

## **Notable North Carolinians** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Notable North Carolinians**

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#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

- **Musicians**

- [9th Wonder](#) <sup>[2]</sup> (born January 15, 1975 in Winston-Salem)
- Ryan Adams (born 1974 in Jacksonville), singer/songwriter
- [Tori Amos](#) <sup>[3]</sup> (born 1963 in Newton), singer
- Jimmy Capps (born 1939 in Fayetteville), county music studio guitarist
- Travis Cherry (born May 17, 1975 in Raleigh), producer, musician, songwriter
- [J. Cole](#) <sup>[4]</sup> (born January 28, 1985 in Germany, moved to Fayetteville at 8 months old)
- [George Clinton](#) <sup>[5]</sup> (born 1941 in Kannapolis), funk musician
- [John Coltrane](#) <sup>[6]</sup> (born September 23, 1926 in Hamlet)
- Billy "Crash" Craddock (born June 16, 1939 in Greensboro)
- [Charlie Daniels](#) <sup>[7]</sup> (born 1936 in Wilmington), singer/songwriter
- [Roberta Flack](#) <sup>[8]</sup> (born February 10, 1937 in Black Mountain)
- Ben Folds (born September 12, 1966 in Winston-Salem)
- [Blind Boy Fuller](#) <sup>[9]</sup> (1908–1941, born in Wadesboro), blues guitarist and singer
- Ben E. King (born 1938 in Henderson), singer/songwriter
- Del McCoury (born 1939 in Bakersville) bluegrass music legend
- Ronnie Milsap (born January 16, 1943 in Robbinsville)
- [Thelonious Monk](#) <sup>[10]</sup> (1917–1982, born in Rocky Mount), jazz & blues pianist
- Petey Pablo (born July 22, 1973 in Greenville)
- [Phonte](#) <sup>[11]</sup> (born in Greensboro)
- [Max Roach](#) <sup>[12]</sup> (1924–2007, born in [Pasquotank County](#) <sup>[13]</sup>), jazz drummer
- [Earl Scruggs](#) <sup>[14]</sup> (born January 6, 1924 near Shelby, [Cleveland County](#) <sup>[15]</sup>)
- [Nina Simone](#) <sup>[16]</sup> (1933–2003, born in Tryon), singer
- Billy Taylor (born July 24, 1921 in Greenville)
- [James Taylor](#) <sup>[17]</sup> (March 12, 1948, moved to Chapel Hill at age 3)
- [Randy Travis](#) <sup>[18]</sup> (born 1959 in Marshville), country music singer
- Loudon Wainwright III (born 1946, Chapel Hill), songwriter, folk singer, humorist and actor
- [Doc Watson](#) <sup>[19]</sup> (born 1923 in Deep Gap), folk guitarist
- Link Wray (1929–2005, born in Dunn), Pioneering rock musician and songwriter
- **American Idol contestants**
  - [Clay Aiken](#) <sup>[20]</sup> (born November 30, 1978 in Raleigh) runner up
  - [Fantasia Barrino](#) <sup>[21]</sup> (born June 30, 1984 in High Point) winner
  - [Bucky Covington](#) <sup>[22]</sup> (born November 8, 1977 in Rockingham) 8th place
  - [Chris Daughtry](#) <sup>[23]</sup> (born December 26, 1979 in Roanoke Rapids) 4th place
  - [Anoop Desai](#) <sup>[24]</sup> (born December 20, 1986 in Cary; raised in Chapel Hill.) 6th, 7th place
  - [Scotty McCreery](#) <sup>[25]</sup> (born October 9, 1993 in Garner) winner
  - [Kellie Pickler](#) <sup>[26]</sup> (born June 28, 1986 in Albemarle) 6th place

- **Actors/Actresses**

- Sandra Bullock (attended East Carolina University in Greenville from 1982-1986)
- Billy Crudup (born July 8, 1968, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- Jennifer Ehle (born December 29, 1969 in Winston-Salem)
- Eileen Fulton (born September 13, 1933 in Asheville)
- Zach Galifianakis (born October 1, 1969 in Wilkesboro)
- [Ava Gardner](#) <sup>[27]</sup> (born December 24, 1922 in Grabtown, [Johnston County](#) <sup>[28]</sup>)
- Pam Grier (born 1949 in Winston-Salem), actress
- [Andy Griffith](#) <sup>[29]</sup> (born June 1, 1926 in Mount Airy)
- George Grizzard (1928–2007, born in Roanoke Rapids), Emmy and Tony-winning actor
- Michael C. Hall (born 1971 in Raleigh) actor
- Andie McDowell (born April 21, 1958 in South Carolina; summer vacation home was in Arden; lived in Asheville from 1998 to 2011)
- Julianne Moore (born 1960 in Fort Bragg), actress
- Soupy Sales (1926–2009, born in Franklinton), comedian
- Amy Sedaris (born March 29, 1961, grew up in Raleigh)
- Ben Vereen (born 1946 in Laurinburg), actor, entertainer
- Evan Rachel Wood (born September 7, 1987 in Raleigh)

