**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Off-Base Transition Training

Employment-focused Training for  
Veterans, National Guard and Reserve  
members, and their spouses!

Tuition is fee waived  
if you qualify\*



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30**  
**NORTH CAMPUS**  
**ROOM NC410**

For more information

📞 919-532-5940

✉️ [careerservices@waketech.edu](mailto:careerservices@waketech.edu)

[waketech.edu/careerservices/workshops](https://waketech.edu/careerservices/workshops)

### **August 2022:**

**Cumberland:** AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – August 2, 2022

**Wake:** AJC NCWorks Career Center, Raleigh, NC – August 9, 2022

**Cumberland:** AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – August 16, 2022

**Buncombe:** Asheville Village Event – August 22-23, 2022

**Wake:** Wake Tech, Raleigh, NC -August 30, 2022

[More Information](#)



## Want to be included in a future issue?

To recommend content, news, and resources for future issues or to find more information, please connect with us at [publisher@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:publisher@milvets.nc.gov). You can view previous issues [here](#).

Share your news



North Carolina Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) supports both active and reserve uniformed military personnel and their families; military installations and communities; and military veterans and their families in North Carolina. The Department seeks to provide timely and responsive engagement to enhance North Carolina's current military and veteran friendly environment. In addition, the Department also seeks to foster and promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and healthcare for the above communities. Lastly, the Department works to accomplish these services by providing assistance and coordination between the Federal Government, the State of NC, its political subdivisions, and collaborative and supporting agencies.

### Let's Get Social!

Connect with us on social media for more news, updates, issue reports, action calls, and time sensitive items of note.



NC DMVA | [www.milvets.nc.gov](http://www.milvets.nc.gov)

NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs | 413 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

[Unsubscribe dwight.collins@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:Unsubscribe_dwight.collins@milvets.nc.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bydwight.collins@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:bydwight.collins@milvets.nc.gov) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!