



Tarheel Central Chapter Newsletter Volume 2026, **Issue 8, NOV 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,

This month we are privileged to have our monthly meeting on November 11, Veterans Day. Originally observed as Armistice Day, it was to mark the ceasefire that ended WW 1 on the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918." It was changed to Veterans Day by Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954 to honor all veterans from all wars and conflicts, not just WW1. This is our holiday whereas Memorial Day honors those who died while serving.

There are several activities that day including Veterans Day parades in Winston-Salem and in Greensboro. There will also be a ceremony at the Carolina Field of Honor at Triad Park on the 11th at 11:00 AM. High Point University hosts an extraordinary celebration at their Nido and Mariana Qubein arena and Conference Center. The celebration of veterans will be November 6th at 0800 hours. This event is very popular and will be crowded. It includes a free breakfast. If you would like to attend this event it requires registration even though it is free to veterans and their families. There are several restaurants who have free meals for veterans and several locations of Great Clips are giving free haircuts to veterans that day.

Last month we had an outstanding speaker, the Honorable Mark Martin, Dean of the Kahn School of Law, High Point University. He emphasized the ethics he is trying to instill in each of his students as they enter their Law practices. This month we will have Nationally Noted Cybersecurity Expert John Felker. It should be quite interesting and a little bit scary!!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meeting, Nov 11. Get out and enjoy one of the events on Veterans Day. Most of the public want to thank and honor us for our service.

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 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 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:

- **Scam Prevention for Servicemembers & Veterans**
 - A free virtual workshop about protecting you & your family from fraud.
 - **Wednesday, November 4th 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern.**
 - <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d0641d30-51be-46ce-8872-f810327cb31e@8190aedd-e648-4bc2-bfeb-d25a944d2b64?source=copyLinkOneEventsShareDialog>

For other MOAA.org/ Upcoming Events register through: <https://www.moaa.org/content/events/MOAA-Events/>

- **Be Prepared for the Change:** In efforts to continually improve your customer experience, MOAA is proud to announce we will transition to a new customer account system later this year. This transition will provide a simpler way to manage your account with MOAA. **Verify, Update, or Add Your Email Address:** In order for MOAA to provide you the most robust online experience, including access to your account through our updated customer portal, you will need to have a current email address on file with us. You can verify which email address we have on record or make updates by logging in to your online account. If you have not yet shared your email address with us, please call our Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622 and a representative will be happy to add it to your customer record. **To ensure seamless access to your online account, a current email address needs to be on file. Rest assured, none of these system changes will affect your MOAA Membership status, benefits, or email preferences previously shared with us.**
- **TotalForce+ 2027:**
 - February 01 - February 03, 2027 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST
 - Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center
 - 201 Waterfront St.
 - National Harbor, MD 20745
 - Mission first, people always: Join the conversation to advance solutions across the total force.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Barry Moore:

"I encourage TCC members to go to this link (<https://moaa.quorum.us/issue/47366/>) on the MOAA website, download, sign, and send any or all of the pending letters to our NC members of Congress pre-addressed for each letter." Take Care of Veterans Act: https://patriotpost.us/articles/129379-the-sad-fight-over-veterans-reform-2026-07-24?_bhlid=4d7d7aea0e2cf146f44146624e8aafe92d77499a

Urge Congress to Pass the Take Care of America's Veterans Act at: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/166321/>

Some of the challenges in getting needed veteran legislation passed is explained in this link: <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2026/keep-faith-with-veterans/>

Veterans Who Paid Trajector Medical for VA Disability Claim Assistance Should Act Now to File a Proof of Claim in Trajector's Bankruptcy; Claims must be filed by Nov. 30: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2026/10/veterans-who-paid-trajector-medical-for-va-disability-claim-assistance-should-act-now>

Vet Homelessness Fell 82% in 2026!: https://www.military.com/veteran-homelessness-fell-82-percent-in-2026-the-biggest-drop-in-10-years-new-analysis-finds?lid=fartt7pcxlfr&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-20_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-

