



# **Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2026,** **Issue 2, FEB 2, 2026**

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**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.**

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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>

**For the full experience go to our website and enjoy the pictures, too! Click on this link:**  
**<https://tarheelmoaa.org/about/> then click on the current edition.**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Tom Miller:**

**Veterans!**

As I write my President's message I look back on the accomplishments TCC had in 2025 and I'm in awe of our group. We supported so many Veterans events and in so doing we supported all Veterans. I cannot say which event was my favorite, sending members of TCC on Honor Flights, our JROTC Scholarship recipients, our participation in Veteran events, or caroling at the VA Hospital. All we did helped Vets!

With that said, we now fly into 2026 at MACH speed! There were many changes last year that we are still struggling with. One is that we no longer send "mail notices" due to expenses. We have shifted to email and Evite to communicate with the troops. In this transition some members have fallen behind on getting their 2026 TCC MOAA Dues in. Our new Treasurer, Tom Gatewood, has sent out email notices to some members who we haven't heard from. There was also some confusion as to who has and has not paid. If you get this notice and have paid, just call Tom G. His phone number is in the email. If you have not paid, you know what to do. Please be patient with us as we are both new to our positions and are still learning.

We had a great meeting in January with an outstanding speaker USMC Col Charlie Tutt. This month we have another outstanding speaker from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. I will be away for this meeting and Mark Ferketish, our First VP, will lead this meeting. I'll see you in March when we have a visit from MOAA National.

Always Keep Serving,

Tom Miller Capt. USAF Veteran

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**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/>.

## **TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER:**



### **The Tarheel Central Chapter Challenge Coin**

Available for purchase at the monthly dinner meeting for \$15.00. On the front the chapter name runs above the US Flag and the MOAA motto rings the bottom. The NC state symbol is representative of the state flag in color and has a single white star located in Tarheel Central Chapter catchment area – Surry; Stokes; Yadkin; Forsyth; Davie; and Davidson counties. On the Back of the coin is the official MOAA logo. Can't make the dinner meeting and wish to purchase? Address purchase inquiries to

[info@tarheelmoaa.org](mailto:info@tarheelmoaa.org).

**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](mailto: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 email 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:**

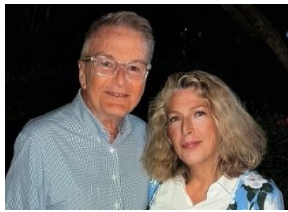
- **President** - Tom Miller, Capt. USAF (Vet)
- **First Vice President** – Mark Ferketish, COL, USMC (Ret)
- **Second Vice President**– Barry N. Moore, MAJ, USMC (Ret) (Legislative Affairs)
- **Secretary** – Mary Laverdure, Capt., USAF (Vet)
- **Treasurer** – Tom Gatewood, Capt., USA (Vet)
- **Immediate Past-President** - Phil Briscoe, CAPT, USN (Ret) (Nominations Committee)

### **Directors:**

1. George Lawson, LtCol, USAF (Ret) (Membership Committee Chair)
2. I.B. Southerland, III, Maj USAF (Ret) (Scholarship & J/ROTC Committee chair)
3. Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USN (Vet) (Web Master & Membership Committee)
4. **VACANT** - (Programs Committee)
5. **VACANT**
6. **VACANT** - (Surviving Spouse Liaison)

### **Chapter Assistants:**

7. **Chaplain** – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
8. **Programs Committee Chair** - **VACANT**
9. **Personal Affairs** - **VACANT**
10. **Surviving Spouse Liaison** - **VACANT**
11. **R-JROTC Programs** – Al Chandler, LTC (Ret)
12. **Public Relations** – Al Nealeans, COL USA (Ret)
13. **Social Secretary** – Warren Boyer, 1 Lt, USMCR (Vet)
14. **Chapter Roster** – Hank Rudge, COL, USMC (Ret)
15. **Web Master** – Tom Denegre, LCDR, USNR (Vet)
16. **Newsletter Editor** – Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) (Newsletter Editor)



### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – Mark Ferketish:**

- Understanding Your Guard and Reserve Benefits February 10, 1300-1530.
- 2026 MOAA Charities Golf Classic May 18, 2026, 07:30 TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm Potomac, MD.

