



CAROTEL CLUB/TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to the 2025 Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter scholarship recipients. Family members of Pioneers who are members of these ITPA affiliates are eligible to apply each year they are enrolled in college.

Carotel's *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* is awarded annually in memory of Carotel Pioneer Elizabeth "Libba" Bland in recognition of her years of dedication to the Carotel Pioneer Club.

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to an individual college-bound student or split between multiple recipients. Applicants must be related to an active Carotel Pioneer Club member.

The Tar Heel Chapter has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for about 25 years. The *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship* was established by Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers Bill and Joe Lawrence, both of whom worked for Heins Telephone Company.

The former Tar Heel Chapter scholarship fund was previously merged with the Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship fund. Thanks in large part to Bill and Joe's generosity, the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers are pleased to continue awarding scholarships each year to applicants who are related to an active Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer.



The 2025 *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* recipients are:

**Mykenzi Cashwell
and
Ethan Harrell**

The 2025 *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship* recipients are:

**Joey Howard,
Mykenzi Cashwell
and
Kassie Davis**

About our Scholarship Recipients

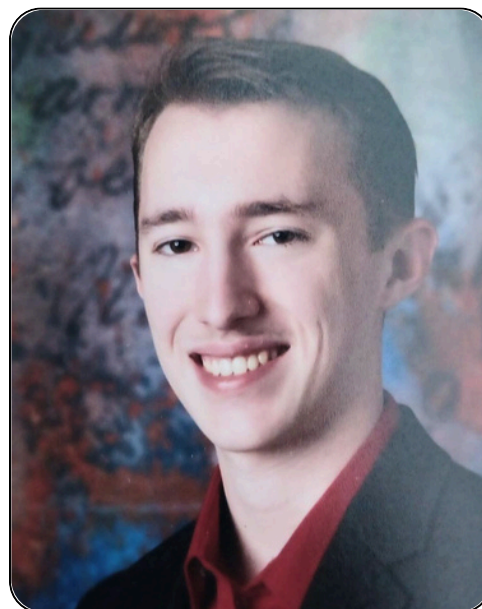


Mykenzi Cashwell is a second-time recipient of both the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* and the *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship*. She is the granddaughter of Pioneers Ronnie and Janet Cashwell. Mykenzi is a second-year student at Fayetteville Technical Community College where she is pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene. In High School, Mykenzi was a Beta Club and CTE Honors Society member, and she graduated near the top of her class. Mykenzi has continued her outstanding academic excellence in college.



Ethan Harrell is a graduate of Northern Nash High School. He is the grandson of Pioneers Jimmy and Sandra Harrell of Tarboro. Ethan was a member of the National Honor Society in High school and was active in concert and marching bands. He was the section leader for both bands during his junior and senior years. Ethan is active in his church and has participated in missions trips to Panama and India, along with numerous other service activities.

Ethan has served his community as a volunteer with the *Teen Court* program since 6th grade. Teen Court is a youth development project that invests youth in citizenship. Youth volunteers act as jurors, bailiffs, clerks, defense and prosecuting attorneys, and determine the sentence for juvenile offenders referred by police, school SRO's, retail stores, and school officials. Ethan has served in all of those roles. Ethan will attend North Carolina State University where he will pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.



About our Scholarship Recipients (Cont'd)



Joseph "Joey" Howard II, first-time *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship* recipient, is the grandson of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Carolyn Thompson. He plans to pursue an Engineering degree at Methodist University beginning this fall.

Joey graduated from West Davidson High School in June, having maintained a 4.0 grade point average during his senior year. He was captain of his varsity football team and received the All-Conference Defense Sportsmanship Award. He earned a brown belt in karate, which signifies an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the unarmed martial-arts discipline. Joey has a strong work ethic and isn't afraid of hard work. While in high school, he worked at Red Pine Plantation where he assisted with farm maintenance and animal care. He also worked at a local farm where he rolled hay, was responsible for general maintenance and animal care, among other tasks. He demonstrated leadership and determination through his hard work on the farm, at school, and on the athletic field, and in his church and community service activities and earned a stellar reputation among his peers and instructors.

Kassie Davis is a repeat recipient of the *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship*, and she was again on the President's List of Scholars this year at College of Coastal Georgia, where she is pursuing a nursing degree. Kassie has maintained an excellent academic standing throughout her freshman and sophomore years at college, and she again earned a 4.0 grade point average during the Spring 2025 semester.

