



CAROTEL CLUB/TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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 “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.)



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. 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
Aberdeen, NC

October 10-11, 2025

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

November 21-23, 2025

ITPA National Board Meeting and
Member Gathering
Darien, Georgia

February 6-8, 2026

Tar Heel Chapter Mid Winter
Gathering and Super Bowl LX Party



You are Invited to the Tar Heel Chapter's Annual Assembly

The annual Tar Heel Chapter assembly will be held this year 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 "ITPA - Tarheel" special rates are available when you book through the hotel's website. (Copy the following link into your browser to review rates and 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.

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.

Each year, the Tar Heel Pioneers bring non-perishable food items to the assembly that are donated to local charities.

Non-perishable foods donated by this year's assembly attendees will be given to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina - Sandhills Branch. The food bank is part of a multi-location organization. Even though this location is in one of the best places to live in the United States, many people in the 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.



To register for the assembly, simply contact Ronnie Cashwell by e-mail at: bigronc.1313@gmail.com, and let him know you will be attending, so that we have an accurate count for catering purposes. 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.

In addition to donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries, attendees are invited to bring 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.

Helping
fight
hunger is a
win for
everyone!



In Memory of Joseph Earl Price



Carotel Pioneer Joseph "Earl" Price, 90, of Wilson passed away on May 11, 2025. Earl is survived by his loving wife Atha, son David Price, daughter-in-law Connie; grandchildren Justin and Mary Catherine Price; brother, Dennis Price and wife, Lois; sister, Gayle Willoughby and his sisters-in-law, Rita Price and Paulette Pittman.

Pastor Mark Harrell served as officiant for Earl's funeral and penned the following memorial tribute.

It could be said of Earl that his life exemplified what we think of as the golden era, when a man's handshake was his bond and his reputation was fiercely guarded, an era when you left your car keys in your car and your house door unlocked at night without worry. The milk was on your doorstep in the early morning with no worries of porch pirates.

Born in 1935, Earl was a son of a different time, a time when life on a simple farm, raising tobacco and cotton, instilled a deep and abiding understanding of hard work and perseverance. As the oldest of four, he learned responsibility not just from books, but from the land itself. His education wasn't solely in classrooms, but in the practical lessons of getting things done, where the callouses on your hands spoke volumes – a testament more profound than a college degree.

Earl's path took him briefly from a farm in Wilson County into the Army, and though his service was cut short due to an injury, his willingness to serve his country spoke to his character. From there he found his way to Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company as a cable splicer. He built not just a career, but a life in Wilson, North Carolina, and he was woven into the very fabric of that community.



Earl deeply valued his roots. He wasn't one to chase the fleeting allure of "somewhere else" or "anywhere but here". When it was suggested to him that he transfer from Wilson to Ahoskie, his response was, "I will go where my paycheck goes, but I will not go to Ahoskie." And as a testament to his quiet determination, he never did. Once when the Ahoskie office called him about his paycheck sitting in the Ahoskie mail room, he simply had them send it to Wilson through the company courier. Earl knew where he belonged. For 45 years, Earl dedicated himself to CT&T. He worked in an era that many of us look back on with a certain wistfulness. A time when you could find a good company, dedicate your working life to it, and be rewarded with a pension, benefits, and a gold watch upon retirement. Earl's life echoes the spirit of that bygone "golden watch" era, a time when loyalty and long service were deeply valued. The philosophy wasn't just about the time served, but the dedication, the institutional knowledge built, and the quiet, consistent effort poured into the work, day after day. Earl embodied that steadfastness and dedication. He celebrated his 45-year retirement on a Wednesday night and was back at his same desk, doing the same job as a contract worker, the very next morning.

In Memory of Joseph Earl Price (Cont'd)



Earl's former CT&T co-workers have fond memories of him. Redding Moore said of him, "Earl was an assignment worker when I began with CT&T. He shared his knowledge with anyone who wished to learn. Similar sentiments were expressed from others who were fortunate enough to have worked with him.



But Earl's service extended far beyond his work. He built a family with his high school sweetheart, Atha, with whom he celebrated nearly 69 years of marriage, and their bond grew stronger with each passing year. He was a loving father and a doting grandfather, and he showered his family with love.

Earl was a man of faith and he devoutly attended church. His commitment to his faith was as steadfast as his commitment to his family and his work.



He was a brother in the Mason's and the Shiner's and was always ready to contribute to his community.

Earl, like many men in the South enjoyed watching NASCAR. Earl's son David remembers often times calling his dad to see what he was doing. When Earl responded, "Oh, I'm watching the races on TV," David knew to call him back later rather than try coming between Earl and NASCAR.