Registration at MOAA.org/ Upcoming Events: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/MOAA-Events/>

I look forward to presiding at the February meeting in Tom's absence. Please join us.



**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry Moore:** TCC Friends: Your continued support for MOAA advocacy issues, including legislative initiatives, means a lot to veterans, active duty, reserve, and military families. Well Done TCC Chapter! As quoted from the link: "MOAA's ongoing work to hold the line on service-earned benefits has resulted in a 19th-straight appearance on the annual Top Lobbyist list published Dec. 11 by *The Hill*, a leading Washington, D.C., news outlet." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/recommended-reads/moaa-again-recognized-as-a-top-lobbyist-by-the-hill/>

Friends: There are a number of bipartisan bills in Congress that if passed would strengthen protections and benefits for women servicemembers and veterans. I encourage you to go to this link and make your voices heard. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/153532/>

"Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a benefit for survivors of those who die in service or from service-connected conditions—lags behind other federal survivor benefits. DIC provides only 43% of what a 100% **service**-disabled veteran receives. Civilian federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of the employee's calculated retirement pay. This inequity leaves military survivors with less support than their civilian counterparts, despite the sacrifices their loved ones made in service to our country.

Contact your lawmaker today and them to champion this bill and push for its passage."

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/110754/>

H.R.3944 - Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026 119th Congress (2025-2026) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3944>

Go here for more good stuff: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/> Thanks, Barry N. Moore



### **SECRETARY - Mary Laverdure:**

"In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws Amendments - "Each elected officer shall have a designated assistant to assure a smooth continuation of Chapter functions in the event of an unforeseen absence or resignation."

Please contact me if you are interested.



### **TREASURER – Tom Gatewood:**

#### **2026 Annual Dues Billing**

The annual dues for Regular Members for the next calendar year (2026) has been determined by the membership at the annual November 2025 meeting after receiving the Board's recommendation on the matter. Annual dues are \$45 (per year)! They were due NLT 31 December 2025 but may still be paid without penalty.

The timely payment of annual dues by members of Tarheel central Chapter MOAA is required to maintain your membership in good standing. It is one of the primary obligations and responsibilities of membership.



**A Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA pay portal has been established with an online service called "Cheddar Up".** This is the preferred collection point for Dues, Dinner and Donations payments. **The Link to Cheddar Up is** : <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-member-collection-67809/items>

Mailed in payments or payments at the door will still be accepted.

**2026 February Dinner Reservations:** See the reservation form at the end for important details! Reservations may be made by calling into (336) 682-1419 and sending checks to me:

Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA  
% Tom Gatewood  
3004 Kinnamon Rd  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104  
[gatewoodhughey@aol.com](mailto:gatewoodhughey@aol.com)

Telephone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. The contact information is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – George Lawson:**



Our member roster currently stands at 90. Join me in welcoming Robert and Lisa Weiss our newest members. Two additional new member candidates are being actively recruited this month. If they decide to join, please offer them a warm TCC MOAA welcome. Reminder - Wearing your military apparel is an effective recruiting tool and the easiest way to start a conversation. The Membership Committee is continuing to recruit new Committee members for 2026. If you are interested, please contact George Lawson or any Committee member. Those members are: Pam Angle, George Lawson Chair, Alan Nealeans, Joe Rogers, Hank Rudge, Mark Stanek, Laurie Wesely, Wes Whittaker, Ted Robinson, and Chuck Riehl.

Robinson, and Chuck Riehl.

The February Membership Committee meeting (brown bag lunch) will be held on Monday, February 09, 2026, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM at the Clemmons Branch Library, 6365 James St., Clemmons, NC 72012. If you would like to know more about what we do and/or would like to attend the meeting, please call George Lawson, Chair at (803) 439-4818.

**Evite Action Item:** MOAA February Dinner reservations will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, February 5th. Due to Salem Glen CC considerations, reservations (RSVP) CANNOT be accepted after Thursday, February 5th at 5:30 PM. You must have an Evite RSVP reservation to attend the Chapter's 2026 February Dinner, Tuesday, February 10th, beginning at 5:00 PM at Salem Glen CC. Note: If you choose to use the convenient online 02/10/26 dinner and the 2026 Annual Membership fee payment options, the Cheddar Up TCC February dinner and Annual Membership invoice URL link is attached below:

<https://2025-member-collection-67809.cheddarup.com> military apparel is an effective recruiting tool and the easiest way to start a conversation.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHAIR - I.B. Southerland:** The JROTC Scholarship selection process for our 2026 selectees will begin in January 2026. **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.





