



The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2023, Issue 1, JAN 2, 2023

Published by The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc., since 1977, chartered May 9, 1978, and serving Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties.

This Newsletter and others may be found at our website: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/journal.php>

Please sign into and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: January 9, 2024–We will swear in the new slate of Chapter Officers and Directors. Also, Lori and Lexi, a mother and daughter will present a devotion to veterans using pictures of veterans to create veterans’ picture trees.

Salem Glen is the venue for all our dinner meetings – the second Tuesday of the month!

Address: Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012-9560.

Chapter Meeting RSVP info is at the end of this newsletter! Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, Jan 4th; Salem Glen needs the reservation guarantee by Friday morning so the correct amount of food can be ordered for delivery in time for the meeting on the following Tuesday.

Times: Social hour begins at 5:45 followed by dinner at 6:45 and the program at 7:30 PM.

Cost: Regular Dinner Meetings: \$25 per person (includes tea and water) with cash bar.

Dress: Business casual: slacks or khakis, open-collar or polo shirt, optional tie, and/or sport coat.

Board of Directors Meeting: 4:45 PM preceding the Social Hour / Dinner Meeting. Chapter members are welcome to attend the Board meeting.

Our Attendance Policy: You must indicate your intent to attend a Tarheel Central Chapter function by the ‘not later than’ date/time specified in the notification. If you must cancel and call before the function, you will not be charged. If you do not RSVP and still attend, you will be charged. If you make reservations do not cancel beforehand and do not attend, you will be billed. Payments may be made by check or cash.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their

Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

5-Star Newsletter Publisher and Editor – Greg Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) and Vina Chase; Editor may be reached at (336) 946-2446 or gvchase98@gmail.com

The Newsletter is published for members and friends of The Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA.

Editorial Policy: The Tarheel Central Chapter is affiliated with The North Carolina Council of Chapters <https://www.moaa-nc.org/> and with MOAA national organization - <http://www.moaa.org>. As such, The Tarheel Central Chapter is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Tarheel Central Chapter Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's guidelines. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards. The Tarheel Central Chapter (NC08) is a 501(c) 19 organization. Membership includes active, retired, veteran, and reserve officers (Warrant - Flag Officer) of the Armed Forces, NOAA, US Public Health Services, and the surviving spouses of deceased eligible officers of all 8 uniformed services. MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 Phone: (800) 234-6622. **"Never stop serving!"** Use the Advocacy in Action section at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>.

5-Star Chapter Website & Social Media Manager - Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet); The address is: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/> Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by using the "Contact Us" link or contacting the editor. If we have your email, you will receive this newsletter 9 times per year.

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS

Elected Officers:

President – Phil Briscoe, CAPT, USN (Ret)-
First Vice President – Tom Miller, Capt., USAF (Vet)
Second Vice President – Jason Ford, LT USN (Ret)
Secretary – Mary Laverdure, Capt., USAF (Vet)
Treasurer – Mike Chapman, CW4 USA (Ret)
Immediate Past-President – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret)

Directors:

Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret)
I.B. Southerland III, Maj USAF (Ret)
Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet)
Mark Ferketish, COL, USMC (Ret)
VACANT (Surviving Spouse Liaison)
Krista Ford, Member Spouse

Chapter Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret)
Membership Committee - Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret)

President's Comments:

First, a big thank you to Syvella and the staff at Salem Glen for a wonderful Christmas Dinner Dance, and to Jackie Kohler and Krista Ford for the decorations. Approximately 50 members and guests enjoyed themselves immensely while also dancing to music provided by Kurt Myers, DJ on WBFJ, M-F, 10 AM - 2 PM (<https://wbjfm.com/interviews/> and <https://www.facebook.com/WBFJ.FM>). Jason Ford did us proud in planning this event! And, under the tree appeared a plethora of wrapped Christmas presents marked for residents at the assisted living facility at the VA Center in Salisbury. Phil Briscoe and I delivered them to the VA Hospital the next afternoon. Jerry Johnson had an equally successful evening taking in unwrapped toy donations for Marine Toys for Tots.

