



# Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA



## The Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2025, Issue 1, JAN 2, 2025

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>

**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.**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** With a New Year upon us it is time to count our blessings and look to the future. It is a blessing to have Jason Ford at the helm of the Programs Committee. Those at the November Dinner Meeting, our last for 2024, were once again not disappointed with Jason Ford's concerted efforts recruiting excellent guest speakers. I know the future will bring more. If you know of a speaker that would be of interest to the chapter members the Programs Committee is always open to suggestions. And as always, we ended 2024 in style with an excellent Christmas Dinner Dance. That get together in and of itself is a blessing. Tarheel Central Chapter is growing, and I count that as another blessing. The Membership Committee with Ted Robinson at the helm is yet another blessing for the chapter. With everyone's assistance we will continue to bring in new members and extend to them the fellowship that you found when you became a member. Your Board of Directors has set two goals concerning membership for 2025: First, for the chapter to grow by 18 new members and Second, a personal goal for



themselves, that each BOD member bring in one new member this year. So, that leaves 8 new members for the rest of the chapter to recruit. I believe we all can do it. If you have not done so already mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 14 when the Tarheel Central Chapter Dinner Meeting kicks off our 48th year. I look forward to seeing you there!

Take Care and Beware

Phil Briscoe



**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 moto 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 inquires to [info@tarheelmoaa.org](mailto:info@tarheelmoaa.org).



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#### **TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER:**

**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 [gvchase@outlook.com](mailto:gvchase@outlook.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 & Legislative Affairs** – Barry N. Moore, MAJ, USMC (Ret)
- **Secretary** – Mary Laverdure, Capt USAF (Vet)
- **Treasurer** – Mike Chapman, CW4, ANG (Ret)
- **Immediate Past-President** - Gregory M. Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) (Nominations Committee) (Newsletter Editor)

### **Directors:**

1. Ted. Robinson, Col, USMC (Ret) (Membership Committee)
2. I.B. Southerland III, Maj USAF (Ret) (Scholarship/R-JROTC Program Committee)

3. Jason Ford, LT USN (Ret) (Programs Committee)
4. Thomas B. Denegre III, LCDR USNR (Vet) (Website/Social Media)
5. Mark Ferketish, Col USMC (Ret)
6. Dennis Ammons, 1Lt, USA (Vet) (Personal Affairs)

### **Chapter Assistants:**

- **Chaplain** – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
- **R-JROTC Programs** – Al Chandler, LTC (Ret)
- **Public Relations** – Al Nealeans, COL USA (Ret)
- **Social Secretary** – Warren Boyer, 1 Lt, USMCR (Vet)
- **Calling Tree** – Jerry Johnson, Col, USMCR (Ret)

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

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



### **From Tom Miller our 1st VP: MOAA REAL & VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Can My Military Family Afford College, Jan 14, 2025 at 1400-1530
- How MOAA Scholarship Fund Can Help You, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 1400-1500
- Understanding Your Guard and Reserve Benefits, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 1300-1530
- 2025 MOAA Charities Golf Tournament Potomac MD, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 0730-1539
- Archive of past MOAA Webinar training, various subjects, available at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/webinar-archive/> .

- For more info go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/moaa-events/> and register!
- NC Council of Chapters MOAA Convention at Sea cruise from Norfolk to Bermuda, Oct 12, 2025, information at <https://www.moaa-nc.org/journal/index.php?id=1723050859>



**Jason Ford, 2ndVP & Krista - NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:**

**Scheduled speakers:**

- a) JAN 14: Diane Dwan Poole, Capt. USA, Nurse Corps 1966-1971, 2 tours in Vietnam.
- b) FEB 11: Doug Marshall re: MEDICARE
- c) MAR 11: Charles Tutt, Col. USMCR (Ret.); also Ann Zuhr will present Vietnam Veterans pins to those who served and have not received one yet.
- d) April, May TBD

**DINNER MEETING** – We had a super time at the Christmas Dance at Salem Glen Country Club. The staff were at the top of their game. The beef loin was superb. And, Krista & Jason taught a few of us how to cut a mean rug to the tunes played by DJ - Rich Carle, Chief USN (Ret). We filled Phil’s car with presents for the vets at the Salisbury VA Hospital and added to the loot collected by our local Toys for Tots!

