



Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2026, Issue 5, MAY 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,

We had our first meeting at our new location, Maple Chase Golf and Country Club, and it was a resounding success. The food was excellent and everybody seemed to have a good time. We really enjoyed our speaker as he is one of our own, Jason Ford. He presented the story of his fight to stay a Naval Aviator after a horrific accident. It showed grit and determination and how life does not always turn out the way we want but we have to go on. It was a great talk.

I look forward to our upcoming meeting on May 13th. This is my favorite meeting of the year, where we award the scholarships to two worthy high school seniors. These seniors restore my faith in the future of our country. Our speaker for May will be Brett Eaton, Wake Forest University Marketing and Communications VP and a member of the university's Executive Leadership Team. Just a reminder, we agreed to all wear coats and ties to honor the recipients and their families. You can also wear your military regalia mini medals if you would like to.

I sent an email when this happened, but I would like to mention it again. Our Tarheel Central Chapter was awarded the prestigious Levels of Excellence award, along with 5 Star Newsletter and 5 Star Website. We should be very proud to have such an outstanding chapter. These awards are based on our service, outreach and communication.

We have a couple of events coming up that we are involved in. First the Moving Wall Monument commemorating the Vietnam War Memorial, is in King, NC, April 30- May 2. Several of us will attend this. The second is the

installation of the Gold Star at the Carolina Field of Honor. The installation will occur on Memorial day and we should attend as a group, as we financially support both these.

I look forward to our fellowship as we meet May 13th to award our scholarships. See you then.

Always Keep Serving,

Tom Miller

President, Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA

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



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 inquires 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 plus additional "Bulletins" as events dictate. We aim to keep you informed!

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 and Programs Chair)
- **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)
4. Barry N. Moore, MAJ, USMC (Ret) (Programs Committee)
5. **VACANT**

6. Carol Gamble - (Surviving Spouse Liaison)

Chapter Assistants:

7. **Chaplain** – Dennis Lennon, CDR, USNR (Ret)
 8. **Programs Committee Chair** - Barry N. Moore, MAJ, USMC (Ret)
 9. **Personal Affairs** – Scott Gamble, LTC, USA (Ret)
 10. **Surviving Spouse Liaison** - Carol Gamble
 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)
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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – Mark Ferketish:

- **MOAA’s Legislative Update**
 - April 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT
 - Learn about recent legislation that may affect your service-earned benefits, along with MOAA's priorities for the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act.
- **Career Transition Tools Workshop: The 30-Second Commercial**
 - April 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
 - Need help with your elevator pitch? Let MOAA provide expert guidance.
- **The Next 90: Reflect. Reset. Relaunch.**
 - May 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
 - Step back, recalibrate, and move forward with purpose — one 90-day cycle at a time.
- **MOAA’s Hybrid Executive Career Transition Accelerator Seminar**
 - April 30, 2026, at 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EDT
 - MOAA Headquarters, 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314 (Virtual attendance option available)
 - This workshop focuses on key aspects of a successful military-to-civilian transition for military leaders and for veterans looking for advancement in the civilian careers.
- 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/>



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry Moore:

TCC friends: We still need our US Congress to act on completing what the Pact Act began. Veterans exposed to toxic substances like Agent Orange, chemicals released by burn pits, and radiation should not have to fight for decades to prove their illnesses are service-connected. The PACT Act was a historic step forward, but its work isn’t complete. Please let our elected officials know we care! Link applies: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/112791/>

The VA has significantly improved benefits processing and delivery: This link applies: https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-announces-major-improvements-in-benefits-processing-and-delivery/?utm_source=header&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=22APR2026

The one thing scammers check before targeting you online: Scammers don’t hack you first, they look you up using public records and data broker sites, by Kurt Knutsson April 17, 2026 https://cyberguy.com/scams/one-thing-scammers-check-before-targeting-online/?utm_source=CyberGuy+Newsletter&utm_campaign=9a4bd9f827-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_04_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-9a4bd9f827-501806140

At a glance:

- Scammers often use publicly available data instead of hacking to target victims.
- People-search sites and public records can reveal your address, family and personal details.
- Personalized scams work because they use real information to sound urgent and believable.
- Removing your data and limiting exposure can make you a harder target.

