

# The Cape Fear Courier

Kure Beach, North Carolina

25-29 May 2017

*Dawn of a New Age*

# Dawn of a New Age

For the 90th birthday of Rod Moak on Saturday, his children and their families gathered on the Memorial Day weekend to celebrate with fish and Chinese food at the beach house of his younger daughter, Allison, at Kure Beach.

We live in Charlotte and Cary, North Carolina, and San Jose, San Francisco and Los Angeles, California, yet all our flights landed within 60 minutes of each other at Raleigh-Durham for the drive to the coast.

He earned an engineering degree from N.C. State and a business degree from UNC, flew as a Navy pilot and survived crash landings on a carrier deck and on land.

His birthday presents included books – *The Dalai Lama's Cat*, about college basketball and physicist Richard Feynman – a rhododendron and a rain gauge.

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A photograph of an elderly man, Rod Moak, sitting in a white and blue beach chair on a sandy beach. He is wearing a light-colored jacket, a light blue shirt, and a yellow cap. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A large blue beach umbrella is positioned over him, and the background shows a sandy beach with some sparse vegetation.

Rod Moak, Emily's father and Gordon's grandfather, and a Navy pilot in World War II and the Korean War, chillin' at the beach on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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We resolved to do this every 90 years, even if the faces in the family photo on the next page are so numerous and small that they have to be viewed on a wall-sized computer screen, and even if the beach house is on the Sea of Tranquility on the moon.



**Scene of the celebration: the Connors' beach house.**



Clay Connors  
Cary

Greg & Allison Connors  
Cary

Adria Fecteau & Griffin Connors  
San Francisco



Betty & Rod Moak  
Charlotte



Gordon Meacham  
Los Angeles

Emily & Jody Meacham  
San Jose



Kids fishing at Kure Beach

# Memorial Day 2017



Gordon on the forward deck of the *USS North Carolina*, which is moored as a museum and war memorial on the Cape Fear River in Wilmington, North Carolina.