

NC Veterans Council

The North Carolina Veterans Council is a nonprofit cooperation whose purpose is to promote legislation at the state level to advance the interests of veterans in the state of North Carolina. Voting membership in the North Carolina Veterans Council is limited to representation of those military veterans' service organizations, which have been duly recognized and chartered by the Congress of the United States of America; and those veterans' service organizations without a Congressional Charter, but are nationally recognized and have controlling subordinate units located in this state. The Council has a combined membership of more than 140,000 members in North Carolina.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

<http://www.vfw.org/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is for American citizens who served honorably that received a campaign medal for overseas service, served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea, or received hostile fire or imminent danger pay. VFW offers services to veterans, raises awareness through community service, and advocates for veteran causes such as the new GI Bill, improvement of VA medical centers, and the construction of foreign war memorials. Members of VFW receive services such as troop support and family assistance, post-military assistance, and transitioning to civilian life assistance. Programs VFW has to deliver services include Unmet Needs (financial assistance for emergencies), Operation Uplink (free phone time to deployed and disabled veterans), Military Assistance Program (support before, during and after deployments), and Benefits Delivery at Discharge (assistance for returning veterans seeking VA benefits). One program, The National Veteran's Service (NVS) is available to all veterans, not only VFW members. Veteran Service Officers assist veterans and their families with claims to the VA including filing for disability benefits, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs.

Disabled American Veterans

<http://www.dav.org/>

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is for men and women who have either retired or been honorably discharged from service who were injured or disabled in any degree during their service. There are 88 offices throughout the US and Puerto Rico, including one in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. DAV provides assistance to disabled veterans and their families through obtaining benefits and services, outreach, advocacy for veteran interests and volunteer programs. DAV outreach programs include Mobile Service Offices, Informational Seminars, Homeless Veterans Initiative (housing and help transitioning back into society), VA Hospital transportation, and Disaster Relief Grants (natural disaster relief for veterans and their spouses). The National Service Program, offered through the DAV, is available to all veterans and their families, not only DAV members. National Service Officers (NSOs) represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the VA and other government organizations including disability compensation, rehabilitation and employment, education, home loans, life insurance, death benefits and health care. NSOs also assist active military and veterans with paperwork and establishing evidence for Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, and others.

Family and extended family of DAV members, or any person (living or deceased) that served with the United States or with a United States ally who became an American citizen, can become a member of the DAV Auxiliary (DAVA). DAVA has over 1,000 local units throughout the United States, including 61 in North Carolina. DAVA offers community service programs, Junior Activities (for members 17 and younger), disabled veteran advocacy programs, Service Support (financial assistance for emergencies), and the National Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Education Scholarship Program (scholarships for continuing education).

<http://www.davanc.org/>

<http://auxiliary.dav.org/>

The American Legion

<http://www.legion.org/>

The American Legion is the largest VSO in the United States and has numerous posts in North Carolina with a state headquarters office in Raleigh. The Legion is for current active-duty military or veterans who served honorably during eligible war eras. The Legion was founded in 1919 based on four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. All the programs and services of the Legion fall under the pillars. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation programs advocate for proper health care, economic opportunities and legal benefits for veterans and active-duty military. These programs include Heroes to Hometowns (assists severely injured OEF/OIF veterans transition to civilian life), department service officers (DSOs), and the Veterans Career Center. National Security programs support the Legion's position on strong national defense, homeland security and good quality of life for service members and their families. Programs include Operation Comfort Warriors (to support injured veterans), Family Support Network (to support families of OEF/OIF service members and veterans), and POW/MIA advocacy. Americanism programs support patriotism, morality and citizenship. These programs include flag advocacy, Get Out the Vote, and scholarships for education. The Legion's Children and Youth programs aim to strengthen the family unit, support quality organizations that provide services to children, and support well-rounded community programs. Programs for Children and Youth include American Legion Baseball, the Child Welfare Foundation, and Junior Shooting Sports.

