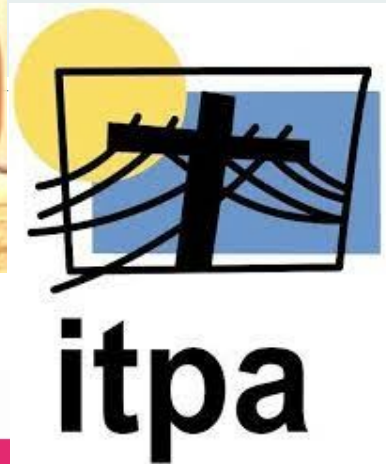




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter  
February 2025 Newsletter



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Most of us think about Valentine's Day when we think of February, but this short month is packed full of other significant events. "February" is named after the Roman festival of purification called Februa. The festival name itself was derived from the Latin word "Februare," which means "to purify." During the "Februa" festival, conducted on February 15<sup>th</sup>, participants made offerings and sacrifices to purify themselves and their environment.

February is also the month in which the calendar year is synchronized with the solar year. Solar years last about 365.24 days. Adding a day to February every four years synchronizes our calendar with the solar year. However, if that year is divisible by 100 but not by 400, leap year is omitted.

Another interesting fact about February is that while many of us in the United States are in the midst of winter, the month of February is actually the hottest month of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

February has several notable holidays and events, including:

- ◆ Groundhog Day (February 2) – If a groundhog emerges from its burrow and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather.
- ◆ February 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science - In 2016, the UN declared a national date on which to encourage more women and girls to pursue jobs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- ◆ February 14 - Valentine's Day, first celebrated in 496 AD, originated as a Christian feast honoring a martyr named Valentine.
- ◆ National Black History Month – Nationally expanded to one month in the 1970's, the recognition of Black Americans' significant historical contributions began in 1926 as a week-long recognition of Black Americans' accomplishments throughout history.

February is a significant month for U.S. statehood. Massachusetts was admitted to the union as the 6th state on February 6, 1788. Maine became the 23rd state on February 15, 1820. Oregon became the 33rd state on February 14, 1859. Arizona became the 48th state on February 14, 1912. Oklahoma became the 46th state on November 16, 1907. Mississippi was readmitted to the Union on February 23, 1870, after having seceded from the United States during the Civil War. **HAPPY FEBRUARY!**

### SAVE THE DATES

#### Last Tuesday of each Month

Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast  
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

#### February 7-9, 2026

Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter  
Gathering and Super Bowl Party  
Monterey Bay Suites  
Myrtle Beach, SC

#### August 22-23, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Mtg  
Aberdeen, NC

#### October 10-11, 2025

Annual Carotel Convention  
Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel  
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

#### February 6-8, 2026

Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter  
Gathering and Super Bowl LX Party  
Monterey Bay Suites  
Myrtle Beach, SC



## CONGRATULATIONS



### FEBRUARY

- 3 Carol Harrell
- 16 Larry Newsome
- 22 Brenda Smith

### March

- 7 Paige Venczel
- 9 Curty Lancaster
- 15 Darlene Mills
- 22 Lisa Lancaster

31



### FEBRUARY

- 14 Paige and Jim Venczel

**Do you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary? Let us know the date(s) so we can celebrate with you!**

## IN MEMORY OF EMMETT TATUM



Emmett L. Tatum, Jr., age 96, passed away on January 22, 2025. Emmett was born in Edgecombe County on July 6, 1928, to parents Emmett and Blanche Fryer Tatum, now deceased.

Emmett was also preceded in death by his beloved wife Denative Poland Tatum, daughter Lenae June Tatum and sister Blanche Trent.

Emmett has a large and loving family with whom he left a lifetime of treasured memories. His daughter Lynette Tatum resides in Rocky Mount. Daughter Joella T. Webb and her husband Bruce reside in Nashville. Son Duncan Emmett Tatum and his wife reside in Rocky Mount.

Emmett also left behind six grandchildren and five great grandchildren who put a smile on his face whenever he saw them. Grandchildren are Sharon Webb, Amy Webb Trull (Josh), Brandon Johnson, Adam Johnson (Jessica), Collin Tatum, Blake Tatum, and Jamal Bullock. Great-grandchildren are Kyle and Owen Trull, Aiden, Grace and Nathan.

A memorial service was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Oakdale Baptist Church in Rocky Mount. Emmett was interred on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Pineview Cemetery, Rocky Mount. Memorial donations may be made to Oakdale Baptist Church.

