



Teddy Roosevelt Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt (left) and their daughter, Grace Roosevelt (middle), leave New York, Feb. 2, 1932, on the first stage on their journey to the Philippines, where he will be the new governor. Senator Sergio Osmena, acting president of the Philippines Senate, is pictured with the Roosevelts. (AP Photo)

## This President's Son Overcame Age, Health Issues on D-Day to Earn the Medal of Honor

-Written by Stephen Ruiz, [Military.com](https://www.military.com)

By the time the Normandy invasion began, Brig. Gen. Teddy Roosevelt Jr. was serving in his second world war and had accumulated a slew of military awards. When Roosevelt arrived at Utah Beach on June 6, 1944, he already was deeply respected by the soldiers he led.

It was easy to see why. At his core, Roosevelt was one of them. Never one to lead from the back, the son of the United States' 26th president refused to ask his men to do something that he wasn't prepared to do himself. Roosevelt had what Laura Jowdy, archivist and historical collections manager for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, calls gumption.

"He was so desirous to be in the fight and to be where he felt he could make a difference," Jowdy said in a phone interview with Military.com. That was never more evident than on D-Day. Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, which Secretary of War Henry Stimson presented to his widow in September 1944. Roosevelt's actions on

Utah Beach were later described by Gen. Omar Bradley as the most heroic he had ever witnessed in combat.

The highest-ranking American and the oldest soldier on the beach that day, Roosevelt, 56, did not arrive in France in the best of shape. He had heart issues (which he had not disclosed to Army doctors), used a cane because of arthritis and was coming off a bout of pneumonia. Roosevelt's age and health problems concerned his commanding officer enough that he initially did not want to place Roosevelt in such a leadership role during the invasion. Only after Roosevelt pleaded his case in writing did Maj. Gen. "Tubby" Barton relent.

Armed with a cane and pistol, Roosevelt wanted to be out front so he could help reassure young troops, especially after the landing craft arrived more than a mile off course from its intended landing site. As one of the first soldiers off the vessel, Roosevelt led the U.S. 4th Infantry Division's 8th Infantry Regiment and 70th Tank Battalion as they fought their way inland. Despite being constantly bombarded by enemy fire, Roosevelt remained resolute.

"Legend says, he would use the cane to point out targets to his men," Jowdy said. Roosevelt greeted each regiment and, when he wasn't helping to clear a path for trucks and tanks on the beach, he tried in his own unique way to boost the soldiers' spirits for what lay ahead by reciting poetry and telling anecdotes about his father to calm his men's nerves.

"Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strongpoints and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties," Roosevelt's Medal of Honor citation said. "He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France."

Roosevelt died of a heart attack five weeks after D-Day, leaving behind a legacy that spanned the military, business, and politics. Already a successful businessman and banker, Roosevelt received a reserve commission into the Army and was sent to France in 1917. He survived being shot in his left kneecap -- an injury so severe that the decision by his brother-in-law, a doctor, to have Roosevelt transfer hospitals probably saved his leg and maybe his life -- and a severe gas attack.

After the war, he was instrumental in founding the **American Legion** and was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy by President Warren Harding in 1921. Roosevelt was ensnared in controversy during the "Teapot Dome Scandal," when he executed leases of U.S. Navy oil fields to a private oil company, where his brother, Archie, worked. Although both Roosevelts were eventually cleared of wrongdoing, which involved kickbacks they said they were unaware of, the lingering publicity would inhibit Roosevelt Jr.'s future political ambitions.

Roosevelt then was appointed the Governor of Puerto Rico in 1929 and Governor General of the Philippines in 1932. He remained in the Army Reserve between the wars, then took part in Operation Torch in North Africa and the Allied invasion of Sicily during World War II. He was sent to Britain in early 1944 to help lead the Normandy invasion.

"What he did on D-Day on Utah Beach, he did apparently three or four other times throughout the war already, which is to be out front, to personally be guiding his men, to have an energy and enthusiasm about him for them to succeed," Jowdy said. "He was this great inspirational figure, and the men who served under his command loved him."

Roosevelt is buried next to his brother Quentin, who was killed in WWI, at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer.



Nancy Reagan puts down a bunch of flowers at the grave of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. at the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, France, as Pres. Ronald Reagan stands behind her amidst the crosses, June 6, 1984. (Bob Daugherty/AP Photo)

## BBQ Chicken Dinner – Tickets On Sale!

- Written by Bill Granger, Post 416 Adjutant

Tickets for the spring barbeque chicken dinner scheduled for Saturday, May 21 remain on sale. The meal will include all the usuals, such as slaw, potato salad, roll, and the best doggone barbeque chicken this side of heaven. All meals will be served on a carryout basis, and will be available for pickup between noon and 2pm at the post (5419 South Alston Avenue, Durham NC).