AMVETS

<http://www.amvets.org/>

American Veterans (AMVETS) is for anyone currently serving or who has honorably served in the Armed Forces anytime from World War II to present including those who serve or served in the National Guard or Reserves. AMVETS has over 1,400 posts nationwide including many throughout North Carolina and a state headquarters office in Lexington. AMVETS advocates for public policy related to national defense, homeless veterans, funding for VA, veterans' benefits, veteran employment and training, POW/MIA accountability, and flag protection. The organization also supports national monuments, quality of life programs (such as the Special Olympics and ROTC), and volunteer programs. Programs through AMVETS include National Service Officers (NSOs) to help veterans with compensation claims, Warrior Transition

Workshops to assist those returning from deployment, AMVETS Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse to educate children on drug and alcohol abuse, and the Americanism program to educate children on American heritage, civics and citizenship.

Military Order of Purple Heart

<http://www.purpleheart.org/>

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is for veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal and have not been dishonorably discharged. The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to those wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy in the line of duty. A majority of MOPH funding goes towards the National Service Program. This program has National Service Officers (NSOs) that assist veterans and dependents claim benefits from the VA. NSOs also represent veterans at Board of Veteran Appeals and Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims no matter a service member's affiliation or membership status. MOPH programs also include Veteran Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) to assist veterans living in VA facilities, the Americanism program to educate children on veteran experiences, a National Scholarship Program, and a First Responders Program for policemen and firemen injured or killed in the line of duty. The organization also advocates for legislation related to veteran affairs.

Vietnam Veterans of America

<http://www.vva.org/>

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is for any veteran who served on active duty, other than training, in the Republic of Vietnam during specific dates of the Vietnam War and for those who served in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. There are 630 local chapters including 19 in North Carolina. North Carolina's VVA State Council is based in West End. The organization's programs advocate for issues important to veterans, seek full access to health care for veterans, identify injuries and illnesses related to service, create a positive perception of Vietnam veterans, account for POW/MIAs, serve communities, and support future generations of veterans.

Marine Corps League

<http://www.mcleague.com>

The Marine Corps League has over 1,100 detachments worldwide. The League is for currently serving or those that honorably served in the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserves or the United States Navy Corpsman who trained with Marine FMF Units. The League supports active duty and veteran Marines through advocacy, scholarship, youth and volunteer programs. Programs include Marines Helping Marines (supports wounded Marines in various hospitals), Veterans Service Officer Program (assists Marines with benefit claims to the federal government), Military Order of Devil Dogs (a Marine honor society), and Toys-for-Tots (raises money and takes toy donations for needy children).

American EX-POW

<http://www.axpow.org/>

American EX-POW (AXPOW) is for all former prisoners of war, military and civilian, and their family members over the age of 18. There are ten chapters in North Carolina with a state headquarters in Charlotte. The organization maintains historical records of POWs, fosters fraternal relationships to support POWs, educates the public and youth on the experiences of POWs, and assists POWs apply for VA POW benefits through National Service Officers.

Fleet Reserve Association

<http://www.fra.org/>

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is for current and former active duty and reserve Sea Service personnel including those in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. The FRA advocates members of the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard through assistance with career problems, such as receiving benefits, and lobbying Congress. The organization works to preserve and enhance benefits, improve health care options, and ensure adequate funding to the Department of Defense and the VA. FRA also gives scholarships to members and their children through the FRA Education Foundation.

MOAA

<http://www.moaa.org/>

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is for all active duty or retired officers of the uniformed services including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). National Guard and Reserve officers are also eligible for membership. MOAA advocates for officers in issues concerning military personnel such as the career force, retired community, and veterans. Members have access to career transition services, benefits counseling, and educational assistance. The Scholarship Fund assists children of military families to pay for university education. The MOAA Education Foundation (MEF) is a program that ensures financial literacy, offers assistance with employment transition, and provides information, assistance and planning related to military benefits. There are 18 chapters in North Carolina and a state Council of Chapters located in Chapel Hill.