November 14, 2023—We held our annual Chapter Voting & Elections for the 2024-25 slate of Officers and Directors as currently listed above. On January 9, 2024, we will have the "Induction of Officers" ceremony before dinner.

Scholarship/JROTC Committee - I.B. Southerland, Maj USAF (Ret)

Chapter Assistants:

Chaplain – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
Programs Chair & Christmas Dance - Jason Ford, LT USN (Ret)
JROTC Programs Point of Contact - **VACANT**
Legislative Affairs Liaison – **VACANT** (Greg Chase – Acting)
Public Relations – Greg Bean, LtCol, USMCR (Ret)
Personal Affairs – Dennis Ammons, 1Lt, USA (Vet)
Surviving Spouse Liaison – **VACANT**
Website/Social Media - Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet)
Newsletter Editor – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret)
"Clipping Coupons for Troops" Program – **VACANT** (Acting)
Kenneth C. Zuhr, CDR USN (Ret)

Note: Contact Info is available under the Directory

Tab in the Tarheel Central Chapter Website:

<https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/>

Saturday, December 16th a large crowd gathered at Westlawn Gardens of Memory of Clemmons for Wreathes Across America. After a short ceremony, we laid individual wreathes on the graves of veterans buried there. Mike Chapman with his grandson and perhaps others from the Chapter were present. For many it was quite a moving experience which I hope to repeat next year. Most importantly it was a historically informative experience for the youth present.

Future Meetings: February 13, 2024—Vernon Robinson, Capt. USAF, TCC MOAA member, prior Winston Salem City Council Member, will speak on Russian female fighter pilots in WWII; March 12, 2024—Steve Nash, member of the 1st Navy Seal team, will speak on his experiences with the first Navy Seals in Vietnam; April 9, 2024—Lan Liu, escaped from China 30 years ago to find the World of Freedom in the US, however sees the United States taking the same track that China is taking today; and May 14, 2024—Scholarship Awards. Sign up with Jason to give your favorite 5–7-minute service story at any monthly meeting!

Finally, upon leaving the cockpit, here are my reflections. I could not have done it without all your support! It is a volunteer organization; nobody must do anything. But the Tarheel Central Chapter is blessed with people who really want to keep on serving. We prove it by remaining a Five-Star Chapter, while experiencing the best part: continued military camaraderie! I am oft reminded of *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss, which Vina read to our children as well as her Kindergarten students. We have been to many places individually and collectively, so the sequel must be *Oh, the Stories You'll Tell!* And every month we greet each other with those stories and the things we understand because of our shared experience, which has become very uncommon in our wider society. For our Country's future, we owe it to ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, and community to present our experiences as 'lessons learned' whenever and wherever we can. So, speak at school events, address gatherings of young people, write/record your stories, pass them on and pray for America! "May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us in all our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way everlastingly happy." —George Washington (1790). **And now, I turn the bridge over to Phil. Y'all are in great hands! -- Greg**

Membership Development News

The Membership Committee meets once each month at noon for lunch on the Monday preceding the Monthly Meeting of the Chapter at the Salem Glenn country Club. Helping bring new members into the Chapter is most rewarding and key to maintaining this vibrant organization. If you are interested and would like more information or If you have a prospective member and need assistance, please call Ted Robinson, Membership Committee chair, at (478) 719-7595 or email him at tcr@privateclubassociates.com.

MOAA National Chapter Recruiting (CR) offers the chapter financial incentives for both recruitment and retention of members. If you are aware of individuals in our community who are eligible for MOAA membership, please bring them to our attention, and educate them on the benefits of Tarheel Central Chapter and MOAA membership.

Tarheel Central Chapter DUES:

Dues were just approved for \$45 per year. Invoices will go out immediately. **If you have already paid \$35 for 2024, your invoice will request you to pay an additional \$10.** Please call Mike Chapman at (919) 601-3800 if you have any questions.

Surviving Spouse News: Jackie is engaged, plans to marry in 2024, and may settle in Mocksville. Due to this life-changing event and other pressing issues she will have to step down from her volunteer positions as our Surviving Spouse Liaison. Any of you Surviving Spouses that want to volunteer please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee).

TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER OUTREACH:

Your Board of Directors has determined the following worthy causes are deserving of our donations. As with the Scholarship Fund, donations can be sent to the Chapter Treasurer directly or included in your check for annual dues or

monthly dinners. Just note on the check which cause you are supporting. We will ensure your donations get to your designated worthy cause.

TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Please continue to accept the **DAVE HARRIS CHALLENGE** to donate at least \$100 to the JROTC Scholarship Fund each year. **Mission:** To provide scholarships to those deserving of help in pursuit of further education, preferably leading toward a military career.

HONOR FLIGHT: To celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. It cost \$600.00 per participant. **Vision:** A nation where all of America's veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve. For more information visit: <https://www.honorflight.org/>

TOYS FOR TOTS: Mission: to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. **Goal:** through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. For more information visit: <https://winston-salem-nc.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lc-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=0&nPreviewInd=0&nRedirectInd=3>

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MUD RUN: A CHARITY EVENT hosted by Marine Corps League Percy John Fulton Detachment #1075 Winston-Salem, NC. **SUPPORTING** the following Charities: Semper Fi & America's Fund, Camp Lejeune, NC / The Fisher House at Camp Lejeune, NC / Toys for Tots / Young Marines Youth Program, NC / State Veterans Home, Salisbury, NC / Wreathes Across America, National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC / City Lights Ministry, Winston Salem, NC / Savings Grace K-9, Lexington, NC / The Hero's Center, High Point, NC / Irreverent Warriors. For more information visit: <https://usmcmudrunnc.com/event-information/general-information/>

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS LIST:

- **Robert Allen's wife**, Patricia, is battling cancer/chemo.
- **Pete Armstrong** is recovering at home from surgery.
- **Mark & Shannon Ferkatish**. Mark is having knee replacement surgery and will be out through the rest of the year.
- **Jerry Johnson** is still recovering at home from a painful fall and may have to have surgery to heal his shoulder.
- **RC Moore's wife Nancy** often has severe back pain and is diagnosed with congestive heart failure.
- **Thomas "Ronnie" McDonald's wife Phyllis** has medical problems that are keeping them from attending.
- **John G. Palmer** is unable to attend meetings due to health problems.
- **Jason G. Pardue** is unable to attend due to family health problems but requests a call for each meeting.
- **Charlie Stott** suffered a small stroke that has affected his speech. His wife is Mary Lou.
- **Peggy Wallace** can no longer drive, unsure of ride, not planning to attend, but enjoys our calling chain!

Please notify any officer or member of the board if you hear that a member or spouse is having difficulties.



"Clipping coupons for Troops": We need volunteers for this mission. Although there are fewer troops overseas, more families are being affected by inflation and increases in food prices. Ken Zuhr, kzuhr@yahoo.com, volunteered to take Betty Miller's position as the individual who collects and sends current coupons to our troops overseas. Coupons expiring more than a month before the meeting at which they are contributed are likely to expire before they are received by the troops overseas. From Jackie Kohler: Can veterans use expired coupons? Military families can use manufacturers' coupons up to six months past their expiration at commissaries. All you must do is follow the instructions and send them on their way! Expired Coupons go to PO BOX 430, Whiting, IN 46394-0430 - If sending currently active coupons – send them to: CouponCabin.com, Attn: Active Coupons for Troops, PO BOX 231, Whiting, IN 46394-0231

FORTHCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NC VETERANS - See the NC Division of Veterans Affairs newsletter at: <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/> and the North Carolina Council of Chapters Newsletter at: <https://www.moaa-nc.org/>

Families Go to: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/11/09/free-lifetime-national-parks-passes-are-coming-veterans-and-gold-star-families.html>

Need assistance with VA benefits? The Winston-Salem VA Regional Office is here to help. Visitors to the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office can now park for free in the Third and Main Street Public Parking Facility. Just take your parking

ticket to the VBA public contact office upon check-in and ask for parking validation. For those who are unable to travel to Winston-Salem, you can make a virtual appointment with us here: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/> You can also find an accredited representative in your area by visiting <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/> Accredited representatives include accredited attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). They work on behalf of Veterans and service members—as well as their dependents and survivors. VSOs work for you, and their services are free. Be sure to check VA's website before choosing a representative. The representative you choose should be accredited through VA to ensure your claim is managed professionally and fairly. Visit <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/protecting-veterans-from-fraud/> to learn more about protecting yourself from benefits fraud.

Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) bulletins are located at: <http://www.nhc-ul.org/rao.html> and <http://veteraninformationlinksasa.com/emos-rao.html> FOR ALL VETERANS - RETIREE ASSISTANCE OFFICE publications; VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR ALL VETERANS; Provided by: Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret) Editor/Publisher of the RAO Bulletin; All words and phrases in the color as the link below will open another page when "clicked on." <http://thearmysecurityagency.com/index.html> Welcome to My VA Benefits / Veteran Information Links and ASA - Army Security Agency. We provide the best veteran information portal for VA benefits. Visit us for all your VA needs! Site updated on January 15, 2021.

STATE Activities:

December – 14th North Carolina Council of Chapters President Jay Garbus will conduct our annual NC CoC meeting December 14th at 1000hrs. Officers have a 2-year term. They can be reelected for a second 2-year term and no further terms.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Why MOAA's Fight to Maintain TRICARE Pharmacy Access Matters to You



by: Karen Ruedisueli, [DECEMBER 18, 2023](#)

In 2021, the member had three pharmacy choices near his residence – two independent locations and a [Walmart](#). Now, only one independent remains in the TRICARE pharmacy network ... and it will leave in January, he told MOAA. Starting in 2024, TRICARE beneficiaries in the area with acute medication needs will face a 60-mile, 90-minute round trip, sometimes traveling on winding roads that can be hazardous

in foul weather.

While most healthy families in metro areas will have access to a nearby TRICARE network pharmacy despite a 24% cut in the brick-and-mortar network since 2022, these reductions have had a disproportionate impact on rural families and those with more complex medical needs.

[SHARE YOUR STORY: [Impact of TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes](#)]

MOAA appreciates that the Senate report for the [FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an assessment of the network. GAO will provide an independent review of network cuts, including an assessment of access issues for those in remote or rural areas, long-term care pharmacies, and beneficiaries with cancer diagnoses or rare and complex conditions.

MOAA took this issue to Capitol Hill early this year as NDAA discussions began. The smaller network had just gone into effect and lawmakers and professional staff members wanted additional data to evaluate the change, so MOAA advocated for a report on beneficiary impact.

[Reduced retail pharmacy network requirements](#) in the new TRICARE pharmacy contract, known as TPharm5, slashed the minimum number of retail network pharmacies from 50,000 to 35,000 as a cost-cutting measure. Independent pharmacies fled the TRICARE network after being offered contracts with reimbursements that would not even cover their costs.

After this network cut was announced, MOAA heard from hundreds of military families about potential impacts. Many of these families already use the TRICARE mail-order program for maintenance medications but were concerned about

how the narrowed network would create barriers to getting acute medications most often needed due to illness or injury.

[RELATED: [MOAA Named to The Hill's Top Lobbyist List for 17th Straight Year](#)]

There are approximately 66,000 retail pharmacies in the U.S. Less than a year ago, there was an 83% chance a beneficiary's pharmacy would be in the network. That's now 64%, and it could drop to 53% based on minimum contract requirements.

What These Cuts Could Mean for You

As MOAA outlined [in our annual TRICARE Guide](#), not having network pharmacy options may not matter for you now, but it could if (or when) you fall into one of these groups in the coming years:

- **Seniors:** Limited transportation options and other challenges can significantly reduce comfortable travel distances.
- **Rural residents:** A smaller network means fewer options, if any remain, in your county.
- **Care restrictions:** You may no longer have access to the pharmacy in your hospital's lobby, or to the only pharmacy used by your future assisted living or long-term care facility.
- **Immediate needs:** Finding medication during a shortage, or tracking down an uncommon prescription, becomes much more difficult with a smaller network.