**WEBMASTER - Tom Denegre:**

See our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>

**Don't Forget ... RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE!** held at all Regular Dinner Meetings where you could win 10 times what you put into the pot. Tickets are \$1 and \$5 for six. So don't forget to bring some cash to dinner.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED –**  
**CONTACT:**  
**PHIL BRISCOE !**

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** Our speaker for 10 FEB is Jeannette Davidson Mayer, Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Jeannette, a 19-year Hidden Hero, advocates our American Heroes and fellow military and veteran caregivers. She founded our Central Command Post in 2018 after writing a book on homes for caregivers facing the "ever-changing daily new normal" of caring for her veteran who sustained multiple traumatic brain injuries while serving in Iraq in 2005. Growing up in

locations across the western United States due to her mother's Air Force career, this is her first experience living in the East, yet she considers all of America her hometown. Jeannette's commitment to volunteering is reflected in her involvement with non-profit organizations and community leadership, earning her distinguished President's Volunteer Awards. Passionate about the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, she actively participates in several committees and organizations focused on changing the narrative around intimate partner and domestic violence. "We're not alone in this journey," she emphasizes. In her free time, Jeannette loves visiting her daughters and playing with her grandsons over ice cream. Hiking and tending to her flower beds offer her outdoor therapy, along with games like UNO and Skip-Bo. Game on!

**CY 2026 Scheduled Speakers so far:**

- 13 JAN: Charlie Tutt, Vietnam (was very good).
- 10 FEB: Jeannette Davidson Mayer, Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- 10 MAR: Dena Kilgore, CAE, MOAA Nat'l
- 14 APR: Jason Ford, My "miraculous recovery/challenge"
- 12 MAY: Dr. Bill Parton, US Revolutionary War
- 14 JUL: Summer Social
- 08 SEP: Alison Huber: Honor Flight
- 13 OCT: TBA
- 10 NOV: TBA
- 08 DEC: Christmas Dinner Dance

Submitted by Jason Ford.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED –**  
**CONTACT:**  
**PHIL BRISCOE !**

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS:**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

- Mabry (Bud) Martin 2/7
- Alvin (Al) Chandler 2/13
- John Palmer 2/13
- Raymond (Ray) Ragusky 2/13

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS** – We celebrate those who have recently been listed on our Concerns and Prayers list, but who have recovered from either their illness or accident; we thank our Creator for that blessing.

**CONCERNS AND PRAYERS LIST**

- George Angle - Prayers for a Complete Recovery
- Dennis Ammons - Prayers for a Complete Recovery

- Jerry Johnson - Continued Improvement
- Debra Houck - Sister Very Ill

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED –**  
**CONTACT:**  
**PHIL BRISCOE !**

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:**

- The VA's Office of Survivors Assistance has moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- The VA has created a "white glove" survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims process.

- The VA has begun work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

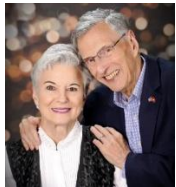
<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-announces-major-survivor-benefits-reforms/>

Input by Jackie Kohler!



**PUBLIC RELATIONS - Al Nealeans:** Our enthusiastic promoter of chapter public relations gets the word out to the Winston Salem Journal, Clemmons Courier and WXII News. So, if you know any additional avenues for publicity, please contact him at: Alan Nealeans, 336-403-5254 or [alan.nealeans@yahoo.com](mailto:alan.nealeans@yahoo.com)

**SOCIAL SECRETARY - Warren Boyer:**



Call 336 407-2374 if you have input.

