



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

June 2021 Newsletter

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ICYMI: Highlighting Military Appreciation Month & Memorial Day Ceremonies Celebrations and Salutes

Military Appreciation Month and Memorial Day observances looked a bit more normal this year, with observances taking place across the state, following the [CDC's most recent guidance](#). Throughout the month, NCDMVA staff took time to honor our service members and to reflect on the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives in service to our country. Check out a roundup of highlights from the month's activities below.

[Click here to see photos from events and observances across the state.](#)



Memorial Day observance at Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Jacksonville, NC.

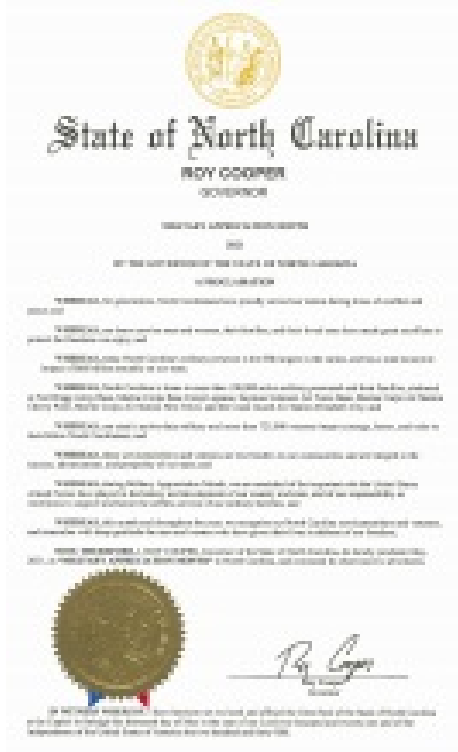
Governor Cooper Declares May Military Appreciation Month in North Carolina

Last month, [Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed May as Military Appreciation Month](#) to honor the contributions and sacrifices North Carolina's servicemembers, veterans, and their families have made for North Carolina and the nation.

"Our State has a long history of supporting

the Armed Forces of the United States and we are proud to be home to the Department of Defense's finest military installations," said North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) Secretary Walter E. Gaskin, LtGen (Ret.) "As we celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, we remember the ultimate sacrifice of so many North Carolinians and those stationed here, and we express our gratitude to service members and their families and recommit to doing our part to ensure that North Carolina's military and veteran communities are prepared, well-supported, and enabled to carry out their mission when called upon."

[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE...](#)



NCDMVA Sec. Gaskin Joins North Carolinians in Observance of Memorial Day

North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) Secretary Walter E. Gaskin, LtGen (Ret.) released [a video statement](#) in recognition of Memorial Day. Secretary Gaskin also delivered remarks at Rocky Mount's Memorial Day Ceremony on Memorial Day at the Jack Laughery Memorial Park.



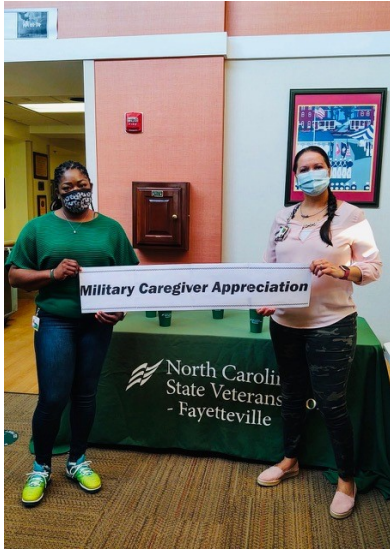
NC DMVA Secretary Walter E. Gaskin

Memorial Day observances and ceremonies also took place all across at State Veterans Cemeteries, Veterans Nursing Homes, and in cities across North Carolina.

View photos from Memorial Day observances across the State [HERE](#).

**The Month of May Brought on
Much to Celebrate and
Appreciate!**

*Honoring Military Caregivers,
Military Spouses, and Lives of*



Selena Fleeton, Director of Health Services (on the left) and Whitney Bell, Administrator (on the right).

NC DMVA Leaderboard *Charles Lee*

Charles is a native North Carolinian from northeastern NC (Plymouth), and attended NC State University before enlisting in the NC Army National Guard as an infantryman in 1983. In 1985 he joined the full-time Guard work force as a Federal Civil Service Technician. Upon graduating in 1997 from the North Carolina Military Academy Officers Candidate School, he served as a Field Artillery Officer in High Point, NC. Charles moved to the NC National Guard state headquarters in 1995 and converted to a Quartermaster Warrant Officer in 1996. He recently retired from the Federal Civil Service program in April before joining the NC DMVA as the Deputy Director for Veterans Affairs. Charles has been married to his wife Dee for 31 years. They have three grown children and the best dog ever

Service

All of our North Carolina State Veterans Homes across the state took time to celebrate and observe National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Military Caregivers Appreciation Day, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day in especially memorable ways.

North Carolina State Veterans Home – Fayetteville hosted a celebration honoring caregivers for Military Caregivers Appreciation Day. Their hard work and dedication means everything to our veterans and their families.

At Black Mountain families and staff participated in an exciting drive thru event where each spouse was presented with a “My Veteran My Hero” button.

Paula Bedwell, Admissions Director for North Carolina State Veterans Home – Black Mountain, spent time placing American flags on the graves of our fallen servicemen and servicewomen.

And, throughout Memorial Day weekend, [Veterans Services of the Carolinas](#) partnered with us to deliver hundreds of hand-written cards to the Veterans who reside at our North Carolina State Veteran Homes across the state. Because of their efforts, our Veterans felt loved and appreciated by so many who took the time to write to them. We look forward to future partnerships in service to North Carolina's Veterans.