[202610201034&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-20_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-202610201034&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA](https://www.military.com/trump-ordered-a-major-change-to-veterans-benefits-moaas-brian-kelly-says-it-could-fix-a-longstanding-problem?lid=frajiomimxz5&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-05_sponsored_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-202610201034&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA)

"President Donald Trump signed an executive order Sept. 8 directing the Defense Department and VA to overhaul how military personnel and medical records are shared between the departments.": [https://www.military.com/trump-ordered-a-major-change-to-veterans-benefits-moaas-brian-kelly-says-it-could-fix-a-longstanding-problem?lid=frajiomimxz5&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-05_sponsored_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-](https://www.military.com/trump-ordered-a-major-change-to-veterans-benefits-moaas-brian-kelly-says-it-could-fix-a-longstanding-problem?lid=frajiomimxz5&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-05_sponsored_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-202610051029&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-05_sponsored_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-202610051029&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA)

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[202610051029&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA](https://www.military.com/trump-ordered-a-major-change-to-veterans-benefits-moaas-brian-kelly-says-it-could-fix-a-longstanding-problem?lid=frajiomimxz5&utm_source=MLT-nl_daily-brief_2026-10-05_sponsored_margin-fix&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=MLT-202610051029&user=Zm9jdXNtb29yZTFhZ21haWwY29tOm1sdA)

Veterans have more 'forever chemicals' in their blood than civilians: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/pfas-veterans-concentration-study-forever-chemicals/>

TCC Members: Not everyone is aware, but if you are a veteran at least 75-years-old you can request an advancement on the docket review of your veterans administration health care case appeal. I've been told by some very good sources that it actually works as advertised. This is the link: <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/legacy-appeals/priority-review/>

Go here for more good stuff: "President signs executive order for faster delivery of VA benefits" - Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2026-09-09/trump-order-faster-delivery-va-benefits-22798981.html> Source - Stars and Stripes. More at VA News - https://news.va.gov/press-room/president-trumps-executive-order-means-faster-access-to-va-healthcare-benefits-than-ever-before/?utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=09SEP2026&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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: 2027 Annual Dues Billing - Annual Dues are \$45 (per year), due NLT 31 December 2026. 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 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 the preceding Thursday!** The contact information is on the Dinner Reservation Form at the end.

MOAA final COLA estimate: “The latest projections place the upcoming COLA at 3.5% or 3.6%, more than the 2.8% increase made to this year’s checks and the highest since the 8.7% hike announced nearly four years ago. The final figure influencing the rate – the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for September 2026 – will be announced Oct. 14 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.” Full article at: https://www.moaa.org/colapredict?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-88h98z-A5OSaDRWwOJu2Fi6UeFAxCCfHZO8GhGhhzsGVKpgYgaDyMrdvZOFoBteBDUxSJQeVqi1tZiuxCTCL_4bbA7FQ&_hsmi=441968327

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Phil Briscoe:



ASSISTANCE NEEDED. Any time is a good time to get involved with the chapter. You will be helping yourself as well as your fellow Chapter Mates. I know there is lots of talent out there and just a little of your time will provide you and your fellow veterans knowledge of and the ability to discuss face-to-face veteran issues.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

DIRECTOR POSITION on the BOARD OF DIRECTORS contact Phil Briscoe

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE contact Barry Moore

NEWSLETTER EDITOR contact Greg Chase

ASSISTANT SECRETARY contact Mary Laverdure

ASSISTANT TREASURER contact Tom Gatewood

ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LIAISON contact Moore Barry

The Chapter's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) can provide you with a familiarity of these chapter positions. The SOP is divided into three sections: Tarheel Central Chapter Organization; Tarheel Central Chapter Policies; and Tarheel Central Chapter Leadership Development. It can be found on the TCC website - <https://www.tarheelmoaa.org/> under the Members Only tab. If you need the Password, contact Ton Denegre.

