



The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2024, Issue 5, MAY 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/about/> under Social Media. Please sign into and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

We held another entertaining dinner meeting this past month. 50-50 raffle tickets were sold during the social hour and the guest speaker drew the winning ticket. Pam Angle was the winner of half the ticket sales with the other half going to the chapter general fund. The guest speaker's presentation, about life under a communist regime, was very enlightening and sparked a good discussion afterwards.

Applications have been received for the Tarheel Central Chapter Scholarships and have been reviewed by I.B. Southerland and his committee. The two Scholarship Awards will be presented at the Chapter Dinner Meeting on May 14th. Thanks to all who graciously donated to this chapter initiative.

As we head into our annual summer recess, plans are in the works for another midsummer chapter social. More to follow in Constant Contact emails.

Many thanks to the team of chapter officers and directors who contribute to the success of the chapter!

Take Care and Beware. Phil Briscoe



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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.

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 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.

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:

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

Chapter Standing Committees:

Membership Committee - Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret)
Nominating Committee – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret)
Scholarship/JROTC Committee - I.B. Southerland, Maj USAF (Ret)

Chapter Assistants:

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

Note: Contact Info is available under the Directory Tab in the Tarheel Central Chapter Website:

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

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: May 14, 2024— Scholarship Awards. Sign up with Jason to give your favorite 5–7-minute service story at any monthly meeting!

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.

A DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Future Meetings -

MOAA Virtual Training Opportunities: Find out more and sign up at <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/>

- Understating your Guard and Reserve retirement benefits - May 2. 1300-1530
- How your Federal Benefits work in retirement - May 8. 1400-1500

Chapter Membership Development News:

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.

Social Secretary:

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
5/7/2024	March Madness (Salem Band Concert)	Salem Square in Old Salem	7:30pm
5/12/2024	Piedmont Wind Symphony & The Queen Bees	Tanglewood Park	2-5pm
5/27/2024	The Embers (Military Appreciation Concert)	Shallowford Square	6pm
5/28/2024	Puppet Magic (Salem Band Concert)	Salem Square in Old Salem	7:30pm
	LOCATION	ADDRESS	
	Shallowford Square	6555 Shallowford Rd, Lewisville	

1. Concerts are all FREE
2. Attendance is voluntary ... attend if you want to. NO roll will be taken, no phone calls needed.
3. Bring your own folding chairs and BYOW and snacks if desired.

Your Social Secretary, Warren Boyer, 336 407-2374

To apply for Chapter and National membership, please use the Application Form titled "THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE. Why MOAA chapter membership matters." Use the Form at the end of this newsletter.

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.

CHAPTER THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS LIST:

- Dennis Ammons – Illness
- Nalyn Hipwood - Recent Widow of Richard Hipwood
- Patricia Allen – Illness
- Peggy Wallace - Inability to Attend Meetings
- John Palmer - Health Issue
- Charlie Stott - Recovering from a Stroke
- Jerry Johnson - Recovering from Surgery
- Tom Denegre - Recovering from Surgery
- R C Moore - Family Illness
- Bob Allen - Family Illness
- Larry Lovvorn – Illness
- Sarah Briscoe - Surgery

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



A LIVELY HAPPY BIRTHDAY APPLAUSE TO:

- William Gore 5/1
- Brian Speas 5/7
- Bob Linnell 5/8
- Ted Robinson 5/9
- Ed Marion 5/18
- Pete Armstrong 5/19
- Karl Clauss 5/25

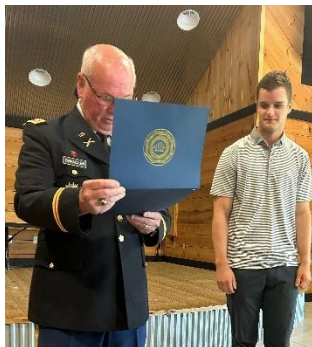
Please notify Jerry Johnson, our roster manager, if you would like to be included on the Birthday List!

Tarheel Central Chapter DUES: Dues were approved for \$45 per year. Invoices have gone out. **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: For our Surviving Spouses here is the link to MOAA Surviving Spouse data <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving->

[spouse-corner/](#) Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison. It is not a requirement that you be a surviving spouse. Activities include: monitoring the MOAA website for surviving spouse issues, keeping the chapter members and surviving spouses informed through the newsletter and personal announcements at the dinners, keeping our surviving spouses involved and recruiting surviving spouses."

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.