Emmett was a Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company retiree and was an avid Carotel supporter. In memory of Emmett, we are revisiting a prior "Member Spotlight" segment that featured Emmett.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON EMMETT TATUM

*Adapted from article that originally appeared in the November 2024 issue of the Carotel/Tar Heel Chapter Newsletter.*

For the first time in many years, Emmett Tatum wasn't able to attend our 2024 Carotel Convention that he looked forward to each year. Emmett celebrated his 96th birthday on July 6, 2024, and he wasn't as spry as he once was, but he did enjoy spending his birthday with one of his daughters at White Lake, as has been an annual tradition.



Emmett graduated from Rocky Mount High School and worked for Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company from 1949 until he enlisted in the military in September 1950.



After receiving an honorable discharge in September 1952, Emmett resumed his telephony career, during which time worked as an installer and a central office technician.

Emmett married his sweetheart, Denative Poland, in May 1951. Their love story began with a double date. Emmett's best friend Sonny was dating Denative's sister at the time, and Emmett worked up the courage to ask Denative out.



Sonny and Denative's sister didn't last, but Emmett and Denative found true love. The couple had three daughters and one son.

Emmett's daughter JoElla, who accompanied Emmett to our Carotel Conventions for the last couple of years that he attended, recalled of Emmett that he at times

worked two or three jobs so that Denative could stay home with their growing family. Their oldest daughter, LeNae, died on December 25, 1959, with leukemia. Denative passed away on February 14, 1998, just shy of the couple's 47th wedding anniversary.

Emmett always loved airplanes and flying. He and his best buddy Sonny Williams flew a Cessna and a Piper Cub, and they frequented air shows by the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels. Emmett took his family to some of those shows, and his daughter JoElla remembers going to Virginia once or twice for an air show.



*Above: Emmett and friend Sonny Williams often shared meals together.*

## EMMETT TATUM TRIBUTE (CONT'D)

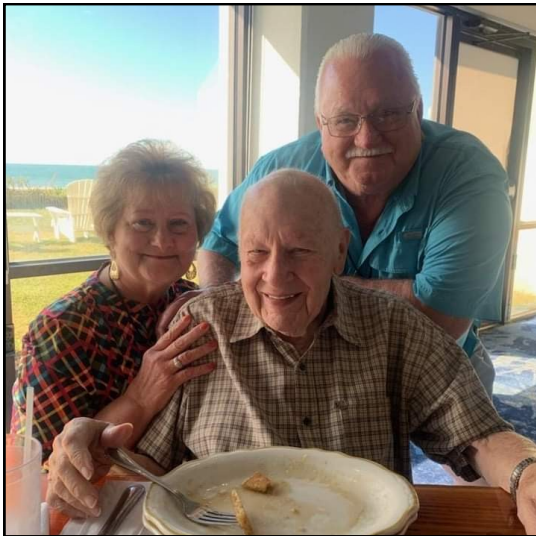
Emmett also loved to bowl and bowled every week in a league until just a few years ago. He also loved a good bingo game and was a member of his local senior Center.

It's no secret that Emmett also loved to dance. Even after he couldn't drive himself to the dances, his daughter provided his transportation to and from the dances until recent years when his health didn't allow. Emmett also loved dancing when he attended the annual Carotel convention.



*Above: Emmett with daughter JoElla at the 2022 Carotel Convention.*

*Below: Emmett visits with Edie and Larry Willis during a recent Carotel Convention.*



Emmett was close to his adult children, both in proximity and emotionally, and the family often gathered to enjoy meals. And their family has grown over the years. Emmett had six grandchildren and five great grandchildren who put a smile on his face whenever he saw them.



*Above right: Emmett with granddaughter Amy and great grandson Kyle.*

Emmett's daughters Lynette and JoElla and his son Duncan banded together to help Emmett remain in his home once he became less mobile, and he was able to stay in his home until mid-December when his declining health no longer allowed.

Some Pioneers who attended the 2024 Carotel Convention signed a card for Emmett to let him know he was missed. That card brought tears to Emmett's eyes as he read the sentiments shared by friends. We remember Emmett for the years of friendship and for his dedication to our club.

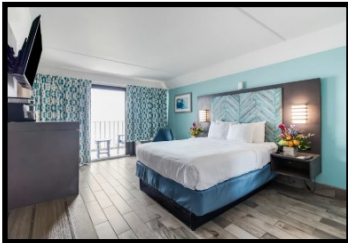


*Above left: Emmett and Jack Britt enjoying a visit.*

*Above right: Darlene Terry and Emmett share a laugh.*

## 2025 CAROTEL HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Great news Pioneers! You can guarantee your fall Carotel Convention room rate by reserving your hotel room **now** for our 2025 fall convention. The convention will be held on October 10-11 at the beautiful Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel (formerly known as The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores). The hotel is located at 511 Salter Path Road in Pine Knoll Shores.



The room rate this year is just \$125 per night, a rate only slightly higher than in prior years, and still a great deal for these beautiful waterfront rooms. Every room features an ocean view.