Good article on Military Chaplains – Wearing of Rank relative to Performing the Service:
<https://substack.com/home/post/p-192982573>

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 May 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

Telephone calls, emails and texts will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 4th. The contact information is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Phil Briscoe: As the Immediate Past President I coordinate leadership development for the chapter. The goal is to have volunteers progress through various leadership roles in the chapter, ensuring chapter volunteers are well-prepared and adequately experienced for their responsibilities as future Chapter Elected Officers and Directors on the Chapter Board of Directors. I am always available to discuss chapter leadership development and how you can assist.

Chapter Volunteers are still needed for these positions:

• **VACANT**

- DIRECTOR POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS contact Phil Briscoe
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY contact Mary Laverdure
- ASSISTANT TREASURER contact Tom Gatewood
- ASSISTANT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE contact Barry Moore
- ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LIAISON contact Barry Moore

- **RELIEF REQUESTED**

- NEWSLETTER EDITOR contact Greg Chase
- CHEDDAR UP ADMINISTRATOR contact Tom Denegre



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – George Lawson:

Chapter Membership Development/Membership Committee News

Current membership is 91. Our fellowship outreach and new member recruiting efforts continue to yield positive results. Our latest prospective guest LtCol (Ret.) USMC George Humphrey (sponsored by Mike Chapman) has decided to complete his MOAA application and join our Chapter. Please welcome our newest member George Humphrey at our May MOAA dinner. Thank you.

Soon, as part of the Membership outreach effort, the TCC Membership Committee will be reaching out via phone call, to members (57) who have received but have not responded with their Evite “Yes/No” RSVP for the May 13th MOAA dinner at Maple Chase CC. If you have already responded to your May Evite dinner RSVP no action is required by you. Thanks.

Reminder – All of our Tarheel Central Chapter members are our best source for recruiting new members and 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 enjoy working with others in a team environment and want to learn more about our Chapter and MOAA, the Membership Committee is a great place to meet old and new MOAA friends. If you are interested, please contact George Lawson (803-439-4818) or any Committee member. Those members are: George Lawson, Chair; Chuck Riehl, Vice Chair; Pam Angle; Alan Nealeans; Joe Rogers; Hank Rudge; Laurie Wesely; and Wes Whittaker.

The May Membership Committee meeting (brown bag lunch) will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, from 12:30 – 1:30 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 MayMay Dinner reservations will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, May 7th. Due to Maple Chase considerations, reservations (RSVP) CANNOT be accepted after Thursday, May 7th at 5:30 PM. You must have an Evite RSVP reservation to attend the Chapter’s 2026 March Dinner, Wednesday, May 13th, beginning at 5:00 PM at Maple Chase Golf and Country Club 5475 Germanton Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27105. Note: *If you choose to use the convenient online 05/13/26 dinner and the 2026 Annual Membership fee payment options, the Cheddar Up TCC March dinner and Annual Membership invoice URL link is: [Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA - Cheddar Up](#)*

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHAIR - I.B. Southerland: The JROTC Scholarship selection process for our 2026 selectees has begun, letters are out and interest is high! **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.



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - Barry Moore: Next Meeting – The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA will meet at the MAPLE CHASE GOLF & CC on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

See more details on the Reservation Form at the end ... May Dinner \$30 inclusive Per Person or \$60 Per Couple will include:

- **Chopped salad with carrots, tomato, cucumbers, and cheddar**
- **Assorted dressings**
- **Caesar salad, romaine, parmesan, croutons, house dressing**
- **Pork tenderloin, maple grain mustard sauce**
- **Baked Haddock, charred corn and tomato relish**
- **Rice and ancient grain pilaf**
- **Roasted broccoli with olive oil and balsamic drizzle**
- **Orange sweet-spiced carrots**
- **Cheesecake with fresh berries**
- **Southern banana pudding**
- **Bread Service**

Shirley Patterson
Assistant General Manager/
Special Event Coordinator
Maple Chase Golf & Country Club
5475 Germanton Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Our speaker for 8 APR was Jason Ford, My “miraculous recovery/challenge”. “When they told me I couldn’t do it, I said, Watch me!” A great story by a great aviator, but I still like Jason’s recount of his first carrier trap ... sound effects and all!