- **Media**

- David Brinkley (July 10, 1920 – June 11, 2003, born in Wilmington) Newscaster
- Carl Kasell <sup>[30]</sup> (born April 2, 1934 in Goldsboro) National Public Radio
- Howard Cosell (March 25, 1918- April 23, 1995, born in Winston-Salem) Sportscaster
- Cecil B. DeMille (1919–1959, born in Washington) film director
- Gallagher (born 1947 in Fort Bragg), comedian
- Star Jones (born 1962 in Badin) TV personality
- Charles Kuralt (September 10, 1934–July 4, 1997, born in Wilmington) TV journalist
- Doug Marlette (December 6, 1949–July 10, 2007. Born in Greensboro) cartoonist and writer
- Edward R. Murrow <sup>[31]</sup> (April 25, 1908-April 27, 1965, born in Pole Cat Creek, Guilford County <sup>[32]</sup>)
- Charlie Rose (January 5, 1942, born in Henderson) TV journalist
- Tom Wicker (June 18, 1926– November 25, 2011, born in Hamlet) journalist
- Clarence Avant (February 25, 1931- , born in Climax), American music executive, film producer and entertainment icon

## SPORTS

- **Baseball**
  - Jim "Catfish" Hunter <sup>[33]</sup> (April 8, 1946– September 9, 1999, born in Hertford)
  - Gaylord Perry (born September 15, 1938 in Williamston)
  - Jim Perry (born October 30, 1935 in Williamston)
  - Jack Scott (April 18, 1892, born in Ridgeway)
  - Enos "Country" Slaughter <sup>[34]</sup> (April 27, 1916- November 30, 1959 born near Roxboro)
- **Basketball**
  - Phil Ford (born February 9, 1956 in Kannapolis)
  - Bobby Jones (born December 18, 1951 in Charlotte)
  - Michael Jordan (born February 17, 1963 in Brooklyn, moved to Wilmington at age 5)
  - Meadowlark Lemon (born April 25, 1932 in Wilmington)
  - Danny Manning (born May 17, 1966 in Hattiesburg, MS, moved to Greensboro)
  - Pete Maravich (attended Broughton High School in Raleigh)
  - Fred "Curly" Neal (born May 19, 1942 in Greensboro)
  - Jacques Dominique Wilkins (born in Paris on January 12, 1960; moved to Washington)
  - James Worthy (born February 27, 1961 in Gastonia)
- **Boxing**
  - Sugar Ray Leonard <sup>[35]</sup> (born May 17, 1956 in Wilmington)
- **Football**
  - Kelvin Bryant (born September 26, 1960 in Tarboro)
  - Roman Gabriel <sup>[36]</sup> (born August 5, 1940 in Wilmington)
  - Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice <sup>[37]</sup> (born May 18, 1924 in Asheville)
  - Sonny Jurgenson (born August 23, 1934 in Wilmington)
  - Julius Peppers (born January 18, 1980 in Wilson)
- **Racing**
  - Dale Earnhardt <sup>[38]</sup> (born April 29, 1951 in Kannapolis)
  - Junior Johnson (born June 28, 1931 in Wilkes County <sup>[39]</sup>)
  - Richard Petty <sup>[40]</sup> (born July 2, 1937 in Level Cross)
- **Running**
  - Marion Jones (born October 12, 1975, 1997 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- **Soccer**
  - Mia Hamm <sup>[41]</sup> (born March 17, 1972 in Alabama)
- **Wrestling**
  - Vince McMahon (born 1945 in Pinehurst) Chairman of the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)