**First Regular Meeting of the New Year, Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Cocktail hour starts at 5:30, dinner buffet starts at 6:45, SALEM GLEN COUNTRY CLUB, 1000 GLEN DAY DR., CLEMMONS, N.C. \$25.00 a person. The dress is business casual. See the reservation form at the end for important details!** Reservations may be made by calling Jerry Johnson at (541) 280-5950 or [gaucho.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:gaucho.johnson@gmail.com).

**RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE!** Where you could win 10 times what you put into the pot. Tickets are \$1 and \$5 for six. So don't forget your cash. (Refunds to the house are not permitted)

Salem Glen is the venue for all our dinner meetings – the second Tuesday of the month! (Except June, July & August). Address: Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012-9560.



← Sign up to attend meetings with Jerry Johnson, aka The Roster Master, and Mike Chapman, Treasurer. Their contact info is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end. Thanks to all who donated to Marine Toys for Tots.



**Public Relations: Al Nealeans** (pictured with Karen at left) is our new and enthusiastic promoter of chapter public relations who 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)



**Mary Laverdure, Secretary**

"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.

**Mark Ferketish – Board Director** Fellow TCC Members, your fellow chapter members recently participated in a very moving event which I will share it with you.

**NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY** is a program of volunteers and organizations who sponsor wreath purchases and place these wreaths annually on the graves of deceased Veterans. National Wreaths Across America Day involves over 4,900 locations across the nation, at sea, and around the globe, laying many thousands of wreaths on this single day.



On December 14th Phil Briscoe, Tom Miller, Al and Karen Nealeans, Greg and Vina Chase, Brad Wood, Tom Denegre and Greta Gray, and Shannon and I attended a wreath laying ceremony. Other volunteers included civilians, veterans, and relatives of deceased Veterans. We all joined together to lay wreathes upon Veterans’ graves at Westlawn Gardens of Memory, in Clemmons, Winston-Salem. Elks Lodge #449 was the local sponsor of the wreath laying with Connie Baker as the onsite representative for Lodge #449.

Honoring our deceased Veterans with a Color Guard Ceremony was a formation of Civil Air Patrol Cadets, who are posted at Sugar Valley Composite Squadron, in Mocksville, NC.

Our TCC members who laid wreaths were very moved by the actions of the day, by laying a wreath at each grave and calling out the name of that Veteran as an additional recognition.

As Officers of the US Military, we are charged with taking care of our troops. Through Wreaths Across America, we have the opportunity to honor and care for our deceased Veterans through this noteworthy action of laying a wreath.

I invite you to save the date, Saturday, December 13, 2025, and plan to honor our deceased Veterans by joining in and laying a gravesite wreath next year.

Semper Fidelis, Col G. Mark Ferketish, USMCR (Ret)



**Tom Denegre – Webmaster, see our Facebook page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1285830908624290>



**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS:**

2024 was a “Very Good Year” for our Chapter membership growth. The most important measure of any organization’s success is increase in membership. The Tarheel Chapter gained 16 new members and lost 7 for a net gain of 9. We have enjoyed a conversion rate of approximately 75% - meaning 75% of prospective members introduced to the Chapter have become members. Thank you to all who have sponsored new members this year.

During November and December, your Membership Committee has identified eight new prospective members, and we anticipate another healthy membership year in 2025. Please remember, however, it takes all of us to “keep our lights on” for military officers who would make good Tarheel Central Chapter members. Wearing your military apparel is the best way to do this.

Formal membership recruitment is conducted by the Membership Committee, and each Committee member is available to assist you when you meet a prospect. The Committee members are: Dennis Ammons, Pam Angle, Jerry Johnson, Alan Nealeans, Joe Rogers, Hank Rudge, Mark Stanek, Laurie Wesely, and Ted Robinson, Chair.