CY 2026 Scheduled Speakers so far (Note future dates changed to reflect 2nd Wednesday of each month!):

- 13 JAN: Charlie Tutt, Vietnam (was very good).
- 10 FEB: Jeannette Davidson Mayer, Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- 10 MAR: MOAA National – Dena Kilgore, CAE, Program Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters
- 8 APR: Jason Ford, My “miraculous recovery/challenge”
- **13 MAY: Brett Eaton, Wake Forest University Marketing and Communications VP and a member of the university's Executive Leadership Team.**
 - **Brett Eaton serves as the Vice President and Chief Communications Officer at Wake Forest University, a position held since January 2011, overseeing a team of 40 professionals in marketing, public relations, and event production. Eaton has led significant initiatives, including the Call to Conversation movement and the rebranding of the university's capital campaign, which exceeded its \$1 billion goal 10 months early. Prior experience includes roles as Director of Communications at Montgomery College and various**

positions at Washington Headquarters Services, where Eaton focused on communications and program support. Educational qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts in English from Clemson University, a Master's in Public Administration, and a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication from American University.

- As the senior associate vice president for communications and external relations at Wake Forest University, Brett Eaton leads a multi-disciplined team of marketing and public relations professionals. He also serves as the executive director of the "Wake Will Lead" campaign, an effort to raise \$1 billion in support of the university's mission.
- Before transitioning to a career in higher education, Eaton held a variety of leadership positions within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. For helping the Pentagon recover from the 9/11 terrorist attack, the Secretary of Defense awarded him the Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service.

- 8 JUL: Summer Social
- 9 SEP: Alison Huber: Honor Flight
- 14 OCT: TBA
- 11 NOV: TBA
- 9 DEC: Christmas Dinner Dance



PERSONAL AFFAIRS – Scott Gamble: Know of a veteran having difficulties, especially coping, please have them call (or you call) the Veteran's Hotline at 988 #1 or 844-647-1354.

BIRTHDAYS

- William Gore 5/1
- Barry Moore 5/1
- Ted Robinson 5/9
- Pete Armstrong 5/19
- Devin Dell 5/21
- Bradley Wood 5/24
- Karl Clauss 5/25

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

- Jerry Johnson - Continued Improvement
- Debra Houck - Sister Very Ill
- We mourn the passing of Dennis Ammons, our faithful member, and pray for Terry, his wife, and the family.



The Rev. Dennis Allen Ammons of Clemmons, NC, loving husband of Theresa (Terry) A. Ammons, has joined the Church Triumphant as of April 24, 2026. Rev. Ammons is the son of the late Frank G. Ammons and R. Irene Ammons of Kernersville, NC, and formerly of the Bethel community of Waynesville, NC. The Rev. Ammons is a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church. Earlier in his life, after graduating from NC State University, Rev. Ammons served as an officer with the US Army's 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and was decorated for valorous and meritorious service while serving in combat, receiving the Bronze Star. Upon returning home from military service, Dennis began a career in the furniture industry and spent 35 years in a variety of roles with several major furniture companies. With knowledge and experience on the manufacturing side of the industry, he found working with furniture designers to develop marketable product most rewarding. Later he attended Duke University in preparation for his calling to the ministry. In addition to his passion for preaching the Word of God, he enjoyed working for homeless advocacies, both civilian and ex-military. Dennis was a creative learner, always ready to try something new and challenging. He obtained his private pilot's license, was a competitive sailor, had a professional photography business, loved to hike, read extensively, and explored many avenues of history and ancestry. His grandsons helped him not only stay current but kept him on his toes with their deep and thoughtful questions. He was also quick witted and continued to make his wife laugh until the very end. Dennis is survived by his wife, Terry, his daughter, Kelly Ammons, mother of