I am always available to discuss chapter leadership development and how you can assist.

Take Care and Beware

Phil Briscoe



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR – George Lawson:

Chapter Membership Development/Membership Committee News

As we approach our membership chapter goal of 100 TCC MOAA members, the Membership Committee would like to encourage all TCC members to actively recruit prospective new members during Veterans Day holiday events on Wednesday, 11/11/26.

During Veterans Day celebrations and events share with your fellow military officer veterans the important mission of the TarHeel Central Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and encourage them to attend one of our fall or winter MOAA dinner meetings as our guest. Our November MOAA social and dinner is Wednesday, 11/11/26 at Maple Chase CC with the social hour starting at 5:00pm. Our dinner speaker is John Felker, Executive Director for Cyber Security, Seebald & Associates; former Director for Cyber Security, Department of Homeland Security; and Coast Guard Commander. Our fellowship outreach and new member recruiting efforts are making a difference. During the Tarheel Central Chapter 11/11/26 dinner meeting we will

be hosting guests and new prospective members. Please take a moment during the social hour to meet and welcome our newest Members Sandy & Alice Bostrom. Thanks.

The new name tag check-in and checkout process - After the dinner program, please remember to return your new name tag to the correct alphabetical name tag tray before you depart.

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 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.

Evite Action Item: MOAA Oct Dinner reservations will be accepted until 5:30 PM on Thursday, Nov 5th. Due to Maple Chase considerations, reservations (RSVP) CANNOT be accepted after Thursday at 5:30 PM. You must have an Evite RSVP reservation to attend the Chapter's 2026 September Dinner, Wednesday, Nov 11th, 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 **dinner and the 2026 Annual Membership fee payment options**, the Cheddar Up TCC dinner and Annual Membership invoice URL link is: [Tarheel Central Chapter MOAA - Cheddar Up](#)

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHAIR - I.B. Southerland: 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.

If you like the traditional newsletter look with pictures, please go to: <https://tarheelmoaa.org/about/> and click on Chapter Monthly Newsletter under Social Media and follow the directions. A year's worth of pithy info awaits!



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - Barry Moore: **Next Meeting – The Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA will meet at the MAPLE CHASE GOLF & CC on Wednesday, Nov 11, 2026**

See more details on the Reservation Form at the end ...

- **November 11:** Tarheel Central Chapter Dinner, Maple Chase Golf & Country Club. Guest Speaker is Nationally Noted Cybersecurity Expert and President of Morse Alpha Associates (Charlotte), John Felker. Barry N. Moore POC.

John Felker, TCC-MOAA Dinner Guest of Honor & Speaker, Nov 11, 2026:

John Felker is currently the President of Morse Alpha Associates, based in Charlotte, NC. He provides senior leaders in industry, nonprofits, and government cybersecurity risk assessments and solutions. He also serves as the Chairman of Triple ID, a global leader in hardware-protected AI identity and data trust verification. Additionally, he serves as the Executive Director for Cybersecurity at Seebald & Associates International, is the Senior Advisor to the Chertoff Group, and the Senior Advisor to the Maritime Transportation System ISAC.

Felker is the former Director of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, Department of Homeland Security, as well as the former Assistant Director for Integrated Operations, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Felker served 30 years in the US Coast Guard, and held various positions including Commander of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Group, Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Cyber Command, and he commanded Coast Guard Cutters CAPE UPRIGHT and RED CEDAR.

A sought-after cybersecurity and leadership expert, Felker is a frequent speaker at national and international cybersecurity conferences.