[READ MORE: [Pharmacy Network Cuts: Will You Get What You Need?](#)]

MOAA appreciates our Clarksville member taking the time to share his story, despite the demands of caring for his wife during her illness and shifting their Thanksgiving plans to Marie Callender turkey dinners "spiked up with a can of Ocean Spray cranberry sauce." Stories like these augment the data and show lawmakers how TRICARE benefit decisions impact real lives.

Have you encountered a shrinking pharmacy network in your area? Have you encountered challenges getting TRICARE-covered prescription medications for a loved one in long-term care? Faced drugs shortages that forced you to fill a prescription at a non-network pharmacy? Please [share your stories with MOAA](#) so we can take them to Capitol Hill and illustrate how pharmacy network cuts hurt TRICARE families.

Write your representatives by going to: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

Casualty Assistance - Call toll free 877-353-6807. Overseas callers should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy.

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) Telephone Center- Call DEERS at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service - The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080, or through AskDFAS online. Visit the retired military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matters such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more.

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program - The program provides long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of care you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (activities of daily living) by yourself because of chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. For assistance, call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-582-3337) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit <https://www.ltcfeds.com/>.

Identification Cards - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or visit the site locator.

Legal Offices - Assists members with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answers certain legal questions. Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.

Medicare - 800-633-4227 or visit www.medicare.gov.

Social Security Office - Call toll free 800-772-1213; commercial 410-965- 8019; or write to Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries, Windsor Park Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Visit the website for more

information.

TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy Program (Express Scripts, Inc.) - In United States, call toll free 800-282-2881; or overseas, call 866-275-4732. Visit <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml> for more information.

Veterans Affairs - For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-6947; special issues such as Gulf War/radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at www.va.gov/. Local Events You Might be Interested In:



Veterans Cup is another good source for local events and comradery:
<https://www.veteranscup.org/>

- **Veterans Eligible for Travel and Hotel Discounts:** American Forces Discounts, <https://www.americanforcetravel.com/>, is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and supported by Priceline. Veterans can access exclusive deals on hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPONSORSHIP:** Apply for up to \$300 per chapter or \$800 per council to support community service programs and recruiting/branding events. Get details at this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-management/community-outreach-sponsorship-for-moaa/>
- Every Tuesday morning, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Christiana Lutheran Church, Granite Quarry, NC. Veterans Social and Lunch. There will be speakers and resource information. No need to register. Lunch \$7.00 donation. Information - troyhorton29@gmail.com
- Coffee For Veterans, Every Thursday morning, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Walnut Cove Public Library. 106 W. 5th St. Information, 336 406-0713
- 2nd Cup Veterans Breakfast, Every Friday morning beginning at 9:00 am. Hosted by the King Senior Center, 107 White Rd. (lower level) King NC. Veterans, their family members and partners are welcome. Information: 336 983-0751
- VETERANS CUP hosts a weekly VETERANS coffee on the first, third, fourth and fifth Wednesday of each month; from 8:30 am until 10:30 am. The venue for the VETERANS CUP coffee is located at the AMERICAN LEGION POST 55 in Winston Salem; 111 Miller Street. The coffee is open to all VETERANS, spouses, widows, widowers and VETERANS advocates. Please join us for fellowship, coffee and pastries.
- “Vet Connect”, free breakfast, 10am, 1st Wednesday of every month at the Golden Corral in Burlington, 3108 Garden Rd, Burlington, NC 27215
- Statesville, Veterans Coffee, the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 9:00 am. American Legion Post 65, 2446 Salisbury Rd., 704 872-5098
- Mooresville, Richards Coffee Shop and Military Museum. Monday – Saturday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Free coffee for Veterans on Thursday. Music JAM every Saturday (pickin’, singin’ & grinnin’), 165 N. Main St., Mooresville - 704 663-0488
- Welcome, Trellis Supportive Care Veterans Coffee 2nd Wednesday, Begins at 9:00 am at Richard Childress Racing, jgordon@trellissupport.org
- Cycling Heals Vets Connect, Winston-Salem. The 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:00 – 11:30 am (Rain or Shine) 815 Salem Lake Rd, Winston-Salem, NC. Veterans are invited to participate in activities: Cycling (bicycles and helmets provided), Jogging, Walking, Fishing and Fellowship. Refreshments provided. mailbox@operationnorthstate.com and Vets Connect: 336 764-5967
- The Joel Fund Virtual Veterans Coffee Events. The 4th Wednesday of each month. They have programs Veterans can participate in, both virtually and in-person. Visit www.thejoelfund.org website for more information or to register. Phone: 919 247 9333
- Veterans 4 Life – Piedmont. Veterans support information: www.v4l-piedmont.org. Founder: Dennis Cave commander@v4l.org. The next meeting 4th Saturday, 1:00 pm at the Davidson County Rescue Squad, 115 W 9th Ave, Lexington, NC
- Center for Women Veterans: US Department of Veterans Affairs. Link to view and subscribe to receive updates: VA Center for Women Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, CWV – News Update: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/>