**"KEEP ON SERVING!" Please help fill the following vacancies:**

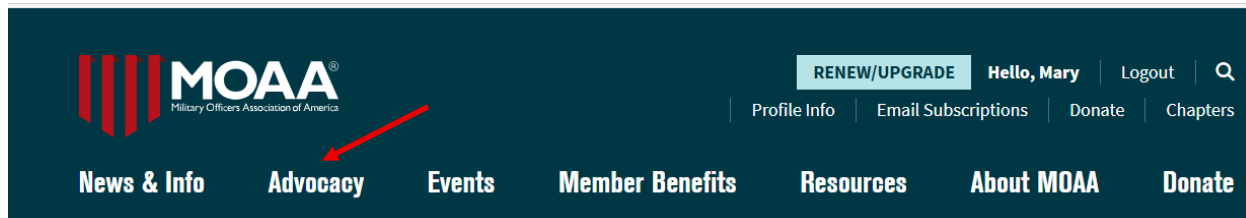
ELECTED OFFICERS			
PRESIDENT		Miller	Tom
1st VP		Ferketish	Mark
2nd VP / LEGISLATIVE LIAISON		Moore	Barry
ASSISTANT		VACANT	
SECRETARY		Laverdure	Mary
ASSISTANT		VACANT	
TREASURER		Gatewood	Tom
ASSISTANT		VACANT	
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT		Briscoe	Phil
DIRECTORS			
DIRECTOR / SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE		Southerland	I.B.
ASSISTANT		Chandler	Al
DIRECTOR / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE		Lawson	George
ASSISTANT		VACANT	
DIRECTOR / PROGRAMS COMMITTEE		VACANT	

ASSISTANT		VACANT	
DIRECTOR / SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON		VACANT	
DIRECTOR		Denegre	Tom
DIRECTOR		VACANT	
CHAPTER ASSISTANTS			
CHAPLAIN		Lennon	Dennis
PERSONAL AFFAIRS		VACANT	
SOCIAL SECRETARY		Boyer	Warren
NEWS LETTER EDITOR		Chase	Greg
COSTANT CONTACT		VACANT	
SOCIAL MEDIA		Denegre	Tom
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LIAISON		Moore	Barry
CHEDDAR UP ADMINISTRATOR		VACANT	
JROTC PROGRAMS		Chandler	AI
CHAPTER ROSTER (CR)		Rudge	Hank
PUBLIC RELATIONS		Nealeans	AI
CALL CHAIN COORDINATOR		VACANT	

Please contact Phil Briscoe, Past President, at (757) 650-2034, and help us be a better Chapter in 2026!

## Instructions for Using MOAA Advocacy Tool


1. Login to MOAA.org with your username and password.



2. Choose the Advocacy tab.
3. Choose Legislative Action Center



4. You will see “Featured Advocacy Campaigns”.



All Active CampaignsMOAA-Supported LegislationReport Your MeetingsMore Advocacy NewsFAQsReturn to MOAA.orgHello, Ma

## Featured Advocacy Campaigns

Address MTF Access ProblemsWrite

Protect Servicemember Pay During a ShutdownWrite

## MOAA's Advocacy By Issue Area



5. Below shows choice made from the list after choosing DoD Health Care

### Improve Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families

The Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act would improve access to vital prenatal care for military families by designating pregnancy as a qualifying life event (QLE) under TRICARE.

Write

6. Pick your options from that topic.


## Improve Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families

802 actions taken

98 needed to reach next goal

The Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act that would create a pilot designating pregnancy as a TRICARE qualifying life event (QLE) allowing beneficiaries to switch from TRICARE Prime to Select (or vice versa) outside of the open enrollment period to ensure they have access to prenatal care that meets their needs.

### Act Now!



Mary Laverdure  
2839 Westridge Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, USA

Update

Edit and review letters before submitting to officials

House Please Cosponsor

Senate Please Cosponsor

Officials (1)

Note these are NOT anonymous and there are numerous choices for action.

**Hero of the Month:** On Tue, Jan 20, 2026, 12:16 AM Sgt. Brown <sgtdgbrown@aol.com> wrote:





Surrounded by 10,000 Chinese soldiers in -35°F cold, 240 Marines held a frozen mountain pass for five days. Their commander's only order: "Hold the line." They did—and saved an entire division. November 27, 1950. North Korea. Chosin Reservoir. Captain William "Bill" Barber led Company F, 7th Marines to a barren hilltop called Fox Hill, overlooking Toktong Pass—a critical mountain road the Marines needed to survive. His orders were simple: Hold this position. Don't let the Chinese cut off the pass. What nobody told him was that over 10,000 Chinese troops were about to try killing every Marine on that hill. Bill Barber was already a combat veteran. He'd fought at Iwo Jima in World War II, seen the worst warfare could offer. Nothing prepared him for Chosin. On November 28th, as temperatures plunged to -35°F, the Chinese attacked. Not hundreds. Thousands. Wave after wave of Chinese infantry swarmed Fox Hill, trying to overrun Barber's 240 Marines and cut the pass. Bugles blared. Whistles shrieked. The enemy came in human waves, willing to absorb massive