- **December 9:** Tarheel Central Chapter Christmas Dinner/Dance, Maple Chase Golf & Country Club.
- **December 15: “2026 Winter Social” - The Second Annual Tarheel Central Chapter Winter Social is planned for Tuesday December 15th from 1:30 PM to 8:30 PM.** Our bus and caravan will leave at 1:30 PM for the Veterans Home in Salisbury. On the bus we can sing Christmas Carols and perhaps enjoy adult beverages and snacks. Come join the fun. When we arrive at the Veterans Home the gifts collected at the Chapter Christmas dinner will be delivered and then we will proceed to visit and lead the residents in more carols throughout the different wards. It is truly a rewarding, emotional and fun time. After Caroling, we will travel to the Longhorn Steakhouse for dinner. The cost is \$20 per person for the bus & other expenses plus your dinner. There are fourteen seats on the bus and a caravan for more is being organized. If you would like to make a reservation or need more information, contact Pam Angle or Ted Robinson: **Pam - ganglejr@bellsouth.net; Ted - tedrobinson128@gmail.com.**
- **January 20, 2027: Third Wednesday - Tarheel Central Chapter Dinner, Maple Chase Golf & Country Club.** Guest Speaker is MOAA member Pete Armstrong, retired US Army, Vietnam and Desert Storm Veteran, Eagle Scout, Scout for 75 years, and international adventurer in Scouting. [Maple Chase is closed for maintenance the first two weeks of every year.]



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

Surviving Spouse Corner: Surviving Spouse Corner: Celebrating Service, Keeping Connections

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

September 29, 2026 - Surviving Spouse Corner: “Celebrating Service, Keeping Connections”
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-celebrating-service-keeping-connections/> Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel, left, attends the 7th Marines Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November 2024 in Las Vegas with her mother, Virginia “Ginny” Cisneros. Both are surviving spouses of Marines and Life members of MOAA. (Courtesy photo)

For many uniformed service couples, celebrating a service birthday is more than marking a date on the calendar. Birthday balls, ceremonies, traditions, and gatherings have long been important parts of service life, shared with spouses and families. For a surviving spouse, the loss of a loved one can also mean unexpectedly losing some of those traditions and connections to the military community. A birthday celebration that was once a special evening together might suddenly raise a different question: Where is my place now? Some surviving spouses continue to attend service birthday celebrations, while others might find it difficult to return or wonder where they will fit in. Finding the right organization, unit, installation, or group can provide an opportunity to reconnect. Sometimes it simply takes time to once again find “a place at the table.” Remembering and celebrating a spouse’s service birthday can be a small, meaningful way to maintain that connection and continue the tradition that was once shared.

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: Strengthening Emotional Well-Being] <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-strengthening-emotional-well-being/>

Many of you know that Nov. 10 is the Marine Corps' birthday — complete with ceremonies, cake cutting, and “Happy Birthday, Marine!” But what about the other branches? Each service has its own special day, full of history, traditions, and pride. Here's when and why they celebrate — and how long they've been serving our nation.

Army: The nation's oldest military branch was established on June 14, 1775, a year before the Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress created the Continental Army to coordinate the colonies' military efforts against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. Today, the Army celebrates its birthday with ceremonies, historical displays, and, of course, cake.

Navy: Just months after the Army was formed, the Continental Congress authorized the purchase of ships to disrupt British supply lines — a move that marked Oct. 13, 1775, as the Navy's official birthday. Though the Navy was disbanded after the Revolution, it was reestablished in 1794. The modern Navy celebrates with fleet-wide observances, balls, and heritage events.

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: The Value of Connection] <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-the-value-of-connection/>

Marine Corps: Formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia (yes, a real tavern), the Continental Marines were established on Nov. 10, 1775, as naval infantry. The date was restored as the official birthday in 1921 by Marine Corps Order No. 47. Marines worldwide honor it with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, a reading of the 1921 order, and a birthday message from the commandant.

Air Force: While airpower existed before World War II, it wasn't until the National Security Act of 1947 that the U.S. Air Force became a separate branch, distinct from the Army Air Forces. The Air Force celebrates Sept. 18 with base events, flyovers, and heritage displays.