All members are encouraged to sell advance tickets, as profits go to support charitable work in our community. If you would like to obtain tickets and cannot attend an in-person meeting, please email [AL416NC@gmail.com](mailto:AL416NC@gmail.com) or contact Finance Officer Jim Snyder directly to work out alternate arrangements (see the flyer later in this publication).

Dinner prices are \$10/each (cash or check) or \$10.50/each (credit). **Ticket sales end after May 14<sup>th</sup>**, so get moving now! Get your appetite ready, because it's going to be awesome!

**Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416**  
5419 S. Alston Ave • Durham, NC 27713

**BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN DINNER**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
**12:00 'til 2:00 PM**  
**\$10.00 Per Plate - Cash or Check**  
**\$10.50 Per Plate - Credit Card**  
**\*\*CARRY OUT ONLY\*\***

**001**

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Social hang at Tobacco Wood Brewing Company (2500 Meridian Parkway), 4-6pm(ish)  
 Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - District 12 meeting at Mebane Post, 11am start.  
 Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> - May membership meeting (dinner at 6pm, business meeting at 6:45pm)  
 Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> - Social hang at Tobacco Wood Brewing Company (2500 Meridian Parkway), 4-6pm(ish)  
 Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Spring BBQ chicken dinner. Carryout only, pickup between Noon-2pm  
 Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - May membership meeting #2 (no dinner, business meeting at 7pm)  
 Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - PlayNC softball tournament fundraiser for Vets-to-Vets at Piney Wood Park (10am-6pm)

## Millie Grizzard Transfers to Post Everlasting

Mildred M. Grizzard, 79, peacefully passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2022. She was born in Alderson, WV, the second of four daughters of the late Charles Kessler Miller and Eva Pearl Smith Miller. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Grizzard was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Lamar Grizzard, son, Charles Howard Grizzard and older sister, Evelyn Eary.



Millie graduated from Alderson High School in 1961. She was a cheerleader, Mayday Queen, and Salutatorian. After working in Washington, DC, Millie attended West Virginia University. In the summer of 1963, she met Howard, the love of her life, in Cape Cod, MA. Millie married in December 1963 and followed Howard as he served in the Air Force, retiring in Durham, NC. She enjoyed working at Duke University as an accounting supervisor, engaging in many hobbies including sewing, knitting, stained glass, and participating in American Legion activities.

Millie is survived by her daughter, Sue Ellen Grizzard, and sisters, Betty Groves, Vicki Ambler, and two nieces, four nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2nd at Brier Creek Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Clements Funeral Home. The family invites you to a catered reception in the Gathering Room at Clements Funeral Home from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. prior to the graveside service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Alderson Main Street, P.O. Box 117, Alderson, WV 24910, (304) 445-7242 to support community development in this historic town.

## District 12 Meeting Scheduled

On Saturday, May 7 at 11am, District 12 will be holding its quarterly business meeting. This time it will be hosted by American Legion Post 95, located at 506 W. Clay Street in Mebane, NC. A luncheon will follow. All active members are welcome to attend.



## Cub Scout Pack 495 – March/April 2022

-Written by Steven Goode, Cubmaster

Pack 495 has had a couple exciting months at The American Legion Post 416. In addition to our newfound peanut addiction, the pack has been very active in and around the community. The Arrow of Light den crossed over to Scouts BSA in March at the Blue and Gold Banquet. Seven scouts graduated Cub Scouts and earned their Arrow of Light award. At least four of them have already joined a Scouts BSA troop with a couple still deciding where to go. At the annual Blue and Gold banquet the "Pack Meets Here" sign was presented to Mr. Snyder with The American Legion Post 416 and now has a permanent home outside by the entrance. Pack 495 cannot thank The American Legion Post 416 enough for their generosity welcoming the pack and allowing the pack to use the facilities. We are forever grateful.



In March the pack also utilized the grilling pits area during its first Webelos campout on post grounds. They camped out back by the grilling area, enjoyed dutch oven cooking, and ate pork chops and s'mores (of course)! The Webelos have also been working on the Wilderness Survival adventure and built a couple lean-tos in the woods. No one has volunteered to spend the night in one yet though.

In April, the pack toured the National Guard facility over by RDU Airport. The pack had a wonderful meet and greet with a couple of the pilots before getting to go check out the helicopters. Big thanks go out to the National Guard for a very memorable pack meeting. Now if they'll just let the leaders take a ride along in one of the helicopters : )



# PLAY GOLF FOR CHARITY!

## "Play Anytime" Monthly Tournaments

**2-4 Player Best Ball Format**

Monthly Prizes

Yearly Awards

Sponsored By

Free Raffle Entry

Free Beer & Hot Dog

Winner's Cash Event

SwingPals Partner

50% to Prizes  
50% to Charity

**Cost to Enter:**  
Greens Fee + \$20

Proceeds Benefit Local Non-Profits, Including:

**Details, Rules, and Results at**  
PlayGolfNC.com

## Calendar Reminders

- May 6:** Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 8:** Mothers' Day
- May 8:** V-E Day (1945)
- May 21:** Armed Forces Day
- May 27:** National Poppy Day
- May 30:** Memorial Day

# PLAY CORNHOLE FOR CHARITY

Proceeds Benefit Local Charities

**VETS TO VETS UNITED**

**DON'T WASTE DURHAM**

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 416, NC & More!**

Hosted By

**TOBACCO WOOD BREWING CO.**

All Ages  
Blind Draw  
27' Distance  
Double-Elimination  
Bags Provided or BYOB

**\$6 ENTRY**

50% to Prizes  
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**Winners Earn:**  
\$25 / Player to TWBC  
Free Cornhole T-Shirt  
Entry to Cash Event  
Fame & Notoriety

**Weekly Airmail Raffle**

**Wednesdays @ TWBC**

Registration @ 6:15pm    Bags Fly @ 6:45pm

**DURHAMCORNHOLE.COM**

## Eagle Scout Project Approved

At the first April 2022 membership meeting, Eagle Scout candidate Drew VanDyne made a presentation to those present for his proposed Eagle Scout project: a deck with bench seating. This floating structure would be built in the batting cages area to the rear of the warehouse/gym, and Drew would be responsible for raising the approximately \$800 cost for construction. It was approved by those in attendance and will look something like a combination of these two sample photos (below), except in a triangle shape. We're looking forward to seeing the project completed!



## More Improvements Made At the Post

If you haven't been by recently, there have been some physical improvements made to the post. First, our new azaleas have blossomed for their first season, and they are a huge improvement over the previous box hedges. Second, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander Johnny Clinton installed our founding documents in the meeting room, and they look great. Finally, he also added a memory wall featuring some prior members who made a huge impact for Post 416.



The Sentry is a free, monthly newsletter of Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416, NC.

**Commander, James Lowe**  
 Adjutant/Communication Cmte Chair/The Sentry Editor, Bill Granger

American Legion Post 416, P.O. Box 12202,  
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709



<https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc>  
 E-mail: [al416nc@gmail.com](mailto:al416nc@gmail.com)

 **"The 5K9 Dog Jog"**  
 Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
 A fundraiser for Vets To Vets United, Inc.



WakeMed Soccer Park 5K Course  
 940 E. Chatham St. Cary, NC  
 Check-in begins at 9:00 AM -- Race Ceremony at 10:00 AM

- Run, jog, or walk with or without your dog to support Vets To Vets United, Inc.
- Early Registration \$30 by Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. \$40 Registration after Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- More information & registration at: <https://vetstovets5k9.itsyourrace.com>
- Bring your race support fans to cheer you on. Several Race Awards provided.
- Product vendors available, fun dog activities, food, & Veteran recognition.

*Vets To Vets United, Inc. provides local Veterans with PTSD & other disabilities with rescued dogs for training for a Service Dog & Therapy Dog certification at no cost to the Veteran.*

## Post Officer Elections To Be Held During May 10 Meeting

Officer elections for the term July 2022 through June 2023 will be held at the first May membership meeting. The slate being presented is as follows:

- Commander – Johnny Clinton
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander – Larry Strickland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander – James Lowe
- Adjutant – Bill Granger
- Finance Officer – James Snyder
- Chaplain – George Scruggs
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Joe Dean
- Historian – James Lowe

Per the post's Constitution, write-ins for any position can be submitted through final balloting on May 10. Ballots can also be made online using the following link until 5pm on May 10<sup>th</sup> at:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsWoyxEjajBLZtrQA\\_AAAAAAAAAAZ\\_rmZnXlURTBVYkIOQjExOFk2RFdMMkczSVlCM1gwWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsWoyxEjajBLZtrQA_AAAAAAAAAAZ_rmZnXlURTBVYkIOQjExOFk2RFdMMkczSVlCM1gwWi4u)

**Play NC Sponsors Cornhole Tournament**  
 - Written by Ryan Mentock

Play NC was honored to host the American Legion on Wednesday, April 27 at their charity cornhole event! Every Wednesday night, Play NC runs cornhole tournaments to support veteran-based causes at Tobacco Wood Brewing Company in Durham. Bill Granger represented American Legion well and had some great throws! If you'd like to play or learn more, visit [durhamcornhole.com](http://durhamcornhole.com) for details.



LOWE'S GROVE AMERICAN LEGION POST 416

## SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Tuesday, April 5th  
 Tuesday, April 19th  
 Tuesday, May 3th  
 Tuesday, May 17th

4-6PM @ TOBACCO WOOD BREWING CO.

2500 Meridian Parkway, Durham NC 27713






## BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

Saturday, May 21  
 (Advance Reservation Required)



**LOWE'S GROVE POST 416**

\$10/meal (cash, check)  
 \$10.50/meal (credit)  
 Carryout from Noon-2pm



5419 S. Alston Avenue, Durham NC 27713  
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