

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

AUSA is the membership that helps you find your passion. As we celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy landings that would lead to victory in Europe during World War II, our ally Winston Churchill also has one of the best thoughts on volunteering. "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill.

The first way AUSA helps you is through your service to others. Whether your passion is service to Soldiers, Families, Veterans, Recruiters, Reservists, National Guard, or the local community, our focus is on giving back. The best way to show your service to others is the same way you show leadership in your military unit, your family readiness group, your veterans' organization, or your business: Lead by example. Each time we reach out for engaged volunteers; we get responses from those who truly see what Winston Churchill expressed so precisely in making their own life better by volunteering. Thank you to all those who volunteer to help your Fort Liberty AUSA Chapter. Just read the articles in this newsletter to see what our volunteers give back. Join us as a volunteer.

Just as AUSA has set membership records over the past two years, we have led the way as the largest Chapter out of 122 across AUSA. We thank each one of you for making this possible as you help us bring more into our ranks in service to our Army and battle buddies. For every Soldier, Family Member, Veteran, and Community Partner, we are thankful for your faith in AUSA as the membership that pays you back.

The AUSA staff continuously improves the member benefits so that you get back far more than just a membership. When you maintain your membership and help recruit others, you also help ensure your local Fort Liberty Chapter and AUSA National are better able to serve everyone associated with the Army. That's leadership by example with Congress, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and with the Veterans Administration to protect the benefits that make your service even more rewarding. It's about taking care of each other and knowing you have a voice that echoes with more than 1 million other voices. That's real strength that you helped to create.

Take advantage of your benefits. Go to <https://www.ausa.org/member-benefits-public> and create or sign-in to your account on the website. You will find great deals to fit your needs from travel to gifts to legal documents. Most of these benefits are available to all membership levels. We encourage you to become a Premium member, Life Member, or Community Partner, as you get access to special legal documents. You will also help us as part of the very low membership fee is returned to our Chapter to support your local programs. You will save far more than our low membership costs and serve others.

Thank you for everything you help us support - Soldiers, Family Members, Veterans, and Community Partners.

Yours in service,  
Al

Al Aycock  
President, AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter  
Major General (Retired), U.S. Army



All American Week

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249<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday

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# 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division hosts All American Week 24

June 2024

Fort Liberty, NC



Top Left: On May 22, AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter Board of Directors attended the All-American Hall of Fame Ceremony. Seven nominees were named amongst the most influential and consequential Paratroopers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Christino Nunez, AUSA Life Member and Immediate Past Vice President of Awards inducted into the Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all the inductees!

Top Right: Ms. Dixon, SGM (R) Draughn, and Ms. Tantlinger, represented the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter in attending and presenting gifts (valued at \$340) to the top three winners at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's Junior Paratrooper of the Year ceremony – as a part of All American Week. The ceremony is hosted to recognize military children from around the 82D ABN DIV for their resiliency, volunteerism, leadership, and extra-curricular activity involvement. There were 35 children nominated with a total of three winners of three categories (elementary, middle, and high school).

Bottom Left: To celebrate All American Week with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter participated in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association's Golf Tournament at the Carolina Lakes Golf Course.

Bottom Right: AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter leaders represented the chapter in attending and presenting gifts (valued at \$300) to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's NCO of the Year, Paratrooper of the Year, and Jumpmaster of the Year! Job well done! Congratulations to the winners!



# SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

June 2024

Scholarship Presentations



On June 11, 2024, the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter held its annual scholarship awards ceremony at the Iron Mike Conference Center, Fort Liberty, NC. This event is conducted in partnership with the Fort Liberty Sergeants Major Association and Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, with more than 70 leaders, Soldiers and Civilians in attendance. The ceremony recognizes (8) Fort Liberty Chapter awardees in the amount of \$1,200 each; and four SGM's Association Awardees of \$1000. Congratulations to all the Scholarship Recipients!