- Veterans Experience Action Center, Cary NC. Veterans & dependents will be assisted by a combined team including VA Benefits & Health Administrators, Vet Center and Veterans' Service Officers with VA claims and questions about benefits. Please bring proper "Veteran ID, DD-214" and any paperwork related to your claims in question and your military history. Contact - Richard Spyrison: caryveac@gmail.com
- Veteran Crisis line: 988 Press 1
- US Department of Veterans Affairs: Women Veterans Call Center – 855 829-6636

Don Timmons, Community Engagement Manager, Triad, Triangle & Sandhills Regions; Direct: 336 837-4347; dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org; www.veteransbridgehome.org

Veterans Crisis line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 - US Department of Veterans Affairs: Women Veterans Call Center – 855 829-6636. Link to Urgent Care organizations approved by the VA <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/> If you are under the VA healthcare system for a service connected health condition and have had to or might need to use a Non-VA hospital emergency department and/or emergency transportation for a medical emergency related to your service-connected health condition, you or a family member must report this to the VA within 72 hours. Call: 704 638-9000 ext. 12022. Year 'Round Veteran Discounts: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

GREAT QUOTES: As a society with all the latest TMI distractions: AI, electronics, email, texting, social media, avatars, etc., we have become resistant to the new, the Real, and the amazing: nature, the great outdoors, and actual interactions with people. That's probably why God allows most of our great relationships to begin with a kind of infatuation with another person—not sexual infatuation, but a deep admiration or appreciation. It allows us to take our place as a student and learner. If we never do that, nothing new is going to happen. The Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn understood this when he wrote, "the Western system in its present state of spiritual exhaustion does not look attractive." - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, "Harvard Address," in *The Solzhenitsyn Reader: New and Essential Writings, 1947–2005*, ed. Edward E. Ericson, Jr., and Daniel J. Mahoney (Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2006), 569. THE FOUNDATION

"No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders." —Samuel Adams (1775)

"Nothing is more certain than that a general profligacy and corruption of manners make a people ripe for destruction. A good form of government may hold the rotten materials together for some time, but beyond a certain pitch, even the best constitution will be ineffectual, and slavery must ensue." —John Witherspoon (1776)

"To judge from the history of mankind, we shall be compelled to conclude that the fiery and destructive passions of war reign in the human breast with much more powerful sway than the mild and beneficent sentiments of peace; and that to model our political systems upon speculations of lasting tranquility would be to calculate on the weaker springs of human character." —Alexander Hamilton (1788)

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." —Abraham Lincoln

HUMOR (Maybe?): The wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up our car's gas tank and tires... She was surprised to see that the station had a fee to fill the tires and asked me, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!" I responded, "Inflation."



For a high school dance, the head boy asked out the girl he liked. To get flowers for her, he had to stand in a line outside the florist for an hour. To make things worse, he had to wait another hour in a line outside the tuxedo shop. Finally, he goes to the dance with the girl. The girl wanted to have some apple punch, so the boy went to get it, but to his surprise, there was no punch line.