Kassie has a heart for service and has dedicated many volunteer hours to national ITPA events and projects supported by the ITPA. Kassie is the daughter of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Alissa Moss.

Kassie's dorm isn't far from the coast, and while she doesn't have much leisure time away from her studies, she enjoys opportunities to watch the sun set over the ocean.



Memorial Tribute – Mike Outlaw



Michael “Mike” Durand Outlaw, 86 passed away at his home on July 18th, surrounded by his beloved family. A memorial service was held on July 22nd at Salem Methodist Church in Eastover, with many family members CT&T friends, and fellow Shriners in attendance.

Mike was born in Duplin County to the late Gordan and Ethel Outlaw. He is also preceded in death by his brother, Donald Keith Outlaw; and his sisters, Elsie Taylor and Patty Jo Outlaw. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Jean Howard Outlaw; children, Darena Lease (Tim) of Smith Mountain Lake, VA, Michelle Roach (Greg) of High Springs, FL, and Alan Outlaw of Raleigh; grandchildren, Allison, Haley, Dylan, Jaime, Connor, Aidan and Logan; great grandchildren, Asher and Nora; sisters, Mary Ethel Lewis and Ivey Outlaw; and

sisters-in-law, Ann Herring, Trula Meadows, Faye Davis and Joan Bradshaw.

Mike was a United States Air Force Veteran and a longtime member of Salem Methodist Church. During his stint in the military from 1956 to 1960, Mike happily said “yes” when the love of his life asked him to marry her in 1959. (That was his story; hers was a bit different.) On July 3rd Mike and Jean celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary!

Mike joined Carolina Telephone (CT&T) in 1961 as a Central Office repairman in Roanoke Rapids. Mike and his bride, Jean moved to Rocky Mount in 1963 and he was one of CT&T’s first Teletype repairmen. In 1980, he was promoted to Combination Foreman in Wallace. The family moved to Smithfield in 1980 when Mike accepted the position of Plant Manager. When districts were later merged, he moved to Fayetteville as Customer Service Manager.



Mike and Jean at a Tar Heel Chapter themed gathering, Mike looking every bit like “Doc” from the Gunsmoke series.

Mike retired in 1998. He was a devoted ITPA Pioneer for more than 45 years, having joined the ITPA as soon as he was eligible for membership back when 15 years of service was required. He became an integral member of the Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter. Mike served as Carotel Pioneer Club president twice and has served on the Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter board of directors for many years. Mike devoted numerous hours to community service projects over the years on behalf of the Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter. Of the many Carotel sponsored community activities Mike participated in, some of his favorites included a portable fire house used to teach fire safety, a talking animal program for special needs children, and an audible book program for blind students. Mike remained a dedicated Pioneer and was as active after retirement as he was during his telephony career. Most recently, he and Jean were able to attend the Tar Heel Mid-Winter Gathering at Myrtle Beach, SC in February.



Mike and Jean with ITPA mascot Honey Bunny at the 2025 Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter Gathering.

Memorial Tribute - Mike Outlaw (cont'd)



Mike and Jean with Elvis at the August 2024 Tar Heel Chapter Assembly

In 1994 Mike was awarded the John Knox Johnston Regional Award by the ITPA for his meritorious service as a Pioneer. In 2020, he was presented with the prestigious national ITPA Pioneering Excellence Award, the highest individual honor the national ITPA can bestow. National ITPA representatives traveled to NC to attend a socially distanced celebration to present Mike with the award.

Mike was also an active Shriner and Masonic Lodge member. He became a Sudan Shriner in 1975 and remained an active member of various Sudan clubs due to several relocations during his career with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company.

When Mike and Jean moved to Smithfield in 1980, Mike joined the Johnson County Shrine Club and the Sudan Animated Animals. Mike served as the Johnson County club's president in 1983 and as Director of the Animated Animals from 2000 to 2005.



In 2024, Mike and Jean were honored by the Johnson County, NC Shrine Club for their long-time public and community service on behalf of the Sudan Shriners. The Johnson County Shrine Club's annual Spring Ceremonial was dedicated to honoring the couple.