Coast Guard: The Coast Guard traces its origins to the Revenue Cutter Service, established on Aug. 4, 1790, by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton to enforce tariffs and prevent smuggling. Over time, it merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form today's Coast Guard — a unique organization that serves both military and law enforcement roles.

Space Force: The newest branch of the armed forces was established on Dec. 20, 2019, when the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law. The Space Force organizes, trains, and equips forces to protect U.S. interests in space. Its birthday is celebrated with ceremonies and STEM outreach events.

[RELATED: Space Force to Add 10,000 Guardians in Next 5 Years] <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/reads/space-force-to-add-10,000-guardians-in-next-5-years/>

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps: Although its origins are traced to the Marine Hospital Service of 1798, the Commissioned Corps was formally established on Jan. 4, 1889, as a uniformed service dedicated to public health. Officers serve in roles spanning health, science, and engineering across the nation and abroad, often alongside other armed services during emergencies.

NOAA Commissioned Corps: On May 22, 1917, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Corps was established as a commissioned corps, and in 1970, it became known as the NOAA Corps. Today, as one of the nation's esteemed uniformed services, NOAA Corps officers play a vital role within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, commanding ships and piloting aircraft to monitor atmospheric and oceanic conditions.

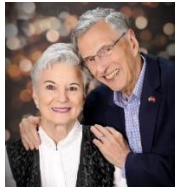
Send Us Your Feedback

We'd love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by sending an email to sscomm@moaa.org.



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 SECRETARY - Warren Boyer:



Call 336 407-2374 if you have input.

Warren

VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS TOUR 2026

- A THEATRICAL HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE
- Christmas Concert Tour 2026
- NORTH AMERICAN TOUR · ONE UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY
- Winston-Salem, NC
- The Centenary UMC
- December 23, 2026
- Presentations at 1:30 PM, 4:30 PM, and 7:30 PM
- **Go to:** <https://www.viennalightorchestra.com/concerts/winston-salem-nc%20%20for%20tickets>
(seats from \$31 to \$133)

PIEDMONT WIND SYMPHONY

- Bluegrass. Jazz. Latin rhythms. Unexpected instruments. And a whole lot of surprises.
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An Adventure in Writing by Greg Chase, editor. I was talking about AI with my friend, Russ, recently retired from academia: its usefulness and cautions. He recommended Anthropic's Claude. So, I downloaded it and tried it out. Being a hobby genealogist (refers to my ancestry not my mental acuity), I told Claude to "Write a short story (1000 words or less) based on historic fact about Nathaniel Low CHASE-1752-1836 during his participation in the American Revolution." After searching the web, Claude came up with:

The Drum and the Plow, West Newbury, Massachusetts, 1836

"The old man woke before the light, as he had every morning for eighty-three years, and lay listening to the house. Somewhere below, his grandchildren were already arguing over the stove. He smiled at the ceiling. Noise meant life, and he had learned what the other thing sounded like.

Nathaniel Low Chase was twenty-two the spring the alarm came.

He had been married two years to Lydia Dustin, a Haverhill girl who carried her family's famous name the way some people carry a stone in a pocket, quietly and without complaint. They were expecting their first child, and he had been turning the last of the winter ground when the church bell began to ring at the wrong hour.

He remembered that part clearly: the wrongness of the bell. He stood in the furrow with the horse blowing beside him while the sound rolled across the river marshes of Newbury. Then a rider went past without stopping, shouting about Lexington, about regulars on the road, about blood already spilled.

Lydia was in the doorway with her hand against the frame. “Go,” she said, before he could ask. “Go, and come back.”

He took his musket and a heel of bread. By the end of that spring he was a private in Captain Rogers’s company, standing in a line of men who had been farmers and coopers and shipwrights a few weeks earlier. None of them knew how to be soldiers, and all of them knew how to be neighbors. In the first months, that turned out to matter more.

