It is an honor to be serving as chair to the Military & Veterans Law Section for this 2017-2018 Bar year. Having just completed our first year as the NCBA’s newest section, we should all be immensely proud of the accomplishments that got us to where we are today. The conscious decision we made together to strive for inclusion of all participants in the military-veterans ecosystem has resulted in a vast network of knowledgeable lawyers, judges, accredited agents, paralegals, educators, and law students who may themselves be active servicemembers, veterans, or offering valuable legal services to one or both of those populations. Our Section Council members and Committee Chairs, reflected on our section’s website, represent just how rich we are with individuals generous of their time and insight in our multi-faceted efforts. I look forward to continued success in the coming year and to seeing all members of the section benefitted.

We have a fantastic CLE program upcoming this month, Nov. 14-15 at the NCBA Bar Center, on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel in cooperation with the North Carolina State Bar Legal Assistance for Military Personnel Committee (LAMP). Please register if you have not already. Also note that our section’s annual meeting will take place just after noon on Nov. 14.

Our section, together with the Elder & Special Needs Law Section, is currently planning a spring CLE to focus on VA accreditation training and changes to the VA appeals system. Once-in-a-generation legislation has been passed with regards to the VA appeals system and our section membership.

Membership Spotlight: Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey

By Charles R. Raphun

I met Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey on a warm day this past May at Fort Bragg in the headquarters for the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) – the organization of 200,000-plus United States Army Reserve (USAR) Soldiers that he leads. As I spoke with him on the balcony overlooking buildings and training areas where generations of warriors hardened themselves for war and garnered the resources needed for countless deployments, it became apparent that Lt. Gen. Luckey – our colleague in the profession of law and, for many, also in the profession of arms – is a leader with a strong dedication to the nation, a diverse range of interests and a drive for professional achievement. Those qualities have served him well in America’s Army Reserve and represent the true spirit of the soldiers under his command.

His career has been both diverse and intensive, balancing military service and civilian private practice of law in ways that have given him a unique perspective on how to develop and train soldiers to face today’s challenges. Are cyberwarfare, artificial intelligence and the legal frameworks supporting them important to the Army? Lt. Gen. Luckey believes so, and he has engaged with tech firms in Silicon Valley to understand that new domain in warfare. He refers to that as his “journey of

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will be a great resource to those new and experienced in the area as guidance and implementation of those changes roll out. Use of the section ListManager is highly encouraged for questions or discussion on this and any other topic of interest to the whole membership.

I urge all members to seek out pro bono opportunities serving veterans and to share plans and reports of those opportunities with the membership. I look forward to seeing many of you later this month and I thank you all for the success we will find over the course of the year.

Matthew Wilcut is an attorney with Deuterman Law Group in Greensboro. He handles VA and SSA disability cases. Matt has held his accreditation with the VA since 2014 and has been licensed to practice before the Court of Veterans Appeals since 2016.

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