**The January Membership Committee meeting will be held on Monday January 13, 2025, for lunch from 12:30 – 2:00 PM at Salem Glen CC. All members are welcome to attend.**

Please contact Committee Chair Ted Robinson at (478) 719-7596 or [tedrobinson128@gmail.com](mailto:tedrobinson128@gmail.com).

**TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER DUES:** Dues were approved for \$45 per year. Invoices have gone out. Please call Mike Chapman at (919) 601-3800 if you have any questions.

**MOAA / CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM:**

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. 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. Or go to our Chapter website at: <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/about/>

**SOCIAL SECRETARY:**



Your Social Secretary is Warren Boyer, 336 407-2374

CANADIAN BRASS! 35th Anniversary Celebration! February 15, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Wait Chapel, Wake Forest University

2 hours, including intermission, an extraordinary celebration of Piedmont Wind Symphony's 35 Anniversary Season, featuring the most famous brass quintet in the world. Canadian Brass will take the stage to perform some of their most exciting and beloved

pieces alongside the symphony. Get Tickets at: <https://triad-city-beat.evnt.events/events/canadian-brass-with-piedmont-wind-symphony-2-15-2025>

Conductor Emeritus Rob Simon will make a triumphant return to lead the ensemble, joined by alumni who have performed with the symphony over the last 35 years. Piedmont Wind Symphony, Mark A. Norman Artistic Director / Conductor; Rob Simon Guest Conductor.

Warren Boyer, [wboyer7210@gmail.com](mailto:wboyer7210@gmail.com), 336 407-2374

**SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS: CHAPTER ASSISTANT NEEDED.** 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:**



I.B. Southerland, Chair - The JROTC Scholarship selection process for our 2025 selectees will begin in January 2025.

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.



**ROTC/JROTC Programs:** Al Chandler. On 23 Nov 24, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools JROTC Department hosted a JROTC air rifle match at West Forsyth High School. The competition included Army/Navy/Marine & Air Force JROTC teams within the Tarheel Chapters ROTC/JROTC support area. **The Central Tarheel Chapter** aided in sponsoring & supporting the competition by making a one-time donation to support and augment the cost associated with the competition trophies awarded. See: <https://sites.google.com/view/wsfcs-jrotc/teams> and click on the Rifle Team.

### 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.**

**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 / 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/>

### CHAPTER PERSONAL AFFAIRS



Please notify Dennis Ammons, Personal Affairs officer, if you hear that a member or spouse is having difficulties. Dennis A. Ammons, [dennis.a.ammons@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.a.ammons@gmail.com); 336 491-4123.

#### **THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS LIST:**

- Peter Armstrong - Mother-in-law very ill**
- Carey Brown (John Brown) - Serious Illness**
- Barb Carter (Jere Carter) - Serious Illness**
- Greg Bean - Accident**
- RC Moore - Death of Spouse, Nancy**
- Dale Wallace - Death of Spouse, Howard**

#### **A LIVELY HAPPY BIRTHDAY APPLAUSE TO:**

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



### Birthdays for January:

Charles Massler	1/7
Warren Boyer	1/9
IB Southerland	1/11
Tim Jordan	1/16
Chris Lyon	1/20
Tom Miller	1/26
Norm Pridgen	1/27

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: CHAPTER ASSISTANTS NEEDED.** Please contact Greg Chase (Nominations Committee) if you are interested in assisting Barry Moore, our new 2nd VP. Your input on STATE or NATIONAL Legislative Affairs would be appreciated. Activities include tracking state or national 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.

**NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (NCCOC):** Current contact for NC state legislative affairs is **Tricia A. Vinson, LTC(R), Army**, MOAA NCCOC 3rd VP State Legislation, [Wing23pav@gmail.com](mailto:Wing23pav@gmail.com); 757-617-3343.



**NCCOC Top Priorities for State Legislature:** Please note, we recognize there may be overlap between the priorities, but that is due to emphasis and done on purpose. We actually had 5 top priorities, rather than three, although 2 and 3 actually can be listed together since both fit under the DMVA and their budget and 4 & 5 are actually connected and could be listed as a single priority.