Earl witnessed the telecommunications transformation from analog to digital and he witnessed many other changes along the way, but he remained steadfast and constant in his attitude towards others. Earl left an indelible mark on many people. Even as we mourn his loss, may we strive to live with the same dedication to family, work, community, and faith that Earl exemplified.



Memorial Tribute - William Douglas Fulghum

Carotel member William Douglas Fulghum passed away on September 12, 2024.

Doug's telephony career spanned 42 years, and he was a long-time Carotel Pioneer.



Doug's son, Douglas Fulghum, Jr., penned the following memorial tribute for his dad.

"Doug, I want you to get back in your car and get away from here as fast as you can." It was early summer in 1956, the location was the innocuous Wilson LP Gas Company, and the harsh words were spoken by my dad's Uncle Algrum to my dad, Douglas Fulghum.

Perhaps some context is in order: my dad was looking for work since he had just graduated from Rock Ridge High School in Wilson County near his home in Sims, NC. My dad grew up on a farm near Sims and after a long conversation with his dad, William Daniel Fulghum, both had realized the small 30-acre farm could not support two families without some major expansion, which in 1956 was out of the question. Further education at the university level was also an unrealistic expectation, as my dad and my grandfather were barely making a living as things stood.

Needless to say, times were tough all over, but there was a silver lining; my dad's uncle had a job delivering LP gas to customers in the county, and the Gas Company was hiring drivers. My dad knew how to drive. In fact, he had driven a school bus during his senior year, so he was familiar with all the back roads in the area as well as how to navigate with a large vehicle.

So, off to the Gas Company he went, earnestly seeking employment. What he didn't expect was to see his uncle at the company, loading up for his delivery route. After the normal pleasantries, my dad's uncle asked him what he was doing there, to which my dad responded, "I'm going to talk to Mr. So and So (I can't remember the man's name) about getting a job here."

As my dad told it, "Uncle Algrum took a step back, looked around for a second, leaned down to me and very seriously told me to get back in my car, turn around and get away from here as fast as I could. I thought he was joking, but the serious look he gave me told a different story. I asked him why he would say such a thing, and I can remember his response as clear as if it were yesterday. He said 'Doug, you're better than this. You can do better than this life. Now you think about that as you get on home.' I got in my car and left. As I drove home, I thought about what my uncle said. And I decided to seek out something more in life. Later on, my sister Margie and her husband George Carpenter told me the telephone company was looking to expand and needed some help. George was working for Carolina Telephone and gave me the hiring manager's name, so I went to Tarboro to see if I could get a job with the Carolina Telephone Company. I did, and it was the best work decision I ever made."

And so it was. I have often said that it is only given to a few select people on this earth to enjoy the career they have chosen. My dad was such a person. He worked for Carolina Telephone and its many other names for nearly 42 years, retiring in 1997 at the age of 59. He started work as a lineman, but quickly was promoted into engineering, where he stayed in various roles for the rest of his career. He had job stops in Fayetteville, Clinton, Jacksonville, Henderson, Williamston, Dunn and back to Fayetteville, making many friends everywhere along the way.

Memorial Tribute – William Douglas Fulghum (Cont'd)

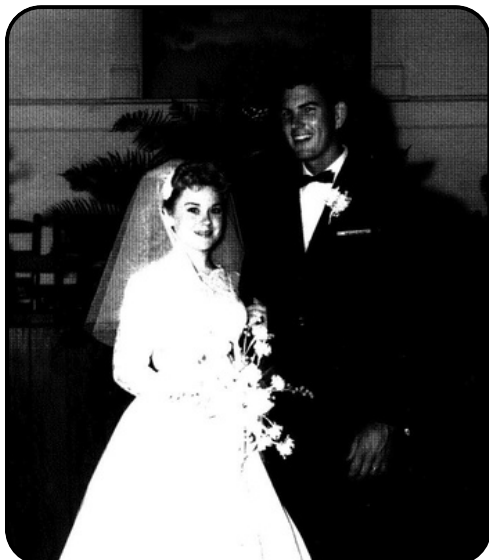
My dad loved his work, and loved the people even more. He would say that both the people he worked for and the people he worked with are some of the best people he ever knew. His loyalty to the Carolina Telephone fraternity is what helped drive him to stand up for the rights of the retirees in the lawsuit he helped win for those aforementioned retirees. I have no idea how many calls and emails and meetings he had with retirees and attorneys discussing their case. He would devote many hours studying and laboring over notes, policy manuals, letters and emails gleaned the wheat from the chaff so he could state his case eloquently and effectively.