**2024 Fort Liberty Chapter Scholarship**

**Sponsors:& Donors**

- Fort Liberty Chapter
- Fort Liberty Community Foundation
- Fort Liberty Corvias
- MG Al Aycock, USA Ret.
- SGM Shirley Draughn, USA Ret.
- CSM Andrew McFowler, USA Ret.
- CSM Jimmie Spencer, USA Ret.
- COL Wally Wallace. USA Ret.
- LTC Burke, USA Ret.
- CSM LaDerek Green, USA Ret.
- CSM William Shiflett, USA Ret.
- CSM Antonio Barber, USA Ret

**2024 Fort Liberty Chapter Awardees:**

- Ashlynn Davis
- Zachary Delellis
- Jaylan Jones
- Savannah Kardouni
- Bella Porter
- Alexandra Rupkalvis
- William Sellers
- Parker Wilkinson

**Sergeants' Major Association Awardees:**

- Jensen Blaine
- Anna Gathright
- Caroline McMillan
- Eva McRae



Many thanks to the Fort Liberty Chapter, Vice President of Scholarships, LTC (Ret.) Emmett Burke, for his continued hard work with the scholarship program.

Thank you to the sponsors for their generous contributions, which helps recognize student's academic excellence, leadership achievements and community service.

# 249<sup>TH</sup> ARMY BIRTHDAY

June 2024

## Fort Liberty Chapter Army Birthday Celebration



In 2024, the chapter marked the 249<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday, with a celebration that included the traditional cake-cutting ceremony. The oldest member (CSM Bryan Barker, 18<sup>th</sup> ABN Corps) and youngest member (SGT Jonathan Hartman, Sergeant Audie Murphy Club) of the Army family in the audience took part. MG (Ret) Aycock, the Chapter's President and SGM(R) Draughn participated in the cake cutting ceremony.



The 2024 awards ceremony and 249<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday celebration featured a keynote address by Command Sergeant Major Bryan Barker, Command Sergeant Major of 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps. CSM Barker represented the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter and scholarship program positively, while recognizing all the recipient's achievements.



The AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter recognized and extended its deepest gratitude to the following long-term and new community partners for their unwavering support and collaboration:

**Cape Fear Regional Theatre** is a stage for all, bringing world class arts to our community.

**GoVA** provides free financial tools and education for military members, Veterans and their families.

**Methodist University** boasts an excellent academic reputation and has received special attention for its commitment to military students.

**Movement Mortgage** – Niki Torres understands that buying a home is a big deal, and you want to know who's guiding you through the process. As a Movement loan officer, Niki is here to make the home buying experience as straightforward and stress-free as possible.

**Mr. George Bond** is a member of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and greatly supports the chapter in its mission.

**Oak Street Health** offers primary care services to adults on Medicare.



Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club added a special touch to the ceremony by performing the presentation of the colors.

# SPONSORSHIPS

June 2024

## *Dedication Ceremony for the Gold Star Memorial*



DEDICATION CEREMONY: 3 May 2024, Top Left: Gold Star mothers Patti Elliott and Gloria Leggett share a moment as they unveil the Gold Star memorial at Freedom Memorial Park. Also pictured is Col. John Wilcox, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Seymour. The AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter, CSM (R) LaDerek Green, presented a check of \$1,100 at the Dedication Ceremony for the Gold Star Memorial at Freedom Memorial Park Fayetteville, NC. Cross Creek-Briarwood Garden Club members sponsored the Gold Star Memorial at Freedom Memorial Park to be erected beside the Blue Star Memorial marker in 1956. The Blue Star Memorial Highway marker was first dedicated along U.S. 301 North on March 3, 1956, moved in 1977 to the old Fayetteville Fire Station on Person Street and was placed at Freedom Memorial Park on March 22, 2005, after being refurbished. The AUSA Fort Liberty chapter's sponsorship is for the second refurbishment of the Blue Star Memorial, which will be unveiled later in November 2024.

## *Our Community Salutes (OCS) Ceremony*



OCS CEREMONY: 1 May 2024, the Fort Liberty Chapter helped sponsor the "Our Community Salutes" 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ceremony in Fayetteville NC to recognize 127 high school seniors who enlisted into the military. The chapter provided sponsorship of \$1000 dollars and were afforded the opportunity to set up a table filled with promotional and educational items to share with the attendees. Fourteen participants joined the chapter through basic membership; nine of which were JROTC Cadets. Board of Directors advertised its products and services, and provided the enlistees, their families, and recruiters with resources to aid in the enlistee's transition into the military.

# CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

## Military Appreciation Baseball Game



AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter President, MG (R) AL Aycock and UNCW Subchapter Vice President, Bill Kawczynski represented the chapter and helped sponsor \$500 for the Annual UNCW Military Appreciation Baseball Game on the campus of UNCW, Wilmington NC; to honor local, military-affiliated attendees at the Annual Military Baseball game and to inform all attendees at the game about AUSA and how to become a member.

## Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) 5K Runs



In support of the MWR Monthly 5K Runs at Fort Liberty, NC, the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter provided \$2500 sponsorship and advertising to runs such as the MWR All American Half Marathon & 5K, Run, Honor, and Remember, Mud Run and Doughnut Run. Representatives from the chapter's NCO & Soldier Program Committee, Leona Flinn and Albert Brown, successfully coordinated, setup and provided 100s of recruitment materials, promotional items, and other resources to Soldiers, Families, Veterans and DA Civilians in attendance.

# AUSA MEETINGS

June 2024

## AUSA Third Region Meeting



AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter, President, MG (Ret) Al Aycock attended the AUSA 3<sup>rd</sup> Region Meeting 2024, hosted by the Magnolia Chapter from 4-7 April 2024 in Biloxi, MI. The meeting provided an educational three days, which included discussions on improving coordination, enhancing leadership within the Chapters, and aiding the Chapters in implementing programs which support the Army, its soldiers, civilians, and their families.

## AUSA Global Force Symposium & Exposition



AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter, Senior Advisor, MG (Ret) Rodney Anderson attended the AUSA Global Force Symposium & Exposition, from 26-28 March 2024 in Huntsville, AL. This year's theme was "Continuous Transformation to Deliver Ready Combat Formations." The three-day event at the Von Braun Center featured several senior leaders, including Army Undersecretary Gabe Camarillo, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer and leaders from Army Materiel Command, Army Futures Command, and Army Training and Doctrine Command.



AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter: Senior Fellow, CSM (Ret) Jimmie Spencer and Past President, CSM (Ret) Andrew McFowler were recognized at the 2024 Vietnam Veterans Day event, hosted by the Fort Liberty South Post Commissary on March 29, 2024. CSM® Jimmie Spencer was the guest speaker at this honoring event. Vietnam Veterans and their family members received a Vietnam Veterans lapel pin.



In support of the Fayetteville Woodpeckers, our community partner, the Chapter helped sponsor its annual spring fling event. The event was held at the Segra Stadium's ballpark on 10 March, just before the start of the 2024 Woodpeckers season. Sponsorship of \$200 included a table and two chairs, with the chapter's logo on all marketing materials. The 82nd Airborne Division Command, Sgt. Maj. Randolph Delapena visited our booth.



Left: Senior Fellow, CSM (Ret) Jimmie Spencer accepted an award for support of the 2024 Best Ranger Competition during a donor social at Fort Moore, GA.



Right: Family Programs Coordinator, MSG (Ret.) Maylene Ysasaga and her children, assisted with the Cumberland County Annual CROP Walk, a vital initiative in the ongoing battle against hunger.



Left & Right: Senior Fellow, CSM (Ret) Jimmie Spencer, attended the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy SWCS second annual Heritage Week on Fort Liberty, April 22-26. This year's theme reflected on SWCS' "Past, Present, and Future" and honored Korean War veteran..



Bottom: April 2023, The Chapter attended the baseball themed XVIII Airborne Corps Spring Civic Leader Social. Chapter President, presented AUSA lapel pins to chapter members and community partners..



## Professional Development & Membership Drives



**Fort Liberty NC** – CSM (R) LaDerek Green, Senior Advisor, and other staff members represent the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter in attending and providing a briefing at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division’s in-processing briefings each Mondays. The staff provides paratroopers a brief history of AUSA and Free Membership Card with QR Code to help increase 82nd ABN DIV Association Members. Membership Cards are placed in the in-processing packets. Paratroopers are provided the opportunity to join the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter after the in-processing briefings.

## NCO & Soldier Programs



**Fort Liberty NC** – SGM (R) Ryan Sattelberg, Vice President, NCO & Soldier Programs, and staff members represent the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter at the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty - Basic Leadership Course (BLC) Class graduations consisting of 200 or more graduates, held at the XVIII ABN Corps and Fort Liberty NCO Academy. SGM (R) Sattelberg presented six gift cards of \$50 each to the Distinguished Honor Graduate; Honor Graduate; Distinguished Leadership Graduate, two Iron Warriors, and Instructor of the Cycle. Congratulations to all the graduates!