- 1. Updating Veteran Property Tax Exemptions:** Revisiting eligibility criteria for property tax relief based on disability ratings, home value caps, surviving spouse qualifications, and other considerations. This has consistently been a top concern for our chapter members. Veteran property tax exemptions (usually based on percentage of disability rating, but relook eligibility criteria, amount of home value/full or partial tax exemption, surviving spouse qualification, age criteria, etc.). This can also include the Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption if that bill is resubmitted, so this is not just limited to real estate, but that is the primary focus.
- 2. Veteran State Homes Program Improvements:** Addressing management and funding for the five state-managed homes, including the unexpected closure of the Fayetteville home earlier this year. Key areas include How they are managed, what is to be done with the home in Fayetteville, how the State home trust is managed, and will the homes be expanded or funds provided to veterans to other homes within the state structure can all be under this umbrella.
- 3. DMVA Budget and Priorities:** Veteran Cemetery operational management, VSO support state-wide/salary commiserate with other departments, restoring the Veteran Trust Fund to its original purpose, & not general-purpose veteran project fund, Veteran cemetery trust fund perpetual care support from the state, and similar needs. As a subset of state veteran programs and due to the Hurricane Helene storm damage: WNC Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) Rebuild: Sec. Martin has inspected with Gov. Cooper the destroyed VRQ and has it on his list for getting repaired/fixed. Supporting the rebuilding efforts for the VRQ in Asheville, which was destroyed during Helene, displacing approximately 200 male homeless veterans. Contributions from organizations like Lowe's, Team Rubicon, and Veteran's Bridge Home have jumpstarted this effort, and it remains a critical local priority for WNC. The WNC-MOAA chapter supports the VRQ in many ways, to include help in the kitchen and with serving food, etc.. We believe this will be on the Department of Military Veteran Affairs' (DMVA) priorities list that has to support veterans across the state.



4. **Occupational Certification Portability & Economic Opportunities for Military/Veterans/Spouses:** Enhancing state-level occupational licensing portability and supporting interstate compacts, which benefit active-duty personnel, veterans, and their family's seeking employment in North Carolina. We have been working these for several years and suggest supporting any compacts, etc. that support this effort. This is one of DSLO's top 10 priority efforts.
5. **Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) Priorities:** Supporting initiatives like aligning state laws with federal policies (Title 10 & 38 CFR), Space Force recognition, make NC compatible with other states/federal policies for eligibility of benefits. Also includes remote driver license & vehicle license. Renewal; military family special needs, military family childcare, military interpersonal violence and family antidiscrimination status.

For any questions or clarification, please contact Patricia A. Vinson, LTC(R), USA, MOAA NCCOC, VP State Legislative Advocacy, [Wing23pav@gmail.com](mailto:Wing23pav@gmail.com), 757-617-3343.



**The MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Donna Culp** (on the cover of this month's MOAA Magazine!) is available for veterans to apply for crisis relief due to **Hurricane Helene (September 27, 2024)**. NOT a loan, these are grants that can be approved for up to \$1,000 per individual / family applying. The purpose of this email is to provide a source of information to pass along to veterans who have been directly affected by **Hurricane Helene** and could benefit from some financial assistance. All you need to do is provide the following information for the veteran to apply to the MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Program at: <https://moaacharities.smapply.us> This link will provide the eligibility criteria and instruction guide. Applicants don't have to be members of MOAA and is available to currently serving (including National Guard

and Reserve, spouses of currently serving, veterans (with honorable discharge), surviving spouses (whose spouse held an honorable discharge), and caregivers of the same who are experiencing financial setback due to an unexpected current crisis. Open to all ranks and U.S. uniformed services.