## ART AND LITERATURE

- **Pulitzer Prize Winners**
  - Paul Green <sup>[42]</sup> (born 17 March 1894 in Lillington) Pulitzer Prize for Drama 1927
  - Hatcher Hughes <sup>[43]</sup> (12 February 1881 in Polkville) Pulitzer Prize for Drama 1924
  - Vermont Royster (April 30, 1914-July 22, 1996, born in Raleigh) Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing 1953
  - Michael Skube (Raleigh News and Observer) Pulitzer Prize for Journalism- Criticism 1989
  - Claude Sitton (Raleigh News and Observer) Pulitzer Prize for Journalism- Commentary 1983
- **Writers**
  - Maya Angelou <sup>[44]</sup> (teaching at Wake Forest University <sup>[45]</sup> in Winston-Salem since 1991) Doris Betts (born June 4, 1932 in Statesville)
  - Orson Scott Card, sci-fi writer (moved to Greensboro in 1983)
  - Thomas Dixon <sup>[46]</sup> (1864–1946, born in Shelby), author of *Birth of a Nation*
  - Charles Frazier <sup>[47]</sup> (born November 4, 1950 in Asheville)
  - Kaye Gibbons <sup>[48]</sup> (born May 10, 1960 in Nash County <sup>[49]</sup>)
  - Allan Gurganus (born June 11, 1947 in Rocky Mount)
  - O. Henry <sup>[50]</sup> (September 11, 1862– June 5, 1910, born in Greensboro)
  - Michael Malone (born in 1956 in Durham), author of comedic and mystery novels, and television writer

- Jill McCorkle (July 7, 1958 in Lumberton)
- David Payne (born 1955 in Henderson)
- Reynolds Price (born February 1, 1933, Macon)
- Guy Owen (born February 24, 1925–25 July 1981, born in Clarkton,[Bladen County](#) <sup>[51]</sup>)
- Tom Robbins (born 1936 in Blowing Rock), author of the bestselling novel *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues* and others
- David Sedaris (born December 26, 1956, grew up in Raleigh sometime before 1968)
- Betty Smith (lived in Chapel Hill from 1936-1971) wrote *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, 1943
- Lee Smith (born in 1944, grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains)
- Nicholas Sparks (lived in New Bern since 1996)
- Timothy Tyson (born 1959 in Raleigh) author of *Blood Done Sign My Name*
- [Thomas Wolfe](#) <sup>[52]</sup> (October 3, 1900– September 15, 1938, born in Asheville)
- **Artists**
  - Romare Bearden (1911–1988, born in Charlotte), African-American artist and writer
  - Harvey Littleton (born 1922, opened studio in 1976 in Spruce Pine) glass artist, founder of the American Studio Glass movement

## SCIENCE

- **Nobel Prize Winners**
  - [Daniel L. McFadden](#) <sup>[53]</sup> (born July 29, 1937 in Raleigh) The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2000
  - [Kary B. Mullis](#) <sup>[54]</sup> (born December 28, 1944 in Lenoir) Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1993
  - [Dr. Oliver Smithies](#) <sup>[55]</sup> (professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1988) Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology 2007
  - [Robert F. Furchgott](#) <sup>[56]</sup> (born June 4, 1916. 1937 B.S., Chemistry, University of North Carolina) Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1998
  - [Peter Agre](#) <sup>[57]</sup> (UNC-CH Fellow, hematology/oncology, 1978-1981) Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2003
  - [Martin Rodbell](#) <sup>[58]</sup> (Former UNC-CH adjunct professor) Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1994
  - [Rudolph Marcus](#) <sup>[59]</sup> (UNC-CH post-doctoral fellow, 1951; UNC-CH faculty, 1951-1952) Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1992
  - [Gertrude B. Elion](#) and [George H. Hitchings](#) <sup>[60]</sup> (adjunct professors at the UNC School of Medicine) Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, 1988

## OTHER

- **Religion**
  - [Billy Graham](#) <sup>[61]</sup> (born November 7, 1918 near Charlotte)
  - Anne Graham Lotz (born May 1948 in Montreat) daughter of Billy Graham
  - Franklin Graham (born July 14, 1952 near Asheville) son of Billy Graham
- **Military**
  - Eugene Gray Payne, Major General, USMC. (graduate of North Carolina State University)
- **Astronauts**
  - Michael J. Smith (April 30, 1945–January 28, 1986, born in Beaufort)
  - Dr. William Thornton, (born April 14, 1929 in Faison)
  - Dr. Ronald Ervin McNair, (October 21, 1950 – January 28, 1986; born in S.C; graduate of N.C. A & T University, 1971; physicist and astronaut, died in the Space Shuttle *Challenger* accident)
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Caleb Bradham (1866–1934, born in New Bern) inventor of Pepsi-Cola
  - [Oscar Scott Woody](#) <sup>[62]</sup> (April 15, 1868-April 15, 1912, born in Roxboro) Mail clerk on board the SS Titanic

## Subjects:

[Biographies](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

## Authors:

[Childs, T. Mike](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

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