You may call to reserve your hotel room now at 252-247-4155. To receive the special room rate of \$125 plus tax for Thursday (optional) and Friday/Saturday nights, ask for the **Carotel Club** or **ITPA Carotel Club group rate**. (Room includes two double beds. If you prefer a room with one king size bed, the per night rate is \$135.)

Based on the excellent feedback we received about last year's catering, Fat Fellas BBQ and Grill in Newport, will again cater our meals.



The registration fee will be finalized in August or September, closer to the date of our convention, and our planning committee will work hard to keep the registration fee as low as possible. Registration fees cover the cost of our meeting room, meals, snacks and entertainment. For your planning purposes, last year's registration fee was \$75. We expect to announce a theme for this year's convention within the next several months. In the meantime, you can get your oceanfront hotel reservation made and dust off your dancing shoes!

## TAR HEEL CHAPTER MID-WINTER GATHERING

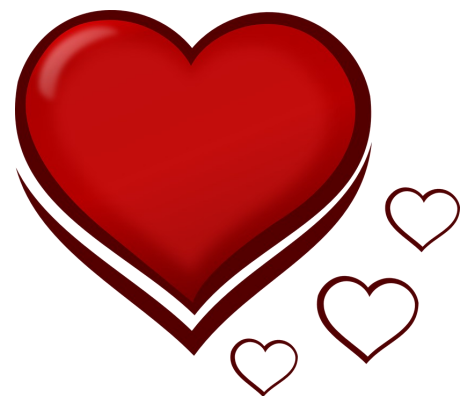
Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers will host their annual mid-winter gathering during Super Bowl weekend. Hotel room rates are available as early as Thursday, February 6th. The annual board meeting will be held prior to the Super Bowl game and Super Bowl LIX will commence on Sunday, February 9th at 6:30 ET. We expect to have plenty of food and fun. Please join us! ITPA Pioneers and guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Our gathering will kick off on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Monterey Bay Suites, 6804 N Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572. To receive the discounted group rates for the hotel, reservations had to be made by January 6th. If you didn't make that deadline, you can still make a reservation and join us, although normal hotel rates will apply.

Please call the reservation department at 844-900-0859 to book your rooms. If desired, you can ask to be located near the Pioneers who booked under the Tar Heel Chapter ITPA group rates. If you have any problems completing your reservation, please call Terry Harrelson at 843-386-5602. She can also help you with preferred floor, if available.



**Please send an email to Ronnie Cashwell at : [bigronc.1313@gmail.com](mailto:bigronc.1313@gmail.com) once you've made your hotel reservation to confirm your attendance at our mid-winter gathering.**



# CAROTEL / TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

## 2024-25 CAROTEL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

**President:** Larry Newsome

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Carol Harrell

**Secretary:** Mary McLamb

**Directors:** Ray Brock , Andy Davis, Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell, Darlene House, Judy Satterwhite, Doug Sibbett, Darlene Terry, Edie Willis  
**Directors Emeritus:** Ronnie Cashwell, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw

**Committees:**  
**Scholarship Committee**

Carol Harrell, Chair  
Janet Holliday-Cashwell, Brenda Smith

**By-Laws Committee**

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair  
Ray Brock, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw, Doug Sibbett

**Entertainment Committee**

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

**Public Relations**

Darlene Terry

**Immediate Past President/Nominating**

Brenda Smith

## 2024-2025 TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS

**President :** Darlene Terry

**Immediate Past President:** Ronnie Cashwell

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Co-Secretary/Treasurers:**

Carol Harrell  
Janet Holliday-Cashwell

**Auditor:** Bill Twyman

**Directors:** Janet Holliday-Cashwell, Danny Dennis, Nat Goss, , Jim Jolly, Hannah Lancaster, Alissa Moss, Mike Outlaw, Brenda Smith

**Committee Chairs:**

Carolyn Thompson—Publicity/Historical  
Carol Harrell—Scholarship  
Ronnie Cashwell—Entertainment, Nominating

*The 2024-2025 Officers and Directors were elected during the chapter and club general membership meetings.*



**Carotel is affiliated with the ITPA Tar Heel Chapter in Region 3. All Carotel Pioneers are invited and encouraged to participate in our state chapter activities and events. The national ITPA was founded in 1920 by members of the independent telecommunications industry as a way to serve the communities they lived and worked in.**

**The Carotel Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter. The club initially consisted of members who were employed by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company and required 15 years of service as a condition of membership. Over the years, the club's by-laws were revised, as companies were merged and acquired, to welcome Sprint and Embarq telecommunications associates, and the required length of service was reduced. In recent years, a new membership category was adopted by the ITPA to allow "Friends of Pioneers" to become Pioneers. And we need new members! Invite someone today. Membership application can be found at: [ITPA New Member Application Form.docx \(live.com\)](#)**