

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

A salute to the past service of our Veterans and the recognition of the opportunities to be an enduring Veteran.

Veterans Day is an exceptional event around the Fort Liberty area and across the State of North Carolina. Our local communities come together to honor the contributions of Veterans for both their past service to our nation and their current contribution to our communities.

One of the largest celebrations across the nation is the Fayetteville Veterans Day parade. This exceptional event kicked off a weeklong celebration by museums, businesses, civic groups, and churches to recognize our Veterans.

That brings us to our many opportunities to be enduring Veterans. As the celebrations subside until next year, now is the time to renew friendships by staying in touch in the year ahead with your past military friends and to make new friends who share the bond of being a Veteran. Now is the time to find an organization such as AUSA where you can volunteer or serve on a committee in an area of interest by serving other Veterans or our current Soldiers and their Families. Now is the time to leave a deeper legacy and reestablish that sense of purpose and teamwork you loved so much during your time in our military.

If you would like to join us as an individual, please call 910-396-3755. Membership in AUSA is free at the Basic level. The Premium membership will pay for itself, as it includes the new legal services benefit that helps you to create a will, a tax-friendly trust, or even a foundation that endures beyond for your family. If you own a business, you can be a Community Partner with a special membership that will truly be one of the best investments you can make with the business portion of the legal benefit and the deeper connections to the military community. You can find more information at www.ausa.org/memberbenefits. You earned these benefits, so please use them.

Please consider being an enduring Veteran by joining with other Veterans in AUSA to give back as part of our team.

Al Aycock
MG, U.S. Army Ret.
President, AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter



Veterans Day Parade Pg. #2



Retiree Appreciation Day Pg. #3



Largest Chapter Award Pg. #4



Annual Golf Tournament Pg. #5

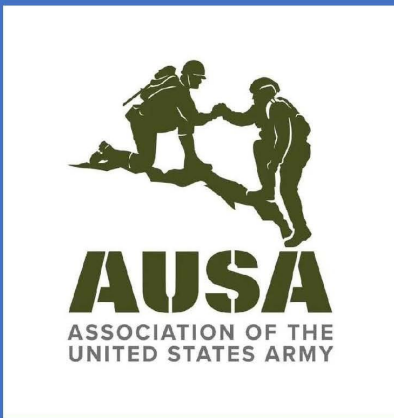


AUSA Warfighter Summit Pg. #6

VETERANS DAY PARADE

November 2023

Fayetteville, NC



FORT LIBERTY CHAPTER



MG (R) Al Aycock (President) and other leaders of the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter was amongst the 90 entries, including military equipment, color guard, active-duty units, ROTC, and marching bands participating in the 27th Cumberland County Veterans Day Parade. Thousands gathered for the parade, which is an annual procession in downtown Fayetteville honoring veterans. The CCVC expressed that with the increased involvement from Fort Liberty, including 300 soldiers, the goal of this year's celebration was to "bridge the gap" between local veterans and Fayetteville's military community.

For the first time in the parade's 27-year history, Fort Liberty leaders served as parade marshals, to include Lt. Gen. Christopher T. Donahue, the 18th Airborne Corps Commanding General and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan D. Barker; and Fort Liberty Garrison Commander Col. John Wilcox and Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory A. Seymour.

The entire parade can be viewed at this link: [Veterans Day parade in downtown Fayetteville \(wral.com\)](https://www.wral.com/news/local/veterans-day-parade-in-downtown-fayetteville/1068449/)



RETIREE APPRECIATION

Military Retiree Appreciation Day



MG (R) Al Aycock, CSM (R) Gerry Fountain and SGM (R) Shirley Draughn represented the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter at Fort Liberty's 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD), hosted by Womack Army Medical Center on October 21, 2023. Retirees and Family members were offered medical and dental screenings, pharmacy counseling, legal services, a host of Veteran services, and a variety of information from agencies across the community.

As a Vietnam Commemorative Partner, the Fort Liberty Chapter, hosted a table for Vietnam Veterans; pinning 29 Vietnam Veterans and (1) Surviving Spouse, thanking them for their courage, and service, and honoring the sacrifices made by the nearly 3 million service members who served in Vietnam.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Department of Defense named Commemorative Partners to distribute lapel pins to Vietnam-era veterans. Living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of Nov 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive a lapel pin, and they will be distributed through Veterans Day 2025.



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

October 2023

Fort Liberty Chapter Largest Membership Award



During the 3-day annual meeting, the Fort Liberty Chapter attended keynote speeches and forums, panel discussions, networking events, and visited exhibits.

On 9 October, Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA President and CEO, presented the Fort Liberty Chapter and Fort Liberty the award as Best Chapter for largest membership during 2022-2023. The rankings result from a review of membership growth across all categories of 122 chapters.

The Fort Liberty Chapter was also recognized at the AUSA Third Region Breakfast and presented with 23 recognition streamers on 11 October!