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## AUSA Staff Fort Liberty Chapter

President: MG Al Aycock, 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: Shauna Johnson  
 Treasurer: COL Wally Wallace, USA Ret.  
 NCO & Soldier Programs: SGM Ryan Sattelberg, USA Ret.  
 Communications & Public Affairs: Viktoria Green  
 Awards: Vacant  
 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: Vacant  
 Community Partners Programs: Heather Port  
 Scholarship Program: LTC Emmett Burke, USA Ret.  
 Staff Assistant: Alana Tantlinger  
 Family Support Program: Tawni Dixon  
 Individual Membership: Vacant  
 Marketing & Communication: Sarah Sattelberg  
 UNCW Sub Chapter President: Bill Kawczynski  
 UNCW Sub Chapter Secretary: Vacant  
 Senior Fellow: CSM Jimmie Spencer, USA Ret.  
 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  
 Advisory Board Member: Sharon Lewis

## THANK YOU!!

To our Board Members

Fort Liberty Chapter Board of Directors, on behalf of the chapter, I extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and leadership. Your dedication to advancing the mission and vision of the AUSA Fort Liberty Chapter is truly commendable. Thank you for your continued commitment and exemplary service.

*Chapter President, MG Al Aycock, USA Retired*

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust  
 Armed Services YMCA Fort Liberty NC  
 Avalon Holographics  
 BaseBites Monroe NC  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
 Bragg Mutual Federal Credit Union  
 Bryan Honda Fayetteville NC  
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 CoVar  
 Cape Fear Regional Theatre Fayetteville NC  
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 Dervik Real Estate Spring Lake NC  
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 DTR Communications Conelius NC  
 Enginuex, LLC Fayetteville NC  
 Fast Lane Holly Springs NC  
 Fayetteville Cumberland Economic Development Corp (FCEDC) Fayetteville NC  
 Fayetteville State University Fayetteville NC  
 Fayetteville Woodpeckers Fayetteville NC  
 First-Citizens Bank & Trust Fayetteville NC  
 FlyUSAGermany LLC Charlotte NC  
 Fort Liberty Federal Credit Union Fayetteville NC  
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 Hallmark Spa & Pools Fayetteville NC  
 Horizon Strategies Winston Salem NC  
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 K2 Solutions, Inc. Pinebluff NC  
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 Live View Technologies American Fork Utah  
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 Methodist University Fayetteville NC  
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 Military Spouse Jobs/Vet Jobs Corolla NC  
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 Movement Mortgage-Nicki Torres  
 MSI Defense Solutions, LLC Mooresville NC  
 NC Military Business Center Fayetteville NC  
 NC Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs Youngsville NC  
 Oak Street Health  
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 Progress Solar Solutions Fayetteville NC  
 Rhudy's Inc. Saint Pauls NC  
 Safeguard Medical Fayetteville NC  
 TechTerra Education Fayetteville NC  
 The Airborne & Special Operations Museum Foundation  
 The Mistral Group  
 University of NC Wilmington  
 UPS Store & Print Shop Store #2974 Fayetteville NC  
 UPS Store & Print Shop Store #7705 Fayetteville NC  
 Valley IT Solutions, LLC Southern Pines NC



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Thank You

Fort Liberty Chapter's Community Partners, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and collaboration. Your dedication and contributions have been invaluable to our success. Together we have made a significant impact, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to achieve even greater heights.

You can manage your membership by clicking the link below:  
<https://www.ausa.org/membership/corporate>

*Chapter President, MG Al Aycock, USA Retired*

# INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Join the Army's professional and representative association - at no cost to you.

## WHY JOIN AUSA?

Find a place to enhance your leadership skills and be heard among your peers.

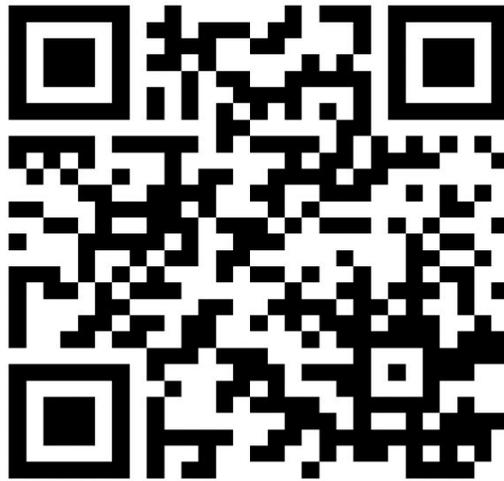
Join in-person and virtual meetings and network with potential business contacts.

Learn the latest Army happenings through curated news, publications, and podcasts.

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## [Membership Information](#)

Join AUSA, the Army's premier professional association and host of the largest land power exposition in the U.S.

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.