Right: Mike and Jean at the 2024 Johnson County Shrine Club Spring Ceremonial



Even though the Shrine Club is a fraternal organization, spouses are welcomed and encouraged to participate in social and philanthropic activities. Through Jean's participation with the Sudan Shriners, she earned the title "Lady Jean" which paired nicely with the honor that was bestowed upon Mike as "Noble Micheal Outlaw."

Mike and Jean's children and grandchildren surprised them by attending the ceremony, making this special day even more festive for the couple.



Memorial Tribute - Mike Outlaw (cont'd)

In November 2024, Mike and Jean were featured in the national ITPA's Pioneer Connection magazine in the "Pioneer Passions" segment, a segment that spotlights community service endeavors that our Pioneers are dedicated to outside of the ITPA.

Just becoming a Shiner is a big commitment. Before becoming a Shriner, a man must first become a Mason. The fraternity of Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternity in the world, dating back hundreds of years. It began when stonemasons and other craftsmen began gathering in shelter houses or lodges. Over the years, members remained bound together, not by trade, but by a desire to make a difference for others. The fraternity itself is complex. At the base level is the Blue Lodge, where members earn the first three Masonic Degrees known as the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and then the highest degree of Master Mason, or the Third Degree. Once a member becomes a Master Mason, he can petition to become a Noble of the Shrine of North America.

Mike was a friend to multitudes and was loved by many. He lived his life to the fullest and devoted his entire being to what was important to him, his family first and foremost. We express heartfelt sympathy to his family and we grieve with them the loss of our dear friend and fellow Pioneer.



In Memory of Judy Adams Joiner



Judy Adams Joiner, wife of Carotel Pioneer Bill Joiner, passed away on June 22, 2025. Born in 1940, Judy's life exemplified the values of kindness, compassion, and dedication. She was a beacon of love and warmth who touched the lives of many with her thoughtful actions and caring spirit. Judy learned from a young age the importance of family, friendship, and faith. These values would guide her throughout her life, influencing every decision she made and every relationship she cherished.



Judy was a homemaker by trade, but her true vocation was serving her family and community. As a devoted member of Tabernacle Baptist Church since childhood, her faith was an integral part of her life. She found joy in assisting with Vacation Bible School and contributing to the Women's Mission Union. Her dedication was also evident in her unwavering support of her daughters, cheering them on at every marching band and drill team event with fervor and a spirited ringing of her cowbell. The verse from Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" perfectly encapsulates Judy's life as a dedicated mother and wife.

Judy and Bill celebrated 58 years of marriage together. She leaves behind their cherished daughters, Kellie King and April Welker (Brian); grandchildren, Lawrence King, Zachary King, Addison Welker, and Bodie Welker; great grandson, Parker King; and many nieces and nephews.

Fellow Carotel Pioneers know Bill first and foremost as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. Bill, we trust that your many memories, along with your family, will sustain you as you mourn the loss of your beloved wife..



2025 CAROTEL CONVENTION COMING SOON!

You can guarantee your fall Carotel Convention room rate by reserving your hotel room **now** for our 2025 “Boot, Scootin Boogie” fall convention. This year’s country western-themed 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, NC.

The room rate this year is just \$125 per night, a rate only slightly higher than we’ve enjoyed for many 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.)

Fat Fellas BBQ and Grill in Newport will again cater our meals, which are included with your registration fee. 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. In the meantime, you can get your oceanfront hotel reservation made and dust off your dancin’ boots for our country western themed event!



SAVE THE DATES

Last Tuesday of each Month
Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

August 22-23, 2025
Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly
Hampton Inn & Suites
Aberdeen, NC

October 10-11, 2025
Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

November 21-23, 2025
National ITPA Assembly
Oaks on the River
Darien, Georgia

February 6-8, 2026
Tar Heel Chapter Mid Winter
Gathering and Super Bowl LX Party
Myrtle Beach, SC



Tar Heel Chapter Assembly Hotel Reservation Deadline is July 25th

Hotel reservations must be made by **July 25th** to receive group rates for our annual Tar Heel Chapter Assembly, which will be held on August 22-23 in Aberdeen, NC. All Pioneers and guests are invited and encouraged to attend.