And this comprised only a third of dad's life; there was of course his family and his faith. Dad met my mother Betty at Carolina Telephone. She was an operator while he was there. She would soon be promoted to Service Assistant. Incidentally, she will tell you she was promoted to a supervisor position before he was. Their meeting is a story in itself, but suffice it to say that my mom was not initially impressed with dad. But dad did have a certain charisma and charm that eventually won her over. They were married in November of 1959 and remained devoted to each other until the last. I arrived in November of 1967 while Mom and Dad were living in Williamston.

The most important thing in my dad's life was his Christian faith, which was always on display in his life. He served as a deacon in all the churches we attended, and he served on numerous committees and organizations, both civic and church oriented. His faith helped sustain him when times were a bit rough or some situation or event didn't go exactly as planned. He knew his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and lived his life in accordance with those teachings.

He passed from us quite suddenly and unexpectedly on September 12, 2024, leaving his imprint on all who knew him. We, his family, miss him bitterly but are consoled by knowing all who believe will see him again. And what a day it will be!

I could go on and on relating story after story about how he could 'work the crowd' at functions and gatherings, how he could captivate an audience with his story telling, how his upbringing in near poverty conditions after the Great Depression would mold him, (he was born in 1938 and kept everything), how outgoing and friendly he was and how much of a loving, caring person he was to all that knew him. I'll just summarize him with saying he was the greatest man I ever knew, and I am proud he was my dad.



Memorial Tribute – William Douglas Fulghum (Cont'd)

Obituary of William Douglas Fulghum:

William Douglas Fulghum, son of William Daniel and Pearl Williams Fulghum of Sims, NC passed from this life to join his Lord Jesus on September 12, 2024. Doug was a Christian, a devoted husband and loving father. He was dedicated to being a servant of his Lord. He was a member of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church for 34 years where he served as a deacon, treasurer, and on numerous committees.

Doug worked with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company for 41 years in various positions and locations. He began in Fayetteville, moving to Clinton, Jacksonville, Henderson, Williamston, Dunn, then back to Fayetteville as a District Engineer where he retired.

In retirement he enjoyed going to breakfast with his retired friends from the phone company and elsewhere. He also enjoyed going to breakfast on Saturdays with his son who loved him dearly. He loved coming home to his family and a home-cooked meal with his devoted wife, Betty.

Doug liked a neat yard and would work diligently to maintain it, edging and cutting the grass on “ol smokey”, his 1974 Snapper riding mower. He also like to ride around the neighborhood in his 1950 Ford truck, stopping to talk to neighbors and others along the way.

Doug loved his church family, volunteering in the library for many years, and then in the church office. Many people called the church on Mondays just to hear his cheerful greeting and to talk for a bit. He would love to walk the halls and rooms of Snyder, “working the crowd”, as he would call it. He never met a stranger and made all feel welcome.



Above: Doug Sr. with Doug Jr.

MEMORIALS

We would like to acknowledge the passing of fellow Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers in our newsletters. Several telco Facebook pages are updated with death notices and obituary links for those who had an affiliation with a particular telephone company, but we often don't know whether the deceased was affiliated with the Pioneers. We value the opportunity to keep our Pioneer family informed when we lose a fellow Pioneer and ask for your help in notifying us. We would like to be consistent with the information, so please provide first/ last name (or nickname if appropriate), city of residence, date of death, and last position held with the company. You may also provide a link to a full obituary.

Remembering Evelyn Fritts Hayes



Tar Heel Pioneer Evelyn Belle Fritts Hayes, 89, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2025. She was born in Davidson County, NC, on February 8, 1936, to Shirley Ardd Fritts and Moleta Jane Biesecker Fritts. She built a long and dedicated career as executive secretary for Lexington Telephone, where she took great pride in her work and the relationships she formed there.

Evelyn was a loving mother, sister, and grandmother who cherished her family and time spent with them. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Buster Fritts and Barry Fritts, and her sister, Rachel Shytle.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving son, Zack Hayes and wife Kathy; her sister Carolyn Haden; three beloved granddaughters, Payton Hayes, Cassidy Hayes, and Addison Hayes; and a host of extended family and dear friends.

Janet Cashwell recalled of Evelyn, "Evelyn was always up for something fun and so often contributed to that with her wit. Once, when she was embroiled in an auction bidding war with Pioneer Danny Dennis, she took the ticket bucket and put it on Danny's head. There is a photograph that confirms this, in what looked to signify a modified 'dunce' hat for Danny. She was determined he would not outbid her—he is famous for bidding outrageous amounts for whatever was being auctioned. This may have been the time he auctioned \$6 for a bag of leftover chips. Between them, they could raise some serious money for great causes."

Evelyn always had a smile and was ready for a good time. She was also very serious about her job and her religion. She was a Sunday school teacher as long as she was able to do it. She always attended church even if she slept through the message!