his four grandsons, Maddox Gray, Declan Kiger, Jenner Kiger, and Beckett Kiger, his stepson, Ian Hiatt, and his stepdaughter, Taylor Key and her husband, David Key, and Nancy Ammons, grandmother of his grandsons. If you would like to remember Dennis in a special way, eat your favorite ice cream, spend time with your grandchildren, have a glass of lemonade, watch a history show on YouTube, Howl Back, send a note, text, or make a call to someone just because, or raise a toast to a cherished friend. Memorials may be made to the Clemmons United Methodist Church Music Program (3700 Clemmons Road, Clemmons, NC 27012) and Watchmen of the Streets (110 Links Course Lane, Advance, NC 27006). A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 2:00 pm, at Clemmons United Methodist Church. A reception will follow the service. The service will also be live streamed and can be found at <https://clemmonsumc.org/services>.



SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON – Carol Gamble (pictured at Scott’s left!):

- 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/>

Most recent 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

SOCIAL



Lewisville.

5/26/26
Salem

Ted

Orleans Jazz Band," will be performing at Truist Stadium before the Winston-Salem Dash home game. The band will play at the main entrance from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and will also perform the National Anthem to start the game at 6:30 PM.

Tickets are available at <https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/venues/winston-salem-fairgrounds-arena?matchtype=b&device=c&msclkid=8e7839827fb414703ff8506c07d7368d> or through the Truist Stadium box office. If there is enough interest, we may look into purchasing a block of tickets closer to the date. I will be back in touch about this in June and see who is interested. Diane and I will be going.

Here is your 30,000-foot view!



SECRETARY - Warren Boyer:

Call 336 407-2374 if you have input.

MAY CONCERTS:

5/25/26 Military Appreciation Concert starring "The Embers". 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Shallowford Square, (BYOB and lawn chairs, food trucks will be on site).

Salem Band Concert, "Paperhand Puppet Project". Square, W-S, 7:30 PM (Bring your lawn chairs).

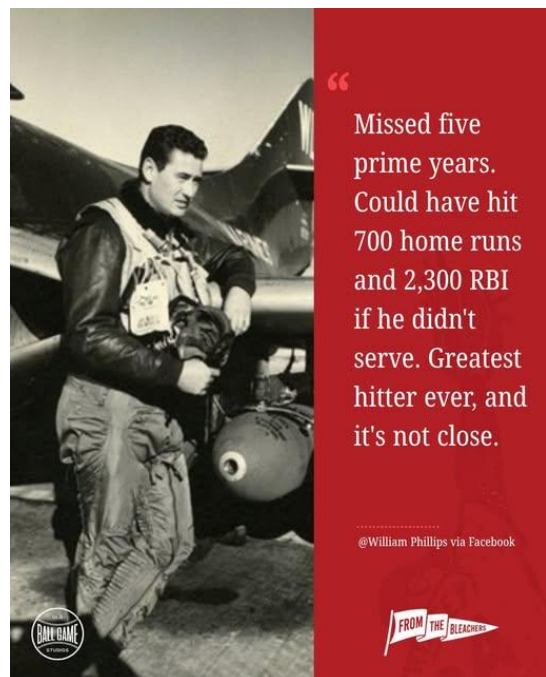
Robinson’s band, "Dixie Lands Walnut Street New

With winter behind us, Summer 2026 is just around the corner. Attached is my annual spreadsheet of various upcoming free concerts in the area. If you haven't attended a show at Shallowford Square or "The PIT" in downtown Winston-Salem, I highly recommend checking them out. **I've highlighted one event in red: Camel City Yacht Club at the "Old Barn" in West Jefferson on July 4th. Diane and I went last year and had a wonderful time.** There will be plenty of food and drink available. It would be great to get a group together to go this year. (Just a thought) I know that there are a lot more summer concerts in the Piedmont area, too many to print and choose from. If you know of others that you feel should be on the list, please let me know. I will send out updated spreadsheets and reminders during the summer.