Al Chandler contacted the Wake Forest ROTC unit and had the opportunity to present the MOAA award to one of their outstanding Military Science III cadets on the 25th of April at their awards ceremony.

TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER WORTHY CAUSE OUTREACH:

Your Board of Directors has determined the following worthy causes are deserving of our support. 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.

TRIAD 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/lco-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 / Wreaths 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/>



"Clipping coupons for Troops": Chapter Assistant needed. The Coupons for Troops Overseas Program provides expired and non-expired coupons to military families stationed overseas. Military families can use manufacturers' coupons up to six months past their expiration at commissaries. Coupons can make a big difference since prices in overseas commissaries are significantly higher than those in the States. Families in overseas bases do not always have access to coupons in newspapers and inserts, you might be the only way they can receive coupons!

Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter Assistant for this chapter initiative. Activities include keeping the membership aware of the program through the newsletter and personal announcements at chapter meetings; and collecting coupons at chapter meetings for forward as required to the troops. Check out this website to learn more: <https://supportourtroops.org/troopons>. 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.

Find your nearest VA regional office <https://www.benefits.va.gov/ROWINSTONSALEM/directions.asp>

- You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA pension benefits.

Get help filing your claim <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/>

The Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) most extraordinary mission is to improve the lives of military, Guard and Reserve, Veterans, Retirees, Survivors, and their families, mainly achieved through tireless advocacy efforts in our nation's capital. This is the link to the National MOAA Email Preference Center Search Page: https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

Advocacy in Action is an annual event where MOAA members nationwide meet with their elected officials in the House and Senate to educate and influence their support regarding MOAA's top three legislative priorities. A selected group from the North Carolina (NC) MOAA Chapters represented NC at the Advocacy in Action event in Washington, DC, this past April 17, 2024.

Why Get Involved? Being actively engaged in advocacy empowers you and the broader military community. Your participation encourages others to join the cause, creating a network of support that strengthens our collective impact. Learn about ongoing initiatives and how you can continue to be involved in advocating for the issues that matter most. FYI: Share with your friends; you need not be an MOAA member to use the Legislation Action Center (see link below).

Your involvement in Advocacy in Action can shape policies and initiatives that directly impact the lives of the military, veterans, and their families. Your input to the NC Advocacy in Action Team will provide us with powerful support regarding your challenges; by sharing your concerns, you become an essential part of the force driving positive change and progress. Your engagement matters, and together, we can make a difference.

Your Voice Matters: Advocacy in Action is a testament to our commitment to ensuring the voice of the Military, Guard and Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and their Family members are heard on crucial issues affecting our communities. Your participation is critical to amplifying MOAA's collective voice and meaningfully impacting the issues that matter most to the military, retirees, and their family members. Also, this event provides a platform to voice your concerns, share personal experiences, and advocate for issues that resonate with you. Your unique perspective contributes to a more comprehensive

and effective advocacy effort. Once the legislative priorities are selected, an email with instructions will be sent to allow you to participate and submit your letter to your Senator and Congressperson.

Voice Your Concerns: Click MOAA - Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center to learn more about MOAA's Advocacy in Action. Also, you may contact me directly at Drviviannewersel@gmail.com, (252) 646-2678 (mobile) for more support on how to use the Action Center or to share your story. Your input is valuable for our team to share with our policymakers. Participating makes you an integral part of crafting policies that address critical issues such as veterans' healthcare, educational opportunities, and retirement benefits. The decisions made due to MOAA's Advocacy in Action can shape the future of the military, Guard and Reserve, Retirees, and their families. Families. Never Stop Serving!

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in volunteering to be the chapter Legislative Affairs Liaison. Activities include tracking national and/or state legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families and keeping the membership aware of the legislation through the newsletter and personal announcements at chapter meetings.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION:



The MOAA Advocacy Update - Every week, MOAA's advocacy leaders and other experts discuss issues of importance to our members and the uniformed services community. Watch the latest entries below, check out our Advocacy Update playlist for older entries, and subscribe to MOAA's YouTube channel for even more videos. Head back to our Legislative Advocacy Center homepage (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>) to engage with your lawmakers on some of these critical topics.

White House Budget Request Offers Good News for TRICARE Beneficiaries By: Karen Ruedisueli, **MARCH 27, 2024**

The FY 2025 DoD budget proposal includes no mention of TRICARE cost-sharing requirements or other fee increases – good news for beneficiaries, as past TRICARE fee increase proposals have originated with the annual budget request.

