



Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2026, **Issue 1, JAN 2, 2026**

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – TOM MILLER: Veterans,

As I've said before, you are an impressive group. We have flag and field officers, combat veterans, business leaders, teachers and surviving spouses. It is an honor to be a part of such an outstanding organization, and I am humbled to be your president for the next two years. I'm Tom Miller Captain USAF (Veteran) and I look forward to us all working together as we "keep serving".

We are a social group but also a service group. We have our Worthy Causes that we all support and at the end of 2025 the Board of Directors added Wreaths Across America to our Worthy Causes. We just laid wreaths at Memorial Gardens and had 8 of us plus Mike Chapman who brought two of his grandsons! It was a beautiful day to honor veterans who have gone before us.

We also started a new tradition this month. Pam and George Angle arranged a trip to the Salisbury VA Medical center to deliver the gifts we gathered at the Dinner Dance. Fifteen of us walked through five wards singing Christmas Carols. You should have seen the patients' faces when we told them we were retired military members just like them. That really got us in the Christmas spirit. We look forward to going again to show our support for our hospitalized veterans.

One of the features I like about our chapter meetings is our "my story" segments where one of us gets up to tell a story of their service. We are adding to that by occasionally adding a "spotlight" where someone talks about themselves. I want you to get to know me better, so I will be our first "spotlight" at the January meeting.

This is going to be a great year for our MOAA chapter. We have great speakers already lined up with a visit from MOAA National in March and we are planning some more extracurricular activities. So, fasten your seat belts, it's going to be a great ride! Always Keep Serving,

Tom Miller

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.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

5-Star Newsletter Publisher and Editor – Greg Chase, LtCol, USAF (Ret) and Vina Chase; Editor may be reached at (336) 946-2446 or gvchase98@gmail.com The Newsletter is published for members and friends of The Tarheel Central Chapter, MOAA.

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. (Programs Committee) – **VACANT**
5. (Personal Affairs) - **VACANT**
6. (Surviving Spouse Liaison) - **VACANT**

Chapter Assistants:

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – GEORGE LAWSON:



Our member roster currently stands at 89. Three 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. The members are: Pam Angle, George Lawson Chair, Alan Nealeans, Joe Rogers, Hank Rudge, Mark Stanek, Laurie Wesely, Wes Whittaker, Ted Robinson, and Chuck Riehl.

The January Membership Committee meeting (brown bag lunch) will be held on Monday, January 12, 2025, 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 January Dinner reservations will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, January 8th. Due to Salem Glen CC considerations, reservations (RSVP) CANNOT be accepted after Thursday, January 8th at 5:30 PM. You must have an Evite RSVP reservation to attend the Chapter's 2026 January Dinner, Tuesday January 13th, beginning at 5:00 PM at Salem Glen CC.

Note: If you choose to use the convenient online 01/13/25 dinner and the 2026 Annual Membership fee payment options, the Cheddar Up TCC January dinner and Annual Membership invoice URL link is attached below:

<https://2025-member-collection-67809.cheddarup.com>

VOLUNTEER NEEDED –
CONTACT:
PHIL BRISCOE !

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: The January meeting speaker is Colonel Charles Tutt, USMCR (Ret). Charlie served two tours in Vietnam, first as an infantry platoon leader and the second time, flew F-4 Phantoms. His last active-duty tour was at NAS Brunswick Flying the T-39 and A-4. He continued Marine flying with time in the F-8 Crusader, F-4, and OV-10 Bronco in the Marine Corps Reserve. His billets included VMO-4 Squadron Commanding Officer, 4th Marine Air Wing G-2, G-3, and

Wing Chief of Staff. As a civilian he flew for Delta Air Lines on the Convair 880, DC-8, Boeing 727, L 1011, DC-9, Boeing 757 and 767. He also served Delta as System Manager Flight Operations, Director Flight Operations, and Chief Pilot. After retiring he assisted with the company's restructuring and later became Vice President of Flight Operations for Delta subsidiaries ASA/ExpressJet.

In his ASA/ExpressJet assignments Col. Tutt was tasked with assisting in the startup of a Socialist Republic of Vietnam airline where he encountered a senior North Vietnamese general who recruited Charlie to organize a symposium of US (Navy, Marine, Air Force) pilots and North Vietnamese pilots. He will share with us the very moving and fascinating story of how the three meetings – in Hanoi, San Diego, and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) came to fruition.

CY 2026 Scheduled Speakers so far:

13 JAN: Charlie Tutt, Vietnam

10 FEB: Jeannette Davidson Moore, 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.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – BARRY MORRE: 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."



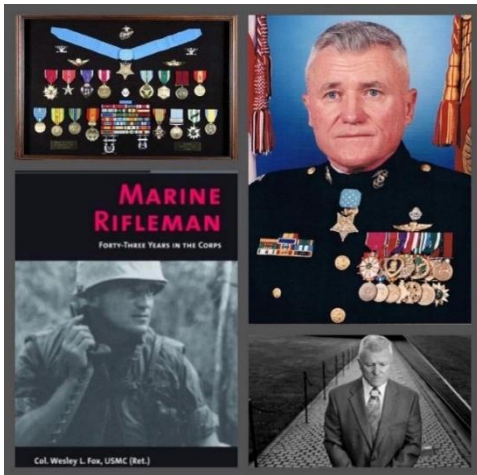
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/recommended-reads/moaa-again-recognized-as-a-top-lobbyist-by-the-hill/>

VA to launch largest reorganization of health care system in 30 years: Read entire article at - <https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2025/12/17/va-to-launch-largest-reorganization-of-health-care-system-in-30-years/>

President Trump Signs Medal of Honor Act: "They never ask for special recognition or demand special treatment."

