

# News Bulletin

## March 2023



[www.uncnrotcaa.org](http://www.uncnrotcaa.org)

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### Message from the President





Hello Alumni Association Members,

Spring 2023 is here! We anticipate some exciting events and milestones this Spring for the Tarheel midshipmen and the Naval Armory!

We are excited about a special event for the NROTC Alumni and special allies, our Naval Armory's 80th Anniversary! Sandy Henkel and the celebration committee share some specifics about the planned events for 13-14 April 2023 in this bulletin! Please save the dates and plan on attending and/or supporting in whatever way you can.

As we approach the annual Spring events for midshipmen including Awards Day and Commissioning, we also have good news about improvements to the Dawson Library to improve its support of and value to the midshipmen.

Welcome aboard to our new Alumni Association members and those renewing their membership. Please let us know about your significant good news that we can share with other members. We all like to hear good news - especially about those from Carolina NROTC. Send your news and updated contact info, including email addresses, to Doug Montgomery at: [doug.w.montgomery1@gmail.com](mailto:doug.w.montgomery1@gmail.com)

Marianne Waldrop '87

*Please become a paid member. We need you!*

*Most Popular option: Life Membership*

**GREAT VALUE: 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP**

**5 years of membership for the price of four!**

**Click the green button below to join, renew or upgrade.**

Join, Renew or Upgrade your Membership Now

## Naval Armory's 80th Anniversary Celebration

We are very excited to celebrate the 80th birthday of the Naval Armory this spring. We need several things from you to make this a successful event.

First, please make it a priority to join us April 13-14, 2023, as we pay tribute to this iconic building that has equipped so many fine leaders for over eight decades. These events are meant to honor the NROTC heritage at UNC, to commemorate our alumni, and to further demonstrate the need to preserve this building for future students. We need your presence to show both a commitment to our preservation efforts and a solidarity of effort within our alumni association. **Hotel discounts deadlines are coming quickly.** Click [here](#) for all the schedule and registration details.

Second, your financial support is appreciated. All contributions may be made through our website's Contribute page.

Third, we need you to help communicate this event to your fellow alumni and to share this information with any other interested people.

We may not have another opportunity as grand as this to be recognized by the UNC faculty, the UNC Board of Trustees, the media and political leaders. Please make every effort to help us with your presence and your gifts.

## **UNC Naval Armory 80th Birthday Celebration**

**Register Today**

**\*\*\* April 13-14, 2023 \*\*\***

\*Thursday evening, April 13th - Cocktails & dinner at the Carolina Club for NROTC AA family & friends with open microphone to share memories

\*Friday morning, April 14th - Light breakfast at the Naval Armory, then a Celebration with Keynote Speakers at the Carolina Union followed by a lunch buffet

\*Friday afternoon, April 14th - Memorial Service at the Veterans' Memorial followed by a photo of the unit at the Naval Armory

All the details on event schedules, hotel rooms, and registration are [here](#).

Event coordinator: Sandy Henkel [unc.armory.event@gmail.com](mailto:unc.armory.event@gmail.com)



## **Commissioning Day**

The 2023 Commissioning Ceremony Guest Speaker will be LtGen George W. Smith, Jr., USMC ('85) who currently serves as Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF).

UNC's NROTC Commissioning Day will be Saturday, 13 May 2023.

## Dawson Library Improvements

Captain David Dawson, USMC ('86) epitomized professional excellence and a passion for learning. Following Captain Dawson's accidental death in 1995, a library was chartered in his memory and spirit to provide professional resources and inspiration to future officers as described [here](#).

Over the past year, the UNC NROTC unit leadership, midshipmen, and Alumni Association collaborated to update and expand the library's available professional resources. Specific improvements included:

- The Association bylaws were revised to reflect the full scope of these efforts and establish the Dawson Library and Leader Development Program. The alumni supported acquisition of the current Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) reading list while the Marine Corps Association and Foundation (MCAF) provided funds to add Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) reading list titles.
- Howard Petrea '72 graciously donated numerous professional books from his personal collection.
- The U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) and MCAF now provide complimentary copies of Proceedings and the Marine Corps Gazette magazines, respectively, for the library.
- The NROTC faculty engaged several Navy and Marine Corps organizations to bring wargaming into the curriculum to provide midshipmen with competitive, experiential learning.
- The Dawson Fund and the Alumni Association supported the purchase of a smartboard to enable collaborative work and remote education opportunities such as Nuclear Propulsion selection interviews.