The [White House budget](#), released March 11, includes a Unified Medical Budget (UMB) request of \$61.4 billion, up 4.6% from the FY 2024 budget request. The UMB is made up of several accounts within the annual defense appropriations bill including Operations and Maintenance (O&M), MILPERS (funding for military personnel operating the MHS), and MILCON, which funds Military Health System (MHS) construction projects.

[RELATED: [What the FY 2025 Biden Budget Plan Could Mean for Military Pay, TRICARE, and More](#)]

The request for the Defense Health Program (DHP) sits at \$40.3 billion, up from \$38.4 billion in the FY 2024 request. DHP, a sub-account of O&M, funds MHS functions such as health care delivery in military treatment facilities (MTFs); TRICARE; certain medical readiness activities and expeditionary medical capabilities; and education and training programs.

DHP spending growth is driven predominantly by MTF investment designed to sustain direct care capabilities and modernize electronic health records/digital health. Within the FY 2025 DHP request, \$20.6 billion, or 51%, is for purchased care via TRICARE.

'Strategic Imperative'

The budget narrative underscores the updated MHS strategy to restore MTF capacity, reattract beneficiaries to the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, and increase opportunities to sustain uniformed medical provider clinical readiness.

[RELATED: [What a Major DoD Health Care Shift Could Mean for Your TRICARE Benefit](#)]

"We recognize a strategic imperative to rebuild our military and civilian medical workforce and resource the MHS," [the budget overview states](#). "The DoD leadership determined the most effective way to take care of our people, support the National Defense Strategy, increase clinical readiness, mitigate risks to requirements, and reduce long-term cost growth in private sector care is to reattract beneficiaries to Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and maximize medical education and training pipelines."

The budget document also provides an update on past medical billet cut proposals, an initiative [MOAA successfully advocated to halt](#) in several consecutive defense authorization bills. DoD has suspended planned clinical military medical

end strength divestitures and will use this congressionally directed pause to conduct an assessment of current military medical end strength to match operational requirements.

Following this assessment, DoD will submit a report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees that certifies the completion of a comprehensive review of military medical manning and justification for any proposed changes to the composition of military medical end strength. The report will include plans to address civilian backfill and persistent civilian vacancies or risks associated with the planned reductions.

[RELATED: [MOAA's TRICARE Guide](#)]

As the FY 2025 NDAA process moves forward, MOAA remains focused on legislation and congressional oversight that will ensure beneficiaries have access to quality care as DoD implements the new MHS stabilization strategy. Please watch your MOAA newsletter and our [Advocacy News page](#) for opportunities to support our efforts through MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).

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Note to Members: MOAA System Upgrade MARCH 27, 2024, By MOAA Staff

Visitors to MOAA.org may have limited access to some portions of the website as MOAA transitions to a new customer database over the next several weeks.

These changes are slated to begin on or around April 1. During the transition, members will not be able to log into their membership accounts online. To make a change to your account during this time, or to renew or upgrade your membership, email MOAA's Member Service Center (MSC) at msc@moaa.org or call (800) 234-MOAA (2622). These changes will go into effect following the completion of this transition. Please anticipate a brief delay before these are reflected on the website.

Other changes you may notice during the transition:

- Some MOAA.org features which generally require a member login, such as access to the [digital version of Military Officer magazine](#), will be open to all website visitors. Other features requiring member login, such as our webinar archive, will be offline during the transition.
- MOAA member benefits which require member login will not be available online during the transition. However, members interested in these benefits can contact the MSC, provide confirmation of their membership status, and receive directions to access these benefits, if available during the transition window.
- Some MOAA.org resources, such as our Chapter Locator feature, will not be available.

The changeover will make it easier for members to log into their online account, and will allow MOAA to provide enhanced customer service, meeting your needs faster and more efficiently.

Login Changes

Once the new system is in place, your "email of record" will replace your username when accessing your online account. Contact the MSC if you have multiple emails on file with MOAA to determine your email of record.

Your password will not change under the new system, and access to [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) will not be affected. Further instructions on using the new system will be available in the coming weeks.

Take Action With MOAA

MOAA is taking a stand in Washington on behalf of our active duty servicemembers and veterans. These issues may impact those you know or who are under your command.

[ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2024](#)

[LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER](#)

MILITARY RELATED CONTACT INFORMATION:

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 or find at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/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' Coffee event at Richard Childress Racing!** Wednesday Mornings, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Richard Childress Racing Banquet Hall, 425 Industrial Dr., Welcome/Lexington NC. Coffee and donuts will be served. The RCR Racing Museum will be open at no charge for our attendees after the Veterans Coffee. Various Veteran resource and support organizations will be present at each Veteran Coffee event to answer questions about their mission and activities.