SOLDIER'S APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

24th Annual Golf Tournament



The Association of the United States Army, Fort Liberty Chapter held its 24th Annual "Soldier's Appreciation Golf Tournament" at the Carolina Lakes Golf Course. Active duty, retirees, veterans, and civilians from the Fort Liberty/Fayetteville community participated in this fun-filled, but competitive event!

Thanks to our sponsors, the Chapter's President, Al Aycock, and Executive Vice President, Shirley Draughn were able to present a ton of tournament prizes; including the longest drive, closest to the pin, first, second, and third place team winners; and even the team that placed last received a prize! It was another first-class event; one that golfers are sure to return to next year!

Andrew McFowler, members of the Fort Liberty Chapter Board of Directors, and other first-time volunteers passed out promotional brochures, membership applications, and helped registered 85 golfers! Life members volunteered their time to provide fresh off the grill hot dogs and hamburgers, that were enjoyed by all. The Soldier's Appreciation Golf Tournament was a fun-filled day set aside for the Fort Liberty Chapter and community to show their support to its troops and their mission. Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better!



2023 AUSA WARFIGHTER SUMMIT

AUSA Warfighter Summit & Exposition



The Fort Liberty Chapter assisted AUSA National in the planning and coordination of the 2nd Annual Warfighter Summit and Exposition, specifically in providing volunteers to assist with registration and membership drives. Alongside the chapter volunteers, the chapter recruited volunteers from community partners, including the Fort Liberty Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and the Sergeants Major Association.

Volunteers began assisting on pre-registration day until completion of the warfighter summit and exposition. They registered thousands of attendees, signed up hundreds of new members, and assisted SGT Hero.

The chapter also coordinated the attendance of (9) ROTC students. During the 2-day in-person leader and professional development warfighter summit and exposition, the Fort Liberty Chapter participated in speeches and forums, panel discussions, networking events with state legislatures, and visited exhibits.



SPONSORSHIPS

2023 Defense Technology Summit



Fort Liberty Chapter, AUSA, sponsored and participated in the second annual Defense Technology Summit (DTS), 25 July 2023. The DTS was hosted by the Office of US Senator Thom Tillis, Office of US Senator Ted Budd, Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), the North Carolina Military Business Center and the North Carolina Defense Technology Transition Office. The DTS was held in conjunction with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Warfighter Summit and Exposition on July 26-27 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The DTS highlighted the advanced technology needs of major military commands in North Carolina and of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the correlating capabilities of the innovation ecosystem in North Carolina and the southeast. It established a dialogue and partnerships between industry, academia, and government to address the future technology needs of America's warfighters.

2023 AUSA Annual Meeting: Carolina Night



The Fort Liberty Chapter hosted a reception to honor our service men and women and pay tribute to fellow AUSA members and supporters. This event hosted roughly 200 current and former Fort Liberty leadership, members and soldiers, friends of the military, and NC State Legislators. Keynote speakers were MG @ Al Aycock on behalf of the Fort Liberty Chapter and MG @ Rodney Anderson, of NCMAC. CSM Bryan Barker, 18th Airborne Corps Command Sergeant Major, provided remarks. Deputy CoS, G9, LTG Kevin Vereen and his wife Monica were amongst the special guests in attendance.



Left: August 2023. The Association of the United States Army, Fort Liberty Chapter Board of Directors, UNCW Sub Chapter President, and UNCW Student Veterans Organization celebrated with alumni and dignitaries at the Cape Fear Purple Heart Dinner on Aug. 5, 2023. This dinner honored 61 Purple Heart recipients, 7 Gold Star Mothers and 6 family members representing an individual Killed in Action. These organizations honored our heroes in a sold-out venue with 475 in attendance.



Left: September 2023. Fort Liberty Chapter President MG(R) Al Aycock, Advisory Board Member CSM(R) LaDerek Green, and VP for Retiree & Veterans Affairs CSM(R) Gerry Fountain conducted a Sunset Liberty March on Fort Liberty, NC. The Veteran of the Day and "Liberty Marcher" was AUSA Life Member and former 18th Airborne Corps, CSM (R) Joseph R. Allen. The purpose of the Sunset Liberty March is to solemnly and visibly honor veterans - past, present, and future.



Left: August 2023. SGM (R) Ryan Sattelberg, Vice President of NCO and Soldier Programs, represented the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter at the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty - Basic Leadership Course (BLC) Class 009-23 graduation, held at the XVIII ABN Corps and Fort Liberty NCO Academy. SGM (R) Sattelberg presented the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Honor Graduate, Leadership Awardee, top male and female physical fitness, and instructor of the cycle gift cards.



Left: September 2023. The XVIII Airborne Corps inducted SSG Myheim Grady into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) during its 4th Quarter induction ceremony held at Fort Liberty, NC. SSG Grady, assigned to USASOC, was selected and inducted as the newest member of the SAMC. AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter, CSM (R) William Shiflett, presented the inductee with a SGT Audie Murphy Medallion Case, sponsored by the Fort Liberty Chapter.