Veterans Affairs Deputy Director Charles Lee featured participating in the #ThisIsOurShotNC vaccine campaign.

United States Army Celebrating

246 Years

This year on June 14, the United States Army is [celebrating 246 years](#) of defending our Nation and protecting the values and ideals we cherish as Americans and North Carolinians. To mark the occasion, NCDMVA will participate in a cake cutting ceremony with Fayetteville Mayor Mitch Colvin and officials from Fort Bragg—not only the biggest Army base, but the biggest US Military installation in the world. Stay tuned!



NC DMVA At Work

Sec. Gaskin Continues Statewide Installation Listening Tour

We are grateful for the hospitality shown to NC DMVA Secretary Gaskin during our recent visit to MCAS Cherry Point. Sec. Gaskin enjoyed visiting the installation, learning more about the quality of life for personnel onsite, and discussing the future of the air station with station leadership.



DMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin greets skilled mechanics at MCAS Cherry Point.

[Check out the pictures HERE.](#)

NC DMVA Honors Cumberland County Teacher, Veteran, and Military Spouse for Service & Leadership

NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) Assistant Secretary of Military Affairs, Ariel Aponte, and Senator Kirk deViere, recently presented Cumberland County science teacher, Maureen Stover, with a sealed copy of North Carolina's 2021 Military Spouse Appreciation Day proclamation in recognition of her service and leadership in education.

[Read more...](#)



NCDMVA In the News

Spectrum News recently featured the important work that our State Veterans Cemeteries do to memorialize our service members every day and [Cardinal & Pine](#) recently reported on the significance of NCDMVA's [African American Military and Veteran Lineage Project](#) partnership with Elizabeth City State University. *More news coverage below...*

- **SPECTRUM NEWS:** [Veterans cemetery superintendent says his job is personal](#)
 - **(VIDEO) Cardinal & Pine:** [Remembering NC's Black Veterans This Memorial Day](#)
 - **Caswell Messenger:** [Citizens turn out for Memorial Day service at Veterans Memorial](#)
 - **Jacksonville Daily News:** [A Day To Remember: Jacksonville to observe Memorial Day with virtual program](#)
 - **EIN: VIDEO:** [NCDMVA Secretary, Walter Gaskin, Statement in Recognition of Memorial Day](#)
 - **DVIDs Hub:** [FRCE hosts N.C. secretary of military and veterans affairs](#)
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Special Attention

Community Calendar

UPCOMING OBSERVANCES

- Jun 6 D-Day Anniversary
- Jun 12 Women Veterans Day
- Jun 14 US Army Birthday
- Jun 14 US Flag Day
- Jun 23 PAT US Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- Jun 27 PTSD Awareness Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Jun 5 FIT Marine Corps League 11th Annual Mud Run, Pinnacle](#)
- [Jun 7-11 Patriots Path Workshop](#)
- [Jun 9 NC4ME IT Industry & Veteran Connections](#)
- [Jun 10 Spring Veterans "Drive Through" Appreciation Lunch, Winston Salem](#)
- [Jun 10 Gulf War Exposures & Health Concerns](#)
- [Jun 16 JOB NC4ME Hiring Event](#)
- [Jun 16 Patriots Path Ask a Recruiter](#)
- [Jun 16 Using CogSMART with Veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury](#)
- [Jun 17-18 SUP USO NC Women's Warrior Reset, Raleigh](#)
- [Jun 17 SUP WACC Distinguished Speaker Series with USA GEN Ret David Petraeus](#)
- [Jun 17 NCSGEC Female Veterans Table Talk](#)
- [Jun 19 SUP Valor Games Southeast 2021, Resource Fair](#)
- [Jun 20 SUP NC Father's Day at the Ballpark, Charlotte](#)
- [Jun 21-25 Patriots Path Workshop](#)
- [Jun 26-27 USO NC Spouse Reset, Charlotte](#)

[Visit our website for updates.](#)

Share your photos, stories, and events with us for consideration at
Publisher@milvets.nc.gov

DMVA Public Service Announcements

State Veterans Cemeteries update COVID-19 guidance

The Department will revisit changes to operations as Governor Cooper's Road to Recovery Plan advances.

Cemeteries

Interments are offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards will be based on local availability.

Listed below are guidelines to follow until further notice.

- Services are 30 minutes, Monday – Friday, at 10am, 12pm, 2pm. Family and attendees must exit the cemetery at the conclusion of the service at half past the hour.
- Caskets & urns must be thoroughly disinfected before entering the cemetery.
- There is no limit on the number of attendees at a committal service.
- Cemetery chairs or podium will not be placed at the committal area.
- Next of Kin information will be given to funeral staff.
- Attendees aren't permitted to handle or touch caskets or urns before, during or after the service.
- Attendees who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance when they cannot maintain six feet of distance.
- Funeral flower arrangements are not permitted to be left during the committal service, but, families or funeral staff may place one arrangement on the gravesite after all services for the day have concluded.

NC DMVA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operations & Procedures

The NC Department of Military And Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all veterans, their families, our staff and the general public during this pandemic. The Department is committed to providing updates on a continuing basis and will make changes to operations and procedures as needed.

See here direct links to [Governor Cooper's office](#), and the North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services [COVID-19 dashboard](#). Please continue to monitor these websites and stay vigilant.

[Click Here](#)



North Carolina Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) 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 NC'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.