The crisis in which an applicant is submitting an application for must have occurred no more than 6 months prior to the date of the application submission. Financial assistance is intended to cover:

- Housing (rent, mortgage, housing assistance, repairs, etc.)
- Auto loan/lease/car repair
- Utilities (electric, water, heat, internet/cable, cell phone, groceries)
- Credit card bills
- Medical bills
- Insurance bills
- Miscellaneous (must specify on the application)

\*\* Will not assist with legal fees or child support payments. All information and registration portal are available at: <https://moaacharities.smapply.us> Please email [relief@moaa.org](mailto:relief@moaa.org) or call the MOAA Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely, Donna Culp, Capt. USAF (Former); Immediate Past President, WNC Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Education Committee Chair, NCCOC (North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC) 252-548-2265; [cmomwow@yahoo.com](mailto:cmomwow@yahoo.com)

**SET SAIL FOR PARADISE WITH MOAA: EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS ON A 6-DAY BERMUDA GETAWAY! Calling all MOAA members and loved ones!** Get ready to trade in your landlubber life for crystal-clear waters and pink sand beaches with this exclusive offer on a **6-Day Bermuda Cruise from Norfolk, departing on October 12th, 2025.**

**Here's why you won't want to miss this:**

- **Early Bird Savings:** Be among the first to snag a cabin and enjoy special group rates with Carnival Cruise Line! (MOAA membership not required for participation)
- **Sunshine State of Mind:** Set sail aboard the magnificent Carnival Sunshine, offering world-class amenities and entertainment for all ages.
- **Island Paradise Awaits:** Immerse yourself in the beauty of Bermuda with its stunning scenery, vibrant culture, and historical charm.
- **Something for Everyone:** From snorkeling in crystal-clear coves to exploring historical sites, Bermuda offers activities for every kind of traveler.
- **Choose Your Perfect Cabin:**
- **Cozy Comfort:** Inside staterooms start at just \$800 per person (double occupancy)
- **Oceanfront Bliss:** Unwind in an ocean view stateroom for \$900 per person
- **Balcony Bliss:** Enjoy the fresh sea air and breathtaking views from your private balcony for \$1100 per person
- **Suites & More:** Looking for extra space or traveling with a larger group? We can accommodate your needs!
- **Booking is Easy!** Secure your spot on this unforgettable adventure with a minimal deposit. Plus, final payments aren't due until July 14th, 2025!

**Contact Lorna Tiller, our dedicated travel agent:**

Call: 910-343-1978 (Office) or 910-540-3390 (Mobile)

Email: ltillertravels@gmail.com

**Limited cabins available! Reserve yours today!**

**Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to explore Bermuda with MOAA!**

**P.S.** Share this with your family and friends - they're welcome to join the fun too! (MOAA membership not required)

### **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.

### **ACTIVE LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS**

1. Support TRICARE Pregnancy QLE in FY 2025 NDAA - MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC) are working to improve access to prenatal care with a provision in the FY 2025 NDAA that would create a pilot designating pregnancy as a qualifying life event (QLE) under TRICARE.
2. Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Important NDAA Provisions - Urge your lawmakers to support key provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that enhance the well-being of servicemembers and their families, including pay raises, improved housing, better child care, and expanded health care benefits.
3. Fix the TRICARE Coverage Gap for an FDA-Approved Alzheimer's Treatment - Urge your legislators to address TRICARE's non-coverage of Leqembi, an FDA-approved treatment for Alzheimer's disease.
4. Urge Congress to Support a Substantial Pay Raise of our Junior Enlisted Troops - Contact your lawmakers and urge them to support the junior enlisted pay raise in the House

version of the National Defense Authorization Act to provide meaningful financial relief for the most vulnerable members of our military.

5. Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers - MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%. Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers and we need to ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration.
6. Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt for Combat-Injured - Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their full DoD retirement pay earned for years of service and their full VA disability compensation for lifelong injury.
7. Urge Your Legislators to Support the Military Spouse Hiring Act - Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Military Spouse Hiring Act which will incentivize businesses to hire military spouses.
8. Urge Your Elected Officials To Support Comprehensive VA Health Care - The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) will expand essential VA services, improve support for caregivers, ensure access to assisted living services, and provide better resources for surviving spouses. Congress must act now to make this legislation a reality for our nation's veterans.
9. Share Your Story: Impact of TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes - Will you be impacted when community pharmacies leave the TRICARE network? Please share your story.
10. Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap - This bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.
11. Support Military Family Access to Children's Hospitals - MOAA and The Military Coalition are working to preserve access to care for families who need it most.
12. Support Improved Access to Maternal Mental Health Care within the Military Health System - Urge your legislators to support the Maintaining our Obligation to Moms who Serve (MOMS) Act, a bipartisan bill that would establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and impact of providing evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention programs for pregnant and postpartum uniformed servicemembers and beneficiaries within military treatment facilities (MTFs).
13. Ask Your House Member to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act - Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your House member and urge them to support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act.
14. Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the READINESS Act - Contact your lawmakers and urge them to support the READINESS Act to enhance policy protections for military spouses employed by the federal government.

**It's easy! Go to this website and [TAKE ACTION: https://moaa.quorum.us/](https://moaa.quorum.us/)**

**Exclusive Discounts for MOAA Members** - Members save year-round on shipping, storage, and so much more. Access your deals today! [Click Here](#)

## **2025 MOAA Signature Cruise Burgundy & Provence - Lyon to Arles, September 14 - 21, 2025**

Cruise the Rhône and Saône rivers, with MOAA's President, and fellow MOAA members on this 7-night cruise on Uniworld's S.S. *Catherine*.

You will experience once-in-a-lifetime adventures like:

- Experience "Village Day" in enchanting Viviers
- Visit Avignon's majestic Palace of the Popes
- Stroll the very streets of Arles, made famous by Van Gogh
- Hike the vineyards of the Rhône
- Pedal through Lyon
- ...and so much more!

**LEARN MORE** or copy this address into your browser: <https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/TMF/>



### **MOAA Signature Cruises**

Cruising with MOAA Vacations offers a safe and convenient way to experience a high-quality and affordable vacation. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with your fellow MOAA members and their guests from around the country as you make new friends and reconnect with others. Plus, MOAA leadership and staff are onboard to ensure you have a stress-free vacation and enjoy every part of the trip to the fullest as you make lifelong memories. Our special MOAA pricing will save you thousands off what you would pay for a comparable all-inclusive luxury cruise. Plus, MOAA Members get \$150/person

on board credit (\$300/stateroom). Want to find out more? Join us for a fun and informative online seminar to learn about this cruise! All registrants receive a copy of the recording after the webinar, so even if you can't attend live, we encourage you to register! *MOAA Signature Cruises and Tours benefit MOAA and MOAA's Charities.* CONTACT MOAA VACATIONS TO BOOK YOUR TRIP TODAY! **Phone: 1-800-211-5107; Email: [mail@moaavac.com](mailto:mail@moaavac.com); Website: <https://moaavacations.com>; Sign up for the MOAA Vacations e-newsletter for more information on upcoming trips, as well as special offers. **BOOK NOW** <https://brennco.com/MOAAVACATIONS/TMF/>**

**CURRENT VA INFO:** <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/healthcare-and-benefits/understanding-your-va-benefits-june-2024/>

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 (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/>) 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>

**VA pension benefits:** 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/>

**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/>

### **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](http://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/](http://www.va.gov/). Local Events You Might be Interested In:

**GREAT QUOTES:** “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); “A good government implies two things; first, fidelity to the objects of the government; secondly, a knowledge of the means, by which those objects can be best attained.” —Joseph Story (1833)

**HUMOR (Maybe?):** A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. The rabbit says, “I believe that I am a type o.” What do you call it when Batman skips church? Christian Bale. What should you do if you're attacked by a group of clowns? Go straight for the juggler. I have an inferiority complex, but it's not a very good one. I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places. What vegetable is cool, but not that cool? Rad-ish. Why did the employee get fired from the calendar factory? She took a day off. Worrying works! Case in point: 90% of the things I worry about never happen. Why do seagulls fly over the sea? If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels. I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know which comes first.



**HISTORY: JANUARY 1, 1937** - At a party at the Hormel Mansion in Minnesota, a guest wins \$100 for naming a new canned meat--Spam.