casualties to take that hill. Barber's Marines held. Then it got worse. The temperature kept dropping. Windchill hit minus -54°F. Weapons froze. Medical supplies froze. Blood froze in wounds before corpsmen could bandage them. Frostbite claimed fingers and toes. Men lost extremities just from holding frozen metal. Some Marines couldn't pull triggers because their hands wouldn't work anymore. Supplies ran out. Ammunition dwindled. Food was gone. Medical supplies exhausted. And the Chinese kept attacking. For five days and five nights, outnumbered more than 40-to-1, Barber's company held Fox Hill. Captain Barber was wounded twice—shot in the hip and leg. He refused evacuation. Instead, he crawled to a machine gun position and manned it himself, firing into advancing Chinese forces while bleeding and unable to walk. Between attacks, he moved among his Marines—dragging himself through snow and blood—shouting encouragement, checking positions, refusing to let morale break. "Hold the line!" he roared through frozen air. "We're Marines! We hold!" His men were dying. Wounded were stacked in frozen shelters because there was nowhere else to put them. Some Marines were fighting despite frostbite so severe they'd lose limbs when—if—they made it out. But they didn't break. Because if Fox Hill fell, the entire 1st Marine Division—8,000 Marines surrounded at Yudam-ni—would be cut off and destroyed. The Chinese knew it. Barber knew it. So Fox Company held.

Down the road, the rest of the 1st Marine Division was fighting their way out of encirclement in what would become the most famous fighting retreat in Marine Corps history. But they couldn't break out without Toktong Pass. And Toktong Pass belonged to Bill Barber. On December 2nd, relief finally arrived. Other Marine units fought through to Fox Hill and found Barber's company still holding—barely. Of the original 240 Marines, only about 80 could still walk. The rest were dead, wounded, or crippled by frostbite. But they'd held the pass. Because of Fox Company's stand, the 1st Marine Division broke out of Chosin encirclement. Thousands of Marines who would have been cut off and destroyed made it out alive. The Battle of Chosin Reservoir became legend—not as a victory, but as proof of what Marines could endure. Surrounded. Outnumbered. Freezing. Cut off. They didn't surrender. They didn't retreat. They fought their way out and brought their wounded with them. On August 20, 1952, Captain William Barber was awarded the Medal of Honor.

At the ceremony, he said something that became part of Marine Corps legend: "We held because we were Marines." No elaborate explanation. No heroic speech. Just a simple truth about who they were and what that meant. But here's the part that makes this story different from so many war stories: Bill Barber survived. He didn't die heroically on Fox Hill. He didn't succumb to wounds or frostbite. He came home. He lived a full life. He married, raised a family, and lived until 2002 — 52 years after Chosin. And for those 52 years, he told his story. To younger Marines. To students. To anyone who'd listen. Not to glorify war. But to teach what courage, leadership, and brotherhood actually mean when everything is stripped away except the choice to stand or run. The Marines still call Chosin "the greatest battle in Marine Corps history." Not because they won. Technically, it was a retreat. The Chinese pushed them back. But it's considered the greatest because of what it revealed: Marines don't leave their brothers behind. Not wounded. Not

dead. Not ever. At Chosin, surrounded by overwhelming force in killing cold, they proved that principle wasn't just a saying. It was worth dying for. And Bill Barber—wounded, frozen, outnumbered 40-to-1—showed them how. He manned a machine gun while unable to walk. He rallied men who were dying. He held a frozen hill for five days because thousands of Marines depended on him. And then he lived long enough to make sure no one forgot what happened there. Today, Fox Hill is hallowed ground in Marine Corps history. The stand Bill Barber led is taught at military academies worldwide as an example of impossible defensive leadership. His Medal of Honor citation says he "contributed materially to the breakthrough of the encircled 1st Marine Division." That's military language for: He saved thousands of lives. From Iwo Jima in World War II to Fox Hill in Korea, William Barber embodied the Marine Corps ethos: adapt, overcome, and never abandon your brothers. He didn't just survive the coldest nights. He showed an entire generation of Marines how to endure them. "We held because we were Marines." Five words that explain everything about Fox Hill, Chosin Reservoir, and the man who refused to let that frozen pass fall. Captain William Earl Barber (1919-2002): Iwo Jima veteran. Fox Hill defender. Medal of Honor recipient. The Marine who held the line when 10,000 enemy soldiers and -35°F cold tried to break it. He held. His Marines held. And thousands came home because of it.