The assembly will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites located at 200 Columbus Drive, Aberdeen, NC 28315. The room rate for 1 king bed or 2 queen beds is \$142, or a 2-queen studio suite with sofa bed is available for just \$162 when you book under the **"ITPA - Tarheel"** special rates. Just copy the following link into your browser to reserve your room:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=SNPNCHX&groupCode=CHHTAR&arrivaldate=2025-08-22&departuredate=2025-08-24&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

You can also call the hotel at 910-693-4330 to reserve your room. Be sure to mention "ITPA - Tarheel" to guarantee these rates.

Attendees are asked to also register for the assembly by contacting Ronnie Cashwell by e-mail at:

bigronc.1313@gmail.com, so that we can have an accurate count for catering purposes.

Assembly registration fees are payable upon arrival on the day of the assembly. Registration will be held in the hotel lobby from 3PM to 5PM on August 22. Registration fees include dinner (and a movie) on Friday night and a delicious buffet dinner on Saturday night.

Remember to bring your donated items for our live and silent auctions. The auctions are always a hi-light of our gatherings.

You can win some fabulous bingo prizes on Saturday afternoon after bidding on your favorite auction items.

If you haven't previously attended the annual Tar Heel Assembly, this is a perfect opportunity to convene with fellow Pioneers in a small group setting.



Assembly attendees are invited to bring non-perishable foods and toiletry items for our chapter's annual ongoing projects. Donated non-perishable foods will be delivered to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina - Sandhills Branch. The food bank is part of a multi-location organization. Even though the Aberdeen area is in one of the best places to live in the United States, many people in the food bank's 34-county service area don't have consistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy, active life. In fact, across the 34 counties served by this location, studies show that nearly 561,000 people live in food-insecure homes, including nearly 174,000 kids and teens.

Toiletry items will be donated to The Life Center of Davidson County. This organization provides high-quality daytime care to older and impaired adults and helps improve the quality of life for those individuals and their caregivers by offering support, relief, respite, and counsel.

CAROTEL/TAR HEEL CHAPTER PIONEERS ARE INVITED TO THE NATIONAL ITPA ASSEMBLY



You're Invited!
ITPA Assembly
Oaks on the River in Darien, GA



<https://oaksontheriverresort.com/>

November 21st-23rd, 2025

Friday Evening - Meet and Greet

Saturday Morning - Assembly

Saturday Afternoon - On your own

Sunday Morning - Devotional & Awards

Afternoon - Hall of Fame Luncheon

Rooms available Thursday-Monday at reserved prices

Oaks/City View \$159 & River View \$189

Registration \$50 per person



More details coming soon!



July

- 8 Mary McLamb
- 25 Kassie Davis
- 27 Darlene Terry
- 28 Janet Cashwell

August

- 10 Alissa Moss
- 21 Addie Moss

September

- 14 Hannah Lancaster
- 24 Mike Outlaw

October

- 13 Caroll Giddens
- 15 Jim Jolly
- 21 Chris Moss

November

- 23 Bill Twyman

December

- 22 Ann O'Donnell

July

- 3 Jean and Mike Outlaw

August

- 6 Vickie and Jim Jolly

September

- 1 Alissa and Chris Moss

October

- 17 Darlene and Ruben Terry
- 25 Mary and Chris McLamb

November

- 1 Lou and Daniel Barnhardt

December

None

If your birthday or anniversary hasn't been listed in our newsletters, it's because we don't know when to celebrate with you. Please let us know the date(s) so we can acknowledge your special occasions!

About Us



Carotel Pioneer Club is affiliated with the ITPA Tar Heel Chapter in Region 2. 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 Pioneer Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter.

The Carotel Pioneer 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:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?>

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About Us



2024-2025 Carotel Officers/Directors

President: Larry Newsome

Vice President: Vacant

Immediate Past President:
Brenda Smith

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:

Scholarships:

Carol Harrell, Chair
Janet Holliday-Cashwell,
Brenda Smith

By-Laws:

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

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Nominating:

Brenda Smith, Chair

About Us

Tar Heel Chapter

2024-2025

Officers/Directors

President: Darlene Terry

Vice President: Vacant

Immediate Past President:

Ronnie Cashwell

Co-Secretaries/Treasurers:

Carol Harrell

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Directors:

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

Committees:

Scholarships:

Carol Harrell, Chair

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Nominating:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Publicity/Historical:

Carolyn Thompson