Warren

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|-----------|--|---|--------------|
| 5/25/2026 | Military Appreciation Concert, "The Embers" | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 6-8pm |
| 5/26/2026 | Salem Band Concert, "Paperhand Puppet Project" | Salem Square, W-S | 7:30pm |
| 6/18/2026 | Piedmont Pops in the PIT | Incendiary Brewing Company Downtown, W-S | 7:30pm |
| 6/20/2026 | Street Party & Food Truck Festival "The Entertainers" | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 6-9pm |
| 6/27/2026 | Independence Day Concert, "On the Border" (Ultimate Eagles Tribute Band) | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 7-9pm |
| 6/27/2026 | Piedmont Pops in the PIT | Incendiary Brewing Company Downtown, W-S | 7:30pm |
| 6/30/2026 | Salem Band Concert "Stars and Stripes" | Central Park Amphitheatre, King | 7:30pm |
| 7/4/2026 | Salem Band Concert "Stars and Stripes" | Salem Square, W-S | 7:30pm |
| 7/4/2026 | "Camel City Yacht Rock" (Smooth 70's & 80's Rock) | Old Barn Winery, West Jefferson, NC | 1-4PM |
| 7/11/2026 | "Camel City Yacht Rock" (Smooth 70's & 80's Rock) | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 7-9pm |
| 7/11/2026 | Salem Band Concert "Stars and Stripes" | Clemmons 1st Baptist Church | 7:30pm |
| 7/25/2026 | "Crystal Aria Band" (Electrifying Party Music) | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 7-9pm |
| 8/4/2026 | Salem Band Concert "Super Heroes Film Fest" | Salem Square, W-S | 7:30pm |
| 8/15/2026 | "Black Pearl Band" "Yacht Rock With Edge" | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 7-9pm |
| 9/12/2026 | "Gump Fiction" (Ultimate 90's Experience) | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 7-9pm |
| 10/3/2026 | "The Local Boys" "Bluegrass/Americana Concert" | Shallowford Square, Lewisville | 5-7pm |

Barry sends "Remember a Hero": Ted Williams hit .406 in 1941. Won the Triple Crown in 1942. Then he left to fly fighter planes for three years.



“
Missed five
prime years.
Could have hit
700 home runs
and 2,300 RBI
if he didn't
serve. Greatest
hitter ever, and
it's not close.

@William Phillips via Facebook

When he came back in 1946, he won the MVP. Won another Triple Crown in 1947. Kept hitting like he'd never left. Then in 1952, the Marines called him back to Korea, where he flew 39 combat missions and once crash-landed a burning jet. He came back from that, too. Hit .407 in the 37 games he played in 1953.

Five full seasons, gone. Ages 24 through 26. Ages 33 and 34. Not injured. Not suspended. Not holding out. Serving his country while every other hitter in baseball was padding their numbers against wartime pitching staffs.

521 home runs with nearly five years carved out of his prime. The projections say 650, maybe 700, maybe more. The RBI totals land somewhere no one has ever been. And the man never once complained about what it cost him.

D-Day to Inchon: 'Greatest Ranger That Ever Was' Tommy Gwynn Dies at 106 - Military.com, by Allen Frazier, Published April 14, 2026 at 3:00am ET. An Army Ranger who fought through D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Inchon, escaped enemy captivity twice and was wounded two dozen times across two wars has died at 106.

Thomas Edward "Tommy" Gwynn, known throughout his adopted hometown of Tullahoma, Tennessee, as "the greatest Ranger that ever was," died Monday, April 6, at the Life Care Center there, according to an obituary issued by Kilgore Funeral Home. He was two months from his 107th birthday and was the town's oldest resident. By the time he left the military, Gwynn had earned a battlefield commission, a dozen Purple Hearts and later earned a French military award for valor.