He remembered the camps outside Boston: the mud, the smoke, the lean, argumentative talk about whether a man could really refuse a king. He remembered the boredom more than the fear. He had expected the war to be one great thunderclap, and instead it was months of digging, waiting, and rumor. The thunderclaps came in pieces, a cannon from the harbor, a distant volley, and each one found a man’s stomach before it found his mind.

When he came home that first time, thinner and sunburned, there was a baby in the cradle. They named him John.

“He has your chin,” Lydia said, and then laughed at his face, because he had no idea whether that was a compliment.

The war did not end because one man went home to see his son. It went on, and in 1777 it called him again. This time the muster rolls wrote him down as a drummer.

He never lost his amusement at that. He was no musician. But a drum is a language, and the army needed men who could speak it: the long roll to wake a camp, the quick, urgent patter to form a line, the slow steady beat that kept tired legs moving when nothing else could. He learned it from an older man who had carried a drum in the French war and who tapped patterns on his own knee while he talked.

“A drum isn’t for the enemy,” the old drummer told him. “It’s for your own men. They can’t hear their officers over a battle. They can hear you. Keep the beat and they’ll know where the line is.”

Nathaniel kept the beat. On the marches he sometimes thought of Lydia and the boy, and of the river at home with the shipyards quiet. His hands knew the rhythm, so his mind was free to wander back toward the house on the hill. The drum became a kind of tether. As long as it sounded, the company held together, and as long as the company held together, he was one step closer to going home.

He did go home. That was the thing the grandchildren never quite understood when they asked about the war. It was not a tale of one glorious day. He went, he marched, he beat the drum, and he came back to a farm that needed plowing. The great events happened somewhere above his head, among men with names that would be carved on monuments. His part was smaller. It was one man doing what was asked, over and over, until the asking stopped.

He and Lydia had many children after that, a crowd of Chases to fill the valley: Ezra, Moses, John, and a little Lydia named for her mother. He farmed. He grew old in the same town where he was born. When the country he had helped to build celebrated its jubilee, he sat on the porch and let the young men tell him what it had all meant.

On this January morning in 1836, he dressed slowly and came down the stairs one hand at a time. The kitchen went quiet when he appeared, then loud again.

A small boy tugged at his sleeve. “Grandfather, were you scared?”

Nathaniel considered the question honestly, as it deserved.

“Every day,” he said. “But somebody had to keep the beat.”

The boy nodded as though that settled it, and ran off to the stove.

A note on the history: Records I (Claude) found list Nathaniel Low Chase as born in Newbury in 1752, serving as a private soldier in Capt. Rogers's company in 1775 and as a drummer in 1777. He married Lydia Dustin on April 8, 1773, and he died in West Newbury in January 1836. Genealogy sources list a son John born in 1775 and several other children. Everything else is imagined, including the specific scenes, dialogue, the older drummer, and where his companies were stationed, since I couldn't find detailed records of his campaigns. If you have a pension application or muster details, I'd be glad to rework the story around them, or turn this into a formatted document.

I (Greg) then asked Claude to update the story based on additional historical evidence I provided from Sons of the American Revolution (Nathaniel Low Chase, is my 5th great grandfather). And this is what Claude came up with:

The Drummer of Newbury, Newbury, Massachusetts, 8 May 1775

Nathaniel Low Chase was twenty-two when he put his name to the roll. Lydia stood at the edge of the yard with her arms folded against the spring wind. They had been married two years, and she was a Dustin of Haverhill, a family that knew something about frightened, determined women.

"You can't carry a musket and keep the farm both," she said.

"I'm not meant for a musket," he said, and realized it was true. Captain William Rogers needed a drummer for his 8th Company, and Nathaniel had a steady hand and a good ear. A drum, the captain told him, is the only voice a company can hear in smoke.

So, he became part of Colonel Gerrish's regiment, then Colonel Baldwin's 37th when the army reshuffled itself that autumn. He drummed at Chelsea in August, across the water from a Boston full of redcoats. He beat the long roll that woke the camp, the quick patter that formed the line, and the slow march that carried tired men home from the earthworks. The muster roll of 1 August 1775 counted him in service three months and two days. He never learned whether the men noticed him. They noticed when the drum stopped.