HISTORY: Who was Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King? Born 23 November 1878, he died of a heart attack on 25 June 1956. He was the 9th Chief of Naval Operations (26 March 1942 – 15 December 1945). Fleet Admiral King led the Navy to victory over the Axis navies in World War II. The strong-willed leader oversaw the enormous expansion of the U.S. fleet and its successful employment against America's enemies in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean. King was born in Lorain, Ohio, the son of James Clydesdale King, an Irish Immigrant, and Elizabeth Keam King. King graduated from what is now Lorain High School as valedictorian in the Class of 1897; his commencement speech was titled "Values of Adversity".

King attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, from 1897 until 1901, graduating fourth in his class. He planned it that way, his philosophy at the time being that if his star showed too brightly, people would expect much of him that he might not deliver. During his senior year at the academy, he attained the rank of battalion commander, the highest naval cadet ranking at that time. In World War I, he was an assistant to the chief of staff of Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet. Many of his assignments were not to his liking and he argued with peers and superiors alike as to how he thought things should be done. He did everything from reorganizing alignment of shipboard sailors and officers to improving gunnery range and accuracy, often inventing innovative technology along the way. Traditionalists did not like him, but his ideas were spot on and pushed the US Navy into the 20th century. If he was not expert at something he found people he thought were, until he had become one himself. After the war, he gained experience in submarine operations. Shifting to naval aviation, he eventually rose to Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. His biographer described his flying ability as "erratic" and quoted the commander of the squadron with which he flew as asking him if he "knew enough to be scared?" As aircraft carriers were developed, he pushed the use of carrier tactics over the 'battleship mentality' of the period. Had his ideas been fully implemented during the 1920s and 30s, Pearl Harbor may not have happened, but his intense arguments were ignored. At the conclusion of his term as bureau chief in 1936, King became Commander, Aircraft, Base Force, at Naval Air Station North Island, California. After surviving the crash of his Douglas XP3D transport on 8 February 1937, he was promoted to vice-admiral on 29 January 1938 on becoming Commander, Aircraft, Battle Force – at the time one of only three vice-admiral billets in the US Navy. Among his accomplishments was to corroborate Admiral Harry E. Yarnell's 1932 war game findings in 1938 by staging his own successful simulated naval air raid on Pearl Harbor, showing that the base was dangerously vulnerable to aerial attack, although he was taken no more seriously than his contemporary until December 7, 1941, when the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the base by air for real. In 1941, as Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, King directed undeclared warfare against German U-boats that preyed on American shipping. When the United States entered World War II, he was appointed Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet. Three months later, President Roosevelt named King Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations. He served in both positions for the remainder of the war. He opposed putting the US Atlantic fleet under overall British command and risked political suicide but managed to hold the British off. After turning 64 on 23 November 1942, he wrote President Franklin D. Roosevelt to say he had reached mandatory retirement age. Roosevelt replied with a note reading, "So what, old top?". In January 1941 King issued Atlantic Fleet directive CINCLANT Serial 053, encouraging officers to delegate and avoid micromanagement, which is still cited widely in today's armed forces Congress promoted him to Fleet Admiral in December 1944. King was a strong advocate for the U.S. Navy in his dealings with the other U.S. armed forces and with America's allies. He was able to deflect General MacArthur (supreme commander, Southwest Pacific Area) from taking command of US Navy assets and vessels in the Pacific as well. King was instrumental in building a powerful battle fleet that defeated the Imperial Japanese Navy in the Pacific and helped destroy the German U-boat menace in the Atlantic. After lying in state at the National Cathedral in Washington, King was buried in the United States Naval Academy Cemetery at Annapolis, Maryland. His wife, who survived him, was buried beside her husband in 1969. USS King (DLG-10, later DDG-41) was commissioned in his honor.

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Local Dinner Meeting: 5:30PM.
 Guest speakers & Music.
 Dress: Business Casual.
 Open Board Meeting: 5:00 PM
 Chapter Dues are \$35 per year.
 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month.
 Place: Salem Glen Country Club.
 Social time begins at 5:45PM.

Tarheel Central Chapter

CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, Jan 4th; Salem Glen needs the reservation guarantee by Friday morning so the correct amount of food can be ordered for delivery in time for the meeting on the following Tuesday. Dinner Meeting is on Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Your Name: _____

Birthday (DD/MMM – Member ONLY) _____

Number of Reservations: _____

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