- **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/>
- Veteran Coffees are held at various locations, (Winston-Salem, Walnut Cove, King, Burlington, Mooresville, etc.) throughout the month. Go to VETERANSCUP.ORG for listing and times.
- *****REMINDER***** There will be a Veterans Breakfast and Coffee honoring Vietnam & Vietnam Era Veterans on April 10, 2024 at 9:00am at Richard Childress Racing in Welcome, NC.
- **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: "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote ... that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." —Samuel Adams (1781); "The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this Truth, that God governs in the Affairs of Men. And if a Sparrow cannot fall to the Ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid?" —Benjamin Franklin (1787); "The people are not to be disarmed of their weapons. They are left in full possession of them." —Zacharia Johnson (1788); "The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness which the ambitious call, and ignorant believe to be liberty." —Fisher Ames (1788); "Every new regulation concerning commerce or revenue, or in any way affecting the value of the different species of property, presents a new harvest to those who watch the change, and can trace its consequences; a harvest, reared not by themselves, but by the toils and cares of the great body of their fellow-citizens. This is a state of things in which it may be said with some truth that laws are made for the FEW, not for the MANY." —James Madison (1788); "If individuals be not influenced by moral principles; it is in vain to look for public virtue; it is, therefore, the duty of legislators to enforce, both by precept and example, the utility, as well as the necessity of a strict adherence to the rules of distributive justice." —James Madison (1789). "Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name, and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name, and becomes licentiousness." —James Wilson (1790)

HUMOR (Maybe?): Teaching is not for sensitive souls. While reviewing future, past, and present tenses with



her English class, the teacher posed this question: "'I am beautiful' is what tense?" One student raised her hand. "Past tense." **We have a new post office in Lewisville.** It is new and off the beaten track, but other than the one familiar and professional postal worker I know, it is not improved. In fact, the parking lot entrance/exit is too narrow for opposing traffic. And I hear they are pushing for the First-Class Mail Forever stamp to go from 68 cents to 73 cents in July! So, I am toasting the USPS with this fictional story: A customer walked into the post office wanting to mail a package. "Two-day shipping will cost \$12.95 to get it there by Friday," the clerk told her. The customer, clearly looking to save a few bucks, said, "The package doesn't have to get there till Saturday. Is there any way to make that happen?" The clerk nodded. "Sure. You can bring it back tomorrow."

HISTORY: Rather than the usual, "what happened on this day in history", I decided to run this article as a recall of what it means to be a brother or sister in arms and have true friends. —Greg C. PS - *The Epoch Times* is a great newspaper, electronic or hard copy!

Tyrant Ruler Orders Execution of a Freedom-Loving Rebel—Just Then a Voice Erupts From the Crowd by Tyler Wilson, *The Epoch Times*, 4/13/2024. Our "Tales of Wisdom" series aims to highlight important morals and inspire a cherishing of the age-old virtues that can uplift our souls and help us return to tradition. We hope you will enjoy reading this.

What is true friendship? How far can meaningful friendships go? Is the culture of genuine brotherly bonds truly lost? What can we do to create relations that truly matter and are founded on selflessness and altruism? The following Greek legend reminds us of some of these nearly lost virtues that are essential to any and all relationships, including friendship. Do share with us in the comments section the values you hope to live by in your day-to-day lives after reading this tale. More than two thousand years ago, the Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero told the story of two friends who had a bond as strong as any brotherhood. Damon and Pythias lived in Sicily, an island right off the coast of Italy, and their city-state, Syracuse, had fallen on bad times, being ruled by a tyrant by the name of Dionysius. As Damon and Pythias were just and true in their