November 2023

2023 Halloween Trunk or Treat



Fort Liberty NC – Ms. Tawni Dixon (Vice President of Family Programs) represented the Fort Liberty Chapter, amongst 24 Halloween decorated trunks; including military equipment, active-duty units, participating in the 1st Annual USO NC Trunk or Treat. Six thousand people gathered for Fort Liberty’s largest trunk or treat: including snow cones, bouncy houses, games, costume contest, and a haunted house.

MWR Sponsorship and Advertising Awards Ceremony



Fort Liberty NC – Family and MWR Programs held a special reception to recognize businesses and individuals who made all the events MWR offered during October 2022-October 2023 possible. MWR sponsors provide support either by monetary sponsorships or in-kind trades. Garrison Commander, COL John Wilcox, Command Sergeant Major, Gregory Seymour, and Gary Burton, Director of Family and MWR, presented a certificate and gift bag to the Fort Liberty Chapter for its sponsorship and advertising contributions to Family and MWR, which was critical to the success of the MWR programs for Soldiers and their Families. The Executive Vice President, SGM(R) Shirley Draughn and Senior Advisor, CSM(R) LaDerek Green, accepted the award on behalf of the Fort Liberty Chapter. XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty Commanding General, Lieutenant General Christopher Donahue, expressed his appreciation to all sponsors for their contributions and support to MWR programs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUSA Staff Fort Liberty Chapter

President: MG Al Aycok, USA Ret.
 Executive Vice President: SGM Shirley Draughn, USA Ret.
 Immediate Past President: CW3 Ariel Aponte, USA Ret.
 Immediate Past Executive VP: Kirk DeViere, Former NC State Senator
 Past President: CSM Andrew McFowler, USA Ret.
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: COL Wally Wallace, USA Ret.
 NCO & Soldier Programs: SGM Ryan Sattelberg, USA Ret.
 Communications & Public Affairs: Viktoria Green
 Awards: CSM Chris Nunez, USA Ret.
 Retiree & Veterans Affairs: CSM Gerry Fountain, USA Ret.
 Guard and Reserve Affairs: MG Aaron Neal, USA Ret.
 Resolutions & Legislative Affairs: CSM William Shiflett, USA Ret.
 Young Professional Networking: Joseph King
 Community Partners Programs: Heather Port
 Scholarship Program: LTC Emmett Burke, USA Ret.
 Staff Assistant: Morhia Mote
 Family Support Program: Tawni Dixon
 Individual Membership: Vacant
 Marketing & Communication: Sarah Sattelberg
 State President: Sharon Lewis
 UNCW Sub Chapter President: Bill Kawczynski
 UNCW Sub Chapter Secretary: Vacant
 Advisory Board Member: MG Rodney Anderson, USA Ret.
 Advisory Board Member: COL Willie Wright, USA Ret.
 Advisory Board Member: CSM LaDerek Green, USA Ret.
 Advisory Board Member: COL Billy Buckner, USA Ret.
 Advisory Board Member: Scott Dorney



Fort Liberty Chapter Board of Directors continue to display their selfless service and dedication to the Army and the Soldiers and Families of Fort Liberty. Through their commitment, the Fort Liberty Chapter was successful in continued growth of the chapter's membership, which resulted in the chapter receiving the largest membership award and increased opportunities to help Families! Thank you so much for organizing, hosting and sponsoring events, fundraising for scholarships and other programs in 2023, while the chapter was short staffed. Congratulations for contributing to the chapter's receipt of a certificate and recognition from the Fort Liberty Garrison for the chapter's sponsorship and advertising contributions to Family and MWR.

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 DTR Communications Conelius NC
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Fort Liberty Chapter's Community Partners are local commercial businesses, industries, professional and technical firms, corporations, local government and civic groups, and organizations or societies which support the Aims and Objects of the Association of the United States Army. Your membership is a testimonial to your support of the United States Army. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a corporate partner, email us.

Thank you for your sponsorship contributions to AUSA, which are critical to the success of the chapter's programs for Soldiers and their Families.

You can manage your membership by clicking the link below:

<https://www.ausa.org/membership/corporate>

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

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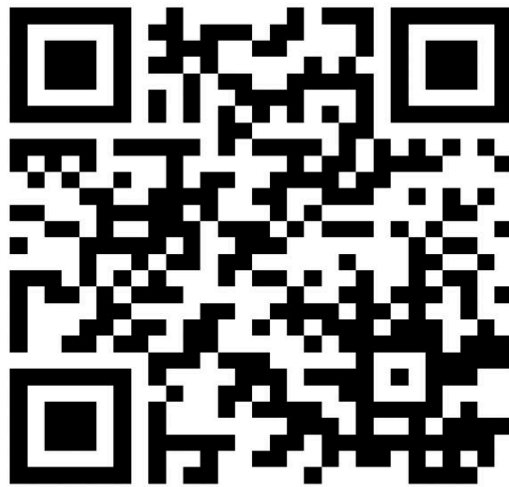
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AUSA is open to everyone—including all ranks and components—whether you have a relationship with the U.S. Army or simply want to honor those who serve.