**In 45 B.C., New Year's Day was celebrated on January 1 for the first time in history using the Julian calendar.** Soon after becoming Roman dictator, Julius Caesar decided that the traditional Roman calendar was in dire need of reform. Introduced around the seventh century B.C., the Roman calendar attempted to follow the lunar cycle but frequently fell out of phase with the seasons and had to be corrected. In addition, the pontifices, the Roman body charged with overseeing the calendar, often abused its authority by adding days to extend political terms or interfere with elections. In designing his new calendar, Caesar enlisted the aid of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer, who advised him to do away with the lunar cycle entirely and follow the solar year, as did the Egyptians. The year was calculated to be 365 and 1/4 days, and Caesar added 67 days to 46 B.C., making 45 B.C. begin on January 1, rather than in March. He also decreed that every four years a day be added to February, thus theoretically keeping his calendar from falling out of step. Shortly after Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., Mark Anthony changed the name of the month Quintilis to Julius (July) to honor him. Later, the month of Sextilis was renamed Augustus (August) after his successor. The celebration of New Year's Day in January fell out of practice during the Middle Ages, and even those who strictly adhered to the Julian calendar did not observe the New Year exactly on January 1. The reason for the latter was that Caesar and Sosigenes failed to calculate the correct value for the solar year as 365.242199 days, not 365.25 days. Thus, an 11-minute-a-year error added seven days by the year 1000, and 10 days by the mid-15th century. The Church became aware of this problem, and in the 1570s Pope Gregory XIII commissioned Jesuit astronomer Christopher Clavius to come up with a new calendar. In 1582, the Gregorian calendar was implemented, omitting 10 days for that year and establishing the new rule that only one of every four centennial years should be a leap year. Since then, people around the world have gathered en masse on January 1 to celebrate the precise arrival of the New Year.

**1586** - Sir Francis Drake launches a surprise attack on the heavily fortified city of Santo Domingo in Hispanola (now capital of the Dominican Republic as opposed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on the other end of the largest island in the West Indies.

**1698** - The Abenaki Indians and Massachusetts colonists sign a treaty halting hostilities between the two.

**1735** - Paul Revere, U.S. patriot was born. As an aside, in 1854, Longfellow decided to quit teaching to devote all his time to poetry. He published *Hiawatha*, a long poem about Native American life, and *The Courtship of Miles Standish* and Other Poems. Both books were immensely successful, but Longfellow was now preoccupied with national events. With the country moving toward civil war, he wrote "Paul Revere's Ride," a call for courage in the coming conflict. **1752** - Betsy Ross, flag maker, was born.

**On January 1, 1863**, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Attempting to stitch together a nation mired in a bloody civil war, Abraham Lincoln made a last-ditch, but carefully calculated, decision regarding the institution of slavery in America. By the end of 1862, things were not looking good for the Union. The Confederate Army had overcome Union troops in significant battles and Britain and France were set to officially recognize the Confederacy as a separate nation. In an August 1862 letter to New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley, Lincoln confessed "my paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or to destroy slavery." Lincoln hoped that declaring a national policy of emancipation would stimulate a rush of the South's enslaved people into the ranks of the Union army, thus depleting the Confederacy's labor force, on which the southern states depended to wage war against the North. Lincoln waited to unveil the proclamation until he could do so on the heels of a Union military success. On September 22, 1862, after the battle at Antietam, he issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation declaring all enslaved people free in the rebellious states as of January 1, 1863. Lincoln and his advisors limited the proclamation's language to slavery in states outside of federal control as of 1862, failing to address the contentious issue of slavery within the nation's border states. In his attempt to appease all parties, Lincoln left many loopholes open that civil rights advocates would be forced to tackle in the future. Republican abolitionists in the North rejoiced that Lincoln had finally thrown his full weight behind the cause for which they had elected him. Though enslaved people in the south failed to rebel en masse with the signing of the proclamation, they slowly began to liberate themselves as Union armies marched into Confederate territory. Toward the end of the war, enslaved people left their former masters in droves. They fought and grew crops for the Union Army, performed other military jobs and worked in the North's mills. Though the proclamation was not greeted with joy by all northerners, particularly northern white workers and troops fearful of job competition from an influx of formerly enslaved people, it had the distinct benefit of convincing Britain and France to steer clear of official diplomatic relations with the Confederacy. Though the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation signified Lincoln's growing resolve to preserve the Union at all costs, he still rejoiced in the ethical correctness of his decision. Lincoln admitted on that New Year's Day in 1863 that he never "felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper." Although he waffled on the subject of slavery in the early years of his presidency, he would thereafter be remembered as "The Great Emancipator." To Confederate sympathizers, however, Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation reinforced their image of him as a hated despot and ultimately inspired his assassination by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865.