He was home by December, and on the sixth of that month Lydia bore him a son. He held John in the cold light of the window and understood, for the first time, what he was drumming for.

Albany, 1777 The war did not stay in Massachusetts. In January 1777 the Council wrote him a warrant for pay, and by summer he was far from the Merrimack, drumming for Captain Joshua French in Colonel Wigglesworth's regiment. He saw country he had never imagined: broad rivers, endless forest, and a sky that felt too big for a man from the coast.

When his service ended, the army owed him mileage for the road home from Albany, some two hundred and fifty miles along the old Mohawk Trail. He walked it with the drum slung on his back and no one left to keep step for. Twenty days, perhaps thirty. He slept in barns. In the evenings he sometimes tapped a rhythm on his knee, just to remember what it felt like to be part of something that moved together.

Lydia was waiting at the gate. She did not run to him. She looked him over, counted his limbs, and then pressed her forehead to his chest. Behind her, three-year-old John hid in her skirts and stared at the stranger.

Rhode Island, July 1780 The alarm came again three summers later: the British were at Newport, and the militia must march. Nathaniel took the drum down from its peg. For thirteen and a half days, travel included, he beat the cadence on dusty Rhode Island roads. No great battle followed. The threat passed, as threats do, and he was discharged on the eighth of August.

Nobody wrote songs about those thirteen days. But the pay abstract survives, and it says he went when called.

West Newbury, 1810 to 1833 The children grew and scattered. Ezra, born the autumn of '79, would die far off in Philadelphia. By the census of 1810 the house had gone quiet: Nathaniel, fifty-eight, and Lydia, fifty-six, alone

with the clock. Ten years later a young woman lived with them, a daughter or a niece. The record does not say, and neither did he.

He made wagons and farm tools, and he grew old the way most people of that generation did, without ceremony.

Then in 1832 Congress passed a law that remembered the ordinary soldiers. Nathaniel, eighty and slow-footed, sat before a clerk who wrote down his service. When the clerk reached the name, he wrote it Chace.

“With an s,” Nathaniel said mildly.

The clerk shrugged. Names, he explained, had a way of changing at the courthouse. Nathaniel almost laughed. He had marched two hundred and fifty miles on his own legs, and it seemed the government’s pen could still wander off with a letter. In later generations, some of his descendants would simply keep the c, tired of arguing.

The rank on the page read drummer. The allowance was \$39.86 a month, paid in two installments, March and September. Lydia, still sharp at seventy-nine, counted the first payment twice.

12 January 1836 He died in the cold of winter, in the town where the river bends, aged eighty-three. They buried him in Merrimack Cemetery. The pension rolls credited him with the first quarter of 1836, a last small payment on a debt the country had taken fifty years to acknowledge.

Lydia outlived him by six years.

Nobody now remembers the sound of his drumming. But the records remember that on a May morning in 1775 a young man from Newbury signed his name, and that he kept coming back every time the drum was needed.

Sources and liberties: The service details (Rogers’s 8th Company, Gerrish’s and Baldwin’s regiments, Chelsea, Captain French’s company, the Albany mileage, the 1780 Rhode Island alarm, the censuses, and the \$39.86 pension) come from the research you (Greg) shared. The scenes, dialogue, and feelings are invented, including the clerk’s misspelling of “Chace” (which your family notes only describe as a common error). Lydia’s death year is inferred from the 1842 date in the genealogy records I found earlier. I (Claude) also corrected my first draft, which wrongly implied John was Nathaniel’s first child; your notes say he was the third son.