**Personal Note from Barry Moore:** Great history! A longtime friend of mine, the late Patrick T. McGahn, was a platoon commander of B 1/5 during Chosin. His platoon repulsed so many Chinese attacks "...at the end we were shooting the few rounds we had left and a few of my guys were throwing rocks at them too, at least the few rocks that weren't frozen tight..." Patty had been repeatedly wounded, but he and his guys held their space assigned. Recommended for the MOH, but instead received the Navy Cross. He invited me to one of his battalion's reunions in 1990, which was being held at one of Trump's Atlantic City casinos (Patty was one of Trump's attorneys). I was on recruiting duty, out of Philadelphia at that time. The stories I heard just sitting back and listening would make a book.

This is a short summation on Patrick: [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49254010/patrick\\_t-mcgahn](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49254010/patrick_t-mcgahn)

This is a pretty good writeup on Chosin: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Chosin\\_Reservoir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chosin_Reservoir)

Great stuff, great heroes, great Marines. R/Barry

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



**Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc.**



## MOAA AND TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Former ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Surviving Spouse

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ C

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone -Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Member Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone - Land \_\_\_\_\_  
(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to  
receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.**



And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. Visit <https://www.moaa.org/join> to learn more.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Circle one: YES NO

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

### To complete enrollment:

- **Print and fill out this form** and email it to: Chapter Membership Chair, George Lawson: [galaws71@gmail.com](mailto:galaws71@gmail.com), as an attachment.
- To pay your annual dues, either mail your check for \$45.00 made out to TCC MOAA to: Treasurer, 3004 Kinnamon Rd., Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27104, or
- Go to <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-member-collection-67809/items> - the Chapter payment portal, and select annual dues.

For more information, please go to the Chapter website: [www.tarheelmoaa.org](http://www.tarheelmoaa.org)

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and the Tarheel Central Chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.

Our Chapter is open to all active, reserve, retired, veteran and former (Warrant - Flag) officers of the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA and US Public Health Service, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

### **Chapter membership and dues information:**

#### Affiliations:

- North Carolina Council of Chapters  
<https://www.moaa-nc.org>
- MOAA, Inc.  
<http://www.moaa.org>

A Chapter Dinner Meeting is held the 2nd Tues of each month (Sept – May). Our Social Hour begins at 5:00 PM, followed by dinner and a program at Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Dr, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Dress: "Business Casual"  
Chapter Dues: \$45/year

**Tarheel Central Chapter**

**DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

**Cheddar Up reservations, indicated by Dinner payment on Cheddar Up, Telephone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>; Salem Glen needs the reservation guarantee early so the correct amount of food can be ordered for delivery in time for the dinner on the following Tuesday.**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthday (DD/MMM – Member ONLY)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guests Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**At \$25 each:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Add Scholarship/Worthy Cause Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Add CY2025 Dues at \$45:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make all checks payable to: Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA**

**Call Reservations into (336) 682-1419 and Send Checks to Treasurer:**

Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA  
% Tom Gatewood  
3004 Kinnamon Rd  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104  
[gatewoodhughey@aol.com](mailto:gatewoodhughey@aol.com)



## **THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) MISSION:**



**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, 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](https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx) ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

### **As of Jan 29, 2026:**

#### **This Week's Top 5 >**

##### **What a Partial Shutdown Could Mean for Servicemembers, Retirees, Veterans, and Families**

Another funding deadline creates more uncertainty for the total force.

##### **1 Visit, 2 Copays? MOAA Helps Fix Inaccurate TRICARE Claims**

Eligible beneficiaries will receive an account credit or refund. Here's what you should know.

##### **Where Servicemembers, Veterans Can Get Free Tax Prep Help**

Online and in-person resources are available.

##### **New Patient Advocate Tool Will Improve Military Health Care Experience ... But It's Not a Full Fix for Access Issues**

MOAA supports a systemwide platform for patients to report concerns.