**The Vietnam War draft lottery ran from 1969 to 1972.** If you were born on January 01, would your number have been called? During the Vietnam War, young men gathered in college dorms and friends' homes to listen to live TV and radio broadcasts of the U.S. Selective Service System drawing lottery numbers to determine who would and would not be drafted. The 2010 issue of Vietnam magazine revisits those days in the article, "Live from Washington, It's Lottery Night 1969!!" 366 blue plastic capsules contained the birthdays that would be chosen in the first Vietnam draft lottery drawing on December 1, 1969. The first birth date drawn that night, assigned the lowest number, "001," was September 14.



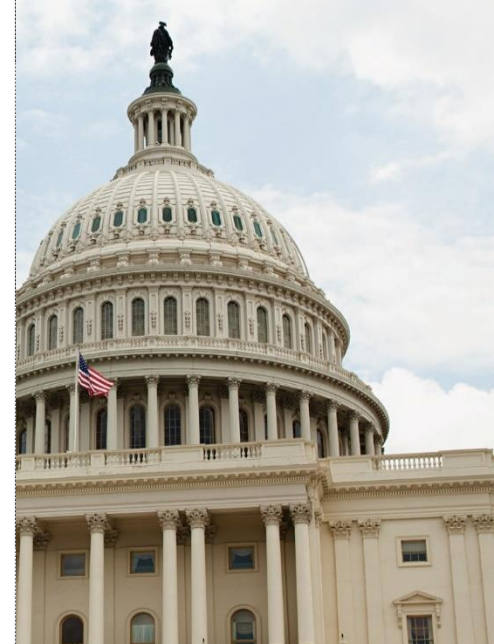


# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



## Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc.



### MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Active     Retired     Former     Reserve     National Guard     Surviving Spouse  
Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
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 [www.moaa.org/join](http://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)?     Yes     No  
If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### To complete enrollment:

- **Fill in this form** on your computer, save it, and email it to MOAA Membership: [tcr@privateclubassociates.com](mailto:tcr@privateclubassociates.com). Mail your check (\$45.00 annual chapter dues) payable to TCC MOAA to: Treasurer, 3160 Presley Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27107-4532
- 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 your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information. M1900DMCHP

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.

#### Affiliations:

North Carolina of Chapters  
<https://www.moaa-nc.org>  
MOAA, Inc  
<http://www.moaa.org>.  
**(independent, non-profit, politically nonpartisan)**

**Dinner Meetings** are held the second Tuesday of each month (Sept – May) at Salem Glen Country Club, 1000 Glen Day Dr, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Social Hour begins at 5:45 PM; Dinner at 6:45 PM; and the Program at 7:30 PM.

Dinner Cost: \$25/person  
Dress is Business Casual.  
Chapter Dues: \$45/year.

Tarheel Central Chapter

DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Tuesday, January 14, 2025

**Phone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until midnight on Thursday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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:**

Jerry Johnson, COL, USMC (Ret)  
Call: (541)280-5950  
Text or Email: [gaucho.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:gaucho.johnson@gmail.com)

**Send Checks to Treasurer:**

Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA  
% Mike Chapman  
3160 Presley Dr.  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
[p8a284@yahoo.com](mailto:p8a284@yahoo.com)