From Moscow, Tennessee, to the Army Rangers: Gwynn was born June 2, 1919, in Moscow, a farming town in Fayette County east of Memphis. He enlisted in 1941 and, two years later, earned a spot with the U.S. Army Rangers, the light infantry force activated in 1942 under Maj. William O. Darby. Gwynn shipped to England with his unit in 1943 and waded ashore at Normandy on June 6, 1944. He marked the date as a second birthday every year afterward, telling the Moore County News he celebrated it because he survived. From the beachhead, Gwynn pushed east through the Allied breakout, fought through the snowy Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge and reached the Elbe River on May 8, 1945, the day Germany surrendered. He came home that November.

In 1950, he was called back to service and shipped to Korea, where he took part in the Sept. 15 amphibious landing at Inchon, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's flanking strike against North Korean forces. On two separate occasions during the Korean campaign, enemy troops took him prisoner. Both times, he broke out and returned to American lines.

Troops called him "Little Horse" for his speed and stamina under fire. He also earned a battlefield promotion to first lieutenant. By the war's end, Gwynn had been wounded 24 times. "When bullets are flying, there is no pain," he later said. He credited his faith and physical conditioning for carrying him through the conflict.

His decorations included two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, 12 Purple Hearts, the Presidential Unit Citation with two bronze clusters, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Prisoner of War Medal. The number of Purple Hearts alone places Gwynn among the most-decorated American combat veterans of his generation and in history. France awarded him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, its highest order of merit, conferred in a Nov. 7, 2012, letter from then-President Francois Hollande for Gwynn's role in the 1944 liberation of France.

A 2013 fire at his Tullahoma home destroyed many of the original medals. Replacements were issued in the years that followed.

A Quiet Life and a Final Salute: After returning from Korea, Gwynn owned and operated Gwynn Appliance Repair in Tullahoma, served as a jail minister and remained a longtime member of First Baptist Church in town. He became a familiar figure around Tullahoma well into old age, handing out donuts, candy and small bags of food to neighbors and strangers alike. Beginning in 2019, the

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and the Tullahoma community began throwing him an annual birthday party. Last June, the city's mayor proclaimed June 2, 2025, as "Tommy Gwynn Day." When asked about the secret to his longevity at his 106th birthday celebration, Gwynn said, "Always smile and have a good heart."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Gwynn; his son, Thomas Gwynn Jr.; his daughter, Julia Gwynn; his parents, Garland Ray and Lula Mae Tacker Gwynn; his brother, John Albert Gwynn; and three sisters, Edna Myers Lucas, Frances Davis and Mary Beard Boldreghini. He is survived by two nephews, Claude Jones and Vernon Jones. Visitation is set for Wednesday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kilgore Funeral Home, 215 Mitchell Blvd. in Tullahoma. A service will follow at 1 p.m., officiated by Dr. J. Herbert Hester. Burial with full military honors will take place at Bethany Cemetery in Normandy, Tennessee. The town where the greatest Ranger that ever was will be laid to rest shares its name with the stretch of French coast he stormed ashore at over 80 years ago.

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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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 Wed** of each month (Sept – May). Our Social Hour begins at 5:00 PM, followed by dinner and a program at **Maple Chase Golf and Country Club 5475 Germanton Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27105.**

Dress: "Business Casual"

Chapter Dues: \$45/year

Tarheel Central Chapter

DINNER RESERVATION FORM for Wednesday, May 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, May 7th; Maple Chase needs the reservation guarantee early so the correct amount of food can be ordered for delivery in time for the dinner on the following Wednesday.

Your Name: _____

Birthday (DD/MMM – Member ONLY) _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Guests Names: _____

At **\$30** 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 (THCC MOAA Treasurer)
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.

As of April 28, 2026: Read more about these (and other items) at: [MOAA - News Listing](#)

Inside the Military Health Care Budget: Big Changes ... But What About Beneficiaries?

Apr 28, 2026: Reorganized funding fails to keep pace with rising health care costs.

Other important developments regarding MOAA's advocacy:

- **VA Fully Rescinds Disability Ratings Rule ... Here's What Should Happen Next**
- **Would You Recommend Service to a Family Member?**
- **Stop VA Claim Sharks: Why MOAA Backs the GUARD VA Benefits Act**

Now, TAKE ACTION! <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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