Member Spotlight >>

##### **'It's All About Unity': CALMOAA President on Advocacy Success**

Capt. Ramona Chávez, USAF (Ret), helped secure statewide tax relief for uniformed services retirees.

### **As of Jan 22, 2026:**

#### **This Week's Top 5 >**

##### **MOAA's 2026 Legislative Priorities**

These five bills will make a difference for those who serve and have served, and their families. Find out how you can join the fight.

##### **Halftime Report: MOAA Advocacy Wins in the 119th Congress**

From the NDAA to veterans programs and more, we are holding the line for your earned benefits.

##### **New Coalition Forms to Fight 'Wounded Veterans Tax'**

MOAA is a proud founding member of the Star Act Alliance.

##### **MOLD Act Would Protect Military Families From Hazardous Housing Conditions**

Learn how you can lend your support to the bipartisan bill.

#### **Member Spotlight >>**

##### **MOAA Chapter Fights Food Insecurity Among Local Veterans**

Ozark Regional Chapter members volunteer at a food bank that gives out hundreds of boxes of food a month to veterans and their families.

### **2026 MOAA Signature Group 9-night Western Europe Yacht Cruise October 1-10, 2026 | Dublin to Porto**

Learn more at: [https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/Atlas/?\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_0-TG8wSHIE9i9xXJwzLEloBzLmxVLOH-NbepdCd2R7ZS\\_sDAh0LIVYUNNKPr8WLR4-cOpqBpJFvCkYO4AWh5tXaP4ug&\\_hsmi=398122902](https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/Atlas/?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_0-TG8wSHIE9i9xXJwzLEloBzLmxVLOH-NbepdCd2R7ZS_sDAh0LIVYUNNKPr8WLR4-cOpqBpJFvCkYO4AWh5tXaP4ug&_hsmi=398122902)

**Provided by NC Council of Chapters - Fran Perez-Wilhite - 704.681.4659. Please do NOT confuse state owned and operated veteran cemeteries versus VA National Cemeteries.**

Source: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-provides-over-77-million-in-grants-to-state-veterans-cemeteries/>

**VA provides over \$77 million in grants to state Veterans cemeteries**

[Note: This article has been truncated to show only NC benefits.]

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded more than \$77 million in grants in fiscal year 2025 for the expansion and improvement of 20 state Veterans cemeteries throughout the nation and one establishment grant for Alaska’s first state Veterans cemetery.

VA’s National Cemetery Administration reimburses states for the cost of building, improving, or expanding state-run Veterans cemeteries. State grants typically fund the construction of pre-placed crypts, columbaria, and improvements required to continue interments and operations.

In FY 2025, VA grant-funded cemeteries interred more than 43,705 Veterans and eligible family members, which is approximately 25% of the 174,705 total annual interments in all national and VA grant-funded Veterans cemeteries.

Since 1980, VA has awarded grants totaling over \$1.1 billion to 124 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states, 14 tribal nations, and 3 territories (Guam, Saipan, and Puerto Rico). In partnership with VA’s 157 national cemeteries, these State, Territorial, and Tribal Veterans Cemeteries ensure more than 94% of all Veterans living in the United States have access to a Veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their home.

“Veterans cemeteries keep the memories of America’s heroes alive,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “Under President Trump, VA is committed to ensuring America’s Veterans cemeteries have the resources they need to provide excellent memorial benefits and services to our nation’s Veterans and their families, and these grants underscore that fact.”

The grants are as follows (only showing NC):

**\$657,855 for the expansion of Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in North Carolina. The cemetery serves more than 290,000 Veterans and their eligible family members.**

**\$811,353 for the expansion of Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in North Carolina. The cemetery serves more than 134,000 Veterans and their eligible family members.**

**\$3,393,863 for the expansion of Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in North Carolina. VA will also reimburse the state \$1,873,248 for the cost of fabrication and delivery of outer burial receptacles used for the project. The cemetery serves more than 257,000 Veterans and their eligible family members.**

Veterans interred in most VA-grant funded cemeteries are also memorialized on VA’s Veterans Legacy Memorial site. This allows family, friends, and others to preserve their Veteran’s legacy by posting tributes, uploading images, and sharing their Veteran’s achievements, biographical information, and historical documents. Learn more about VA’s burial benefits and memorial services or watch this video.

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