AI Takeaways

- I like Claude; he is very quick!
- If you use AI you owe the public full disclosure, so as I have done, include your premise, AI’s notes, sources and ‘liberties’
- When reading an article, suspect that it is AI:
 - when conversations appear in quotes;
 - descriptions such as weather, times of day/night appear;
 - ‘facts’ that cannot be verified;
 - historical ‘fictions’.
- These stories about my 5th great-grandfather flesh out memories lost to time while providing a backdrop of life during the American Revolution.

Happy 250th Anniversary!

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- 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
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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, Nov 11, 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, Nov 5th as 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:

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As of Nov 1, 2026: Read more about these (and other items) at: [MOAA - News Listing](#)

- **Avoid Fraud During Open Enrollment Season, by Kevin Lilley**

- This article was originally published in November 2024 and is updated regularly. Last update: October 2026.
- Medicare, TRICARE, and FEDVIP plan users all can make coverage changes during [open season](#), creating tempting targets for scam artists looking to separate you from your personal data or con you into paying for unneeded or nonexistent health services.
- A Federal Trade Commission (FTC) alert highlighted one type of fraud: Scammers posing as Medicare representatives who contact beneficiaries and ask for personal data before they can send out a new Medicare card. Providing a Medicare number, a bank account, or any similar information to these callers could lead to identity theft or other adverse outcomes.
 - Nov. 4 MOAA Webinar: Scam-Proof Your Mission: Scammers are targeting servicemembers and veterans – along with their spouses and families – at rising rates, with millions stolen from the military community last year alone. This webinar can help you protect yourself and your family from these threats. Join guest expert Rachel Dooley, director of Military and Veterans Initiatives of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Institute of Marketplace Trust, to explore common scams, warning signs, prevention tactics, and more. Register Now at <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d0641d30-51be-46ce-8872-f810327cb31e@8190aedd-e648-4bc2-bfeb-d25a944d2b64?source=copyLinkOneEventsShareDialog>
- Check out these half-dozen tips to protect yourself while shopping for health coverage, courtesy of the FTC, the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and other resources:
 - Hang Up, Call Back: Scammers can spoof caller-identification software, making it seem like they're contacting you from a reputable agency. No matter the request, it's safer to make a new connection – hang up and call Medicare (1-800-663-4227), TRICARE (find the right number for your coverage/location at TRICARE.mil), or FEDVIP/BENEFEDS (1-877-888-3337).
 - 'Free' Isn't Free: Many scammers begin by offering a courtesy health screening, a sign-up gift, or some other incentive for you to part with your personal data. Not only could this lead to identity theft, it may allow the provider of the "free" test to bill your insurance for any services provided ... services your insurance may not cover.

- Rules of Engagement: Medicare, TRICARE, and FEDVIP officials will not reach out to you unprompted via phone call or text. The plans have slightly different rules for initiating contact – Medicare reps may reach out if you’ve left a message or reported fraud, for instance – but any out-of-the-blue communication should be a significant red flag.
- Find the Source: While web searches can help answer important questions, they can also lead beneficiaries into online traps. The same guidance applies to using artificial intelligence: AI-generated answers to your health care prompts may pull from unofficial or outdated source material. Keep to trusted sources like the official sites of Medicare, TRICARE, and FEDVIP/BENEFEDS.
- Numbers Matter: Most beneficiaries know to protect bank account and credit card details as a way to prevent financial fraud. But providing a scammer with a Medicare number or other insurance plan information can be just as damaging; be especially careful with this information.
- Find Help From MOAA: MOAA offers a range of resources to help you stay safe, including articles from our financial experts and recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members) which offer an overview of scams and frauds and ways to protect yourself from cybercrime and scams.
- MOAA also takes part in the Cybercrime Support Network’s Military and Veteran Program, which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud, and partners with the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust to offer more scam prevention resources.
- MOAA Members Save With Aura - Aura has a comprehensive solution for helping to reduce your risk of identity theft and get you back on track if it should happen. Through a partnership with MOAA, members can access these services at up to 75% off for individual, couple, and family plans.
- 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
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 - **Oct 28, 2026**
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