At her funeral service, the officiating Pastor shared a story about how Evelyn once stood at a luncheon to recognize the Pastor. And what a recognition it was! She proclaimed that the best sleep she got during the week was during his sermon on Sunday morning. The pastor recalled that everyone at the luncheon erupted in laughter, and indeed the same occurred at her memorial service in the retelling of that story.

Evelyn was dedicated to ITPA for many years, and she served as President of the Tar Heel Chapter. She was business with fun mixed in. The twinkle in her eye wasn't always just the light catching a sparkle; it was also a spark of mischief. Look up mischievous in the dictionary, and you just might find Evelyn's picture.

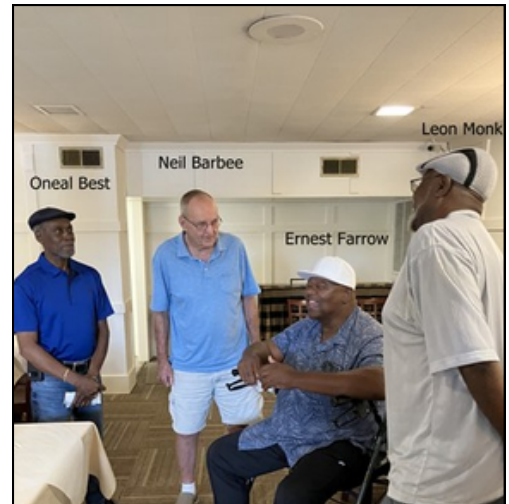
As we mourn the loss of our dear friend, we remember the blessings of her friendship and the times we shared.



RETIREE GATHERINGS

By Dennis Stroud

The Clinton group met for lunch on June 19th at the Rose Hill Restaurant. We had 23 people in attendance, but unfortunately our group photographer, Larry Willis, forgot to take pictures! LOL! When I asked him about it, he explained he had been running his mouth too much. Anyway, he did get a few before everyone left. It just goes to show we had a good time. Here are the few pictures we got of some of our attendees.



Dennis Stroud, Ronnie Cashwell, Janet Cashwell, Chris Marks



GREETINGS FROM CAROTEL'S PRESIDENT

Greetings Carotel Pioneers,

To the families who have lost a loved one, please accept my deep condolence. It is sad for us as Pioneers when we lose our fellow co-workers, whether or not we actually had the opportunity to work with them directly. But we got to know a lot of them through our regular conventions and assemblies, and we looked forward to seeing everyone from year to year. The Pioneers we have lost during this past year will be greatly missed by everyone.

We are all getting older and it deeply saddens us to miss seeing all of our new and old friends at our annual conventions. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the families who have lost loved ones and I want all who are grieving those losses to know we are here to help in any way we can. You are in our prayers and thoughts.

Larry Newsome, Carotel Club President

FROM OUR TAR HEEL CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Hello Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers,

As I pen this greeting, I'm reminded that our annual Tar Heel Assembly is less than two months away! I'm looking forward to reconnecting with our Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers in Aberdeen on August 22-23, and I'm hopeful that Carotel Pioneers and Pioneers from some of our sister chapters and clubs will join us there.

We'll enjoy eating and drinking (mostly sweet tea), and catching up with old friends. During last year's Elvis-themed assembly, we enjoyed an Elvis movie on Friday night, and that was so popular that the Elvis movie "Viva Las Vegas" has been requested for this year's casino-themed event. There are no guarantees that Elvis himself will show up again this year, but since he enjoyed a legendary residency at the International Hotel (now the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino) from July 1969 to December 1976, we might just catch a glimpse of him at our assembly!

I know several of our members have special vacations planned during the summer. I wish you safe travels and hope you return with wonderful memories.

Sincerely,

Darlene Terry, Tar Heel Chapter President





APRIL

- 12 Vickie Jolly
- 16 Ronnie Cashwell
- 20 Jim Venczel

May

- 24 Lou Barnhardt
- 27 Daniel Barnhardt

June

- 19 Carolyn Newsome
- 21 Chris McLamb
- 25 Ruben Terry

July

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

August

- 10 Alissa Moss
- 21 Addie Moss

APRIL

None

May

- 27 Darlene and George Mills
- 31 Lisa and Curty Lancaster

June

- 17 Janet and Ronnie Cashwell
- 19 Carolyn and Larry Newsome

July

- 3 Jean and Mike Outlaw

August

- 6 Vickie and Jim Jolly

Do you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary?

Let us know the date(s) so we can celebrate with you!

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?>

[src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalitpa.com%2Fuploads%2Fuseruploads%2Ffiles%2FITPA%2520New%2520Member%2520Application%2520Form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalitpa.com%2Fuploads%2Fuseruploads%2Ffiles%2FITPA%2520New%2520Member%2520Application%2520Form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

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