In effect, the Medal of Honor Act raised the pension provided to MoH recipients from \$16,880/year to about \$67,500/year to provide a safety net for these distinguished Veterans. (For the record, after five years of "service," members of Congress are entitled to a pension of \$105,000/year ...) Read full article at: https://patriotpost.us/alexander/123292?mailing_id=9565&subscription_uuid=de197cf5-65a6-4d35-96cb-33e282323e58

Hero of the Month:



Profiles of Valor: Col Wesley Fox (USMC)

"I figured we would all stay in that valley forever, or we would all walk out together."
Read more at link below!

https://patriotpost.us/alexander/116685?mailing_id=9623&subscription_uuid=de197cf5-65a6-4d35-96cb-33e282323e58&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp.email.9623&utm_campaign=digest_combined

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

Thanks, Barry N. Moore



AVAILABLE TRAINING – 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/>

Input by Tom Miller!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED – CONTACT: PHIL BRISCOE !

guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims process.

- Starting immediately, VA will begin 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!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED – CONTACT: PHIL BRISCOE !

- AL SHAPIRO 01/19
- DENNIS LYON 01/20
- TOM MILLER 01/26
- NORM PRIDGEN 01/27

PERSONAL AFFAIRS: BIRTHDAYS

- CHARLES MASSLER 01/07
- I.B. SOUTHERLAND 01/11
- CHARLES STOTT 01/12
- TIM JORDON 01/16

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
- Pete Armstrong - Mother-in-Law Passed

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, 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

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, January 13, 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, Jan 8th; 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

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 ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & CLICK SEARCH. View or change your newsletter subscriptions from MOAA National.

Military Pay Outlook: Why Smaller Increases Are Likely in Coming Years by: Kevin Lilley, **December 23, 2025**

Servicemembers will receive a 3.8% pay raise in 2026, but their 2027 figure could be lower based on a recent benchmark. Servicemembers are in line for a 3.8% pay hike as part of the [annual must-pass defense policy bill](#), but a figure released this month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) points to a smaller boost in 2027. The Employment Cost Index (ECI) for wages and salaries of private-industry workers rose 3.6% for the 12 months ending in September 2025, [according to BLS data](#). That figure will be used to inform the military basic pay rise for 2027. It would be the smallest raise since a 2.7% boost in 2022 and would continue a downward trend from the 5.2% hike in 2024. The 4.5% base pay raise in 2025 was accompanied by a MOAA-supported 10% target increase [for junior enlisted members](#).

Keeping Up With Costs

The percentages for the ECI and the pay raise have been the same for about a decade. Despite this trend (and associated statute), either Congress or the President can propose a pay raise that does not mirror the ECI figure; military pay fell below the ECI number for three years (2014-16), trailing ECI in 2016 by a full percentage point (2.3% ECI benchmark, 1.3% raise).

[RELATED: [MOAA-Backed House Bill Would Improve Access to Health Care for Military Families](#)]

Ensuring service-earned compensation retains its value continues to be a driving force for MOAA's advocacy efforts. Pay is no exception: MOAA supports a raise at or above the ECI figure, with anything less posing a risk to overall readiness. Even as recruiting issues subside, a force that does not offer competitive compensation will lose key talent to the civilian sector. Why above ECI? Raising military pay would help offset the "pay gap" created during the three years the raise lagged ECI benchmarks.

Supporting Those Who Serve

A fair pay increase is just one goal for MOAA's ongoing work on behalf of those in uniform. Other top priorities include:

- **The [restoration of Basic Allowance for Housing \(BAH\)](#) to cover 100% of housing costs**, a welcome benefit to the bottom line of the majority of servicemembers who live off base. After cuts to the benefit in the 2010s, these military families are expected to pay 5% of these costs out of pocket. Many end up paying a higher percentage, especially in competitive rental markets.
- **[Improved access to care in the military health system \(MHS\)](#)**, to include preserving medical staffing levels and creating a digital platform to report access issues and help servicemembers and their families navigate the system.
- **Spouse and family priorities**, such as continued work to support [military spouse employment](#) and to improve child care assistance and availability.

For more on MOAA's advocacy work, and to lend your voice as a grassroots supporter of the mission, visit [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#). **When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens:** Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues, and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform. [TAKE ACTION](#)

About the Author: [Kevin Lilley](#) Lilley serves as MOAA's digital content manager. His duties include producing, editing, and managing content for a variety of platforms, with a concentration on The MOAA Newsletter and MOAA.org. Follow him on X: [@KRLilley](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

© Copyright 2026 Military Officers Association of America. MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 Phone: (800) 234-6622