The planning team will reconvene this spring to explore more professional development opportunities for the next academic year. If you would like to know more about the Dawson Library and Leader Development Program or how you can support it, please contact Jim Fullwood '92 at [james.fullwood.jr@gmail.com](mailto:james.fullwood.jr@gmail.com).

## Fundraiser in memory of YNCM Don Ledford

From Steve Fish '85... YNCM Don Ledford had an enormous influence on me and many other alumni during our days at UNC. That continued into the Fleet and beyond into my daily life for the last 41 years.

In September 2022, Don passed away due to complications of blood cancer. His life was prolonged for the better due to the research done related to his cancer. I have the great honor of joining another UNC NROTC alumnus, John "Chin" Shaulis (former NROTC unit OIC), as a teammate on "Team Survivor." That 22-person team of nationwide bicycle enthusiasts partners with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as a part of the greater "America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride." On June 4,

Society as a part of the greater [America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride](#). On June 4, 2023, we will gather in Lake Tahoe, NV to ride 100 miles completely encircling Lake Tahoe. We seek to raise awareness about the types of cancer that took Don's life and to raise money for the research that helped prolong his life.

We urgently ask that you consider making a tax-deductible donation to this cause. Every little bit helps, so please visit [my page](#) or Chin's [page](#) to donate. If you work for a corporation, please investigate their charitable gift matching program. There is a place on the donation page to enter your company's information to assist in this effort.

Visit our fundraising support pages for more information. Please DONATE NOW.

## Naval Armory Preservation Committee Update

The Board of Trustees (BoT) email campaign is running smoothly with good feedback from BoT members. Navy and Air Force ROTC alumni take turns sending emails each month to sustain awareness and gain more support. Efforts also continue to identify and cultivate "Big Navy" support. Pursuing publicity for the Naval Armory's 80th Anniversary will be a big effort in the coming months. Contact Rob Rivers '73 at [robrivers1@gmail.com](mailto:robrivers1@gmail.com) to learn more and join this campaign.

## 2023 Membership

If you haven't already done so, it is time to join or renew your membership for 2023.

### What do my dues pay for?

Your dues contribution pays for our website, database software, financial management software and the Distinguished Alumnus /Alumna and Distinguished Service Awards; these funds enable us to communicate with the graduates so we can host and organize alumni events to support our NROTC Unit and Midshipmen. The Scholarships, Dawson Library and Connor Awards are funded separately through charitable contributions. Events (Annual Meeting & Reunions) are funded on a pay-as-you go basis by event participants.

## Now Hear This: Scuttlebutt!

We learned that a NC DOT Historical Marker was recently approved for the US Navy's Preflight Program at UNC Chapel Hill during WWII.

The Celebration event is planned for Saturday, 30 September 2023.

The historical marker will be located by Spencer Dorm on Raleigh St since that was determined as a focal location for those preflight training participants.

## Taps for NROTC Alumni We've Lost

- Dr. Kent C. Roberts, '45 (USNR) passed away on 24 August 2021. The description of his legacy and obituary are posted [here](#).
- RADM Lafayette "Ferg" Norton, '61 (USN) passed away on 11 September 2022. The description of his legacy and obituary are posted [here](#).

As a service to our members, we have created a new feature on the website available for paid members entitled [Deceased Alumni](#). The feature may be found on the Alumni Service and Information Resource tabs of the website. Please notify the Secretary if you know of errors or additional alumni who should be listed here. If you know of a UNC NROTC Alumnus who has passed away, let us know so that this information may be reported in the News Bulletin under "Taps". Please send your announcements to [whlatham@icloud.com](mailto:whlatham@icloud.com).

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Naval Armory is located at 221 South Columbia St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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