cause to each other, they were also just and true in the cause of liberty and freedom. United in their cause, they both set out to stir the hearts of the people toward what was right in different parts of their beloved city. "No king should have absolute power over the people," Pythias preached in the city streets. "The people should have more say in who governs us and how we are governed!" The people murmured in agreement, and the whispered mumblings made their way up to the tyrant king, Dionysius. "Find me the one responsible for this disturbance," Dionysius yelled to the captain of his guard. It did not take long for the captain to find out who was responsible as he found Pythias still preaching the same sentiments in the streets. "Are you the one responsible for spreading these lies against the king?" asked the captain, his hard eyes set against Pythias. "I only speak the truth against tyranny," Pythias said. "We shall see how your truth fares against the king!" the captain shouted and ordered his men to seize the rebel. They roughly handled him and brought him before the king, and Damon, who had become aware of his friend's dangerous plight, secretly followed behind. The king, though shaking with rage when Pythias was brought to him, quietly said, "Your insolence has cost you your life unless you go and tell the people that you take back what you said." "I cannot tell a lie," Pythias said. "You tax the people greatly, and we have no say in how you rule our once great city-state." Dionysius was unable to control his anger at this point. "Then your life is forfeit!" he yelled, standing up and looking down on poor Pythias. "I will gladly give my life for a cause that is just," said Pythias. "But please let me go and say farewell to my family." The tyrant king did not understand a thing such as honor and did not believe for one second that Pythias would ever return if he let him return to his family. "Do you think I'm such a fool that I would allow you to return to your family?" the King spat out. "You would escape and never return!" At this moment, a voice shot out from behind the captain and his guards. "I will take the place of Pythias while he says farewell to his loved ones," Damon said, walking toward his friend. "This is an interesting proposition," the king thought to himself. "This will surely give the people a reason to believe I am fair if I allow this thing, though this man is a fool. This Pythias will never be seen or heard from again." "Alright," he said aloud. "You may take the place of your friend, Pythias, however, if he does not return by three days' time, you will pay the price of his insolence with your own life." Damon approached his friend, and they clasped arms. "Go and see your family, my dear friend," Damon said. "I will never be able to repay you," Pythias answered. Damon grabbed his friend by the shoulders and gently shook him. "Your friendship to me has paid the price ten times over. Now go!" As Pythias left, Dionysius hollered out in dark laughter. "Your friend will never return now, you fool," the king said. "Now you must wait in the prison, where in three days time you will be executed!" "My friend will return," Damon said, looking the king squarely in the eyes. Then the king had the guards take him to his prison cell. Each day the king came and antagonized Damon about his friend abandoning him. On the third day, the king approached the cell. "At sunset, you will be executed. You are a fool. You could have been a free man, but you chose to believe this friend of yours." "I know Pythias will do everything possible to make it back here to free me," said Damon. "We shall see," said the king, stroking his beard thoughtfully. Damon watched the sun trek across the sky serenely. He knew his friend must have met trouble, and he still believed Pythias would return if it were within his power. Just as the sun was about to set west of the Mediterranean Sea, a shout was heard outside the prison. "Damon," Pythias shouted. "Where are you? I have returned!" Upon hearing this, the king and his men let Damon go and brought him and Pythias to the courtyard. Damon and Pythias embraced one another, and Damon noted that Pythias was wounded and bruised in more than a few places. "What has become of you, my friend?" Damon asked. "I would have been here much earlier, Damon," Pythias said. "At first, I was held back by fierce winds that would not let my boat return. Then once the winds were favorable, it was not long before my ship was overrun by a band of pirates who took my boat and belongings, throwing me out into the waters." Pythias then looked to the king, who stood by watching quietly. "I am ready now," Pythias said. For a long time, Dionysius stood still without saying a word, and both Damon and Pythias believed they saw a tear sidle down his cheek. "I will let both of you go on one condition," the king finally said. "Name your demand, and we will determine if it is just or not," Pythias said. "I will let both of you go," the king said, "if you teach me to be worthy of this type of friendship." For the rest of Dionysius's life, the city-state of Syracuse was ruled wisely and well, and Damon and Pythias have been a banner and example for friendship ever since.

Tyler Wilson, Author, lives and scrambles among the mountains of Utah with his wife and 3 children. He has taught history and literature in public and private school settings. He currently teaches at a private school and homeschools his children with his wife. He writes news and human interest stories.

And for our Navy in the Red Sea and the Straits of Hormuz, from Psalm 107: 23-32

23 Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;
24 they saw the deeds of the Lord,

his wondrous works in the deep.
25 For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
26 They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their calamity;
27 they reeled and staggered like drunkards,
and were at their wits' end.
28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out from their distress;
29 he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
30 Then they were glad because they had quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
31 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
32 Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

Sea-Fever BY JOHN MASEFIELD

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.
I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.
I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

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Dinner Cost: \$25/person
Dress is Business Casual.

Chapter Dues: \$45/year.

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Tarheel Central Chapter

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Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, May 9th; 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.

Your Name: _____

Birthday (DD/MMM – Member ONLY) _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Guests Names: _____

At **\$25** each: _____

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Jerry Johnson, COL, USMC (Ret)
Call: (541)280-5950
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