

Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars

Commander's Guidebook 2026-2027

"Steadfast & Loyal"



Tony Brown

2026-2027 State Commander



"I Know, We Know, It's Time Everyone Knows"

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
210 GLASSMASTER ROAD, LEXINGTON, SC 29072
803-808-0317


General Order G27-001 – Assumption Of Command

AUTHORITY: SECTION 516 – 518, VFW MANUAL OF PROCEDURES AND VFW NATIONAL BYLAWS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The undersigned hereby assumes command of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina



Theonis S. Brown Jr
State Commander
2026-2027



Dennis M. Hamilton
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
2026-2027

Commander's Message To The Comrades and Auxiliary

Greetings,

First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your vote, confidence, comradeship, and trust that I can lead this department to new heights. I have witnessed the great work that South Carolina has completed in the past, now I'm going to ask that we don't just meet past goals but exceed them. My motto this year is "I Know, We Know, It's Time Everyone Knows" that South Carolina is the best department in the VFW. We can accomplish this by always knowing the Task, Conditions, and Standards in everything we do.

Task: What was the job?

Conditions: Environment in which the task must be accomplished.

Standard: The goal or end state to be accomplished.

General Order G27-002 – Department Officers / Council of Administration

THE FOLLOWING VFW DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED OR APPOINTED AT THE 2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, JUNE 21, 2026, IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA. THESE OFFICERS WILL BE ACCORDED RECOGNITION AND COURTESY DUE OF THEM.



Theonis S. Brown Jr.
State Commander



Dennis M. Hamilton
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

2026-2027 Council of Administration



STATE COMMANDER

Tony Brown

803-463-8282

tony@empirepmgroup.com

D2 P04262



STATE SR VICE COMMANDER

Charles Holloway

864-992-7075

charlesholloway35@gmail.com

D2 P06740



STATE JR VICE COMMANDER

Curtis Peterson

843- 744-2089

curtis.peterson62@gmail.com

D1 P10624



STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER

Dennis M Hamilton

843-327-3858

aqm@vfWSC.org

D1 P03137



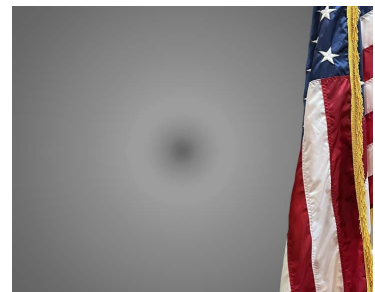
STATE CHIEF-OF-STAFF

Augustus Singleton

803-572-7703

augustus.singleton33@yahoo.com

D2 P04262



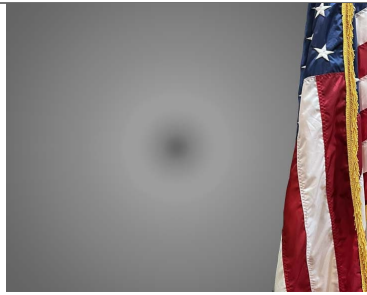
STATE CHAPLAIN

Charles Blankin

843-000-0000

cpblankin@gmail.com

D1 P00445



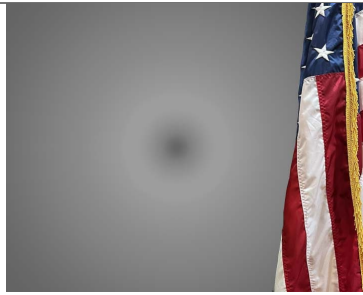
STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Betty Hilliard

843-327-0055

bjh@bellsouth.net

D1 P03433



STATE SURGEON

Jeffrey Hunter

864-979-0539

jayhunternavy@gmail.com

D4 P06734



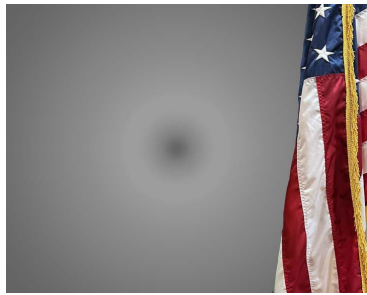
STATE IMMEDIATE PSC

Todd A Haviland

910-551-3930

toddhaviland6977@yahoo.com

D7 P06444



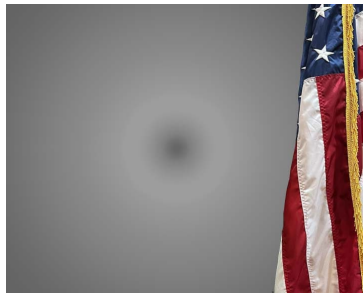
STATE INSPECTOR

Rex Brown

843-214-9116

rex_brown01@hotmail.com

D1 P03137



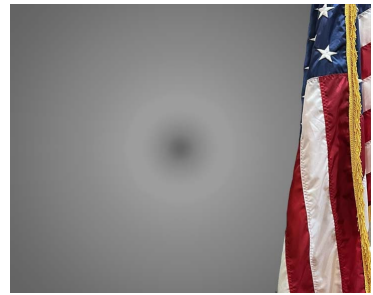
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Chris Manning

843-291-7542

c.manning1967@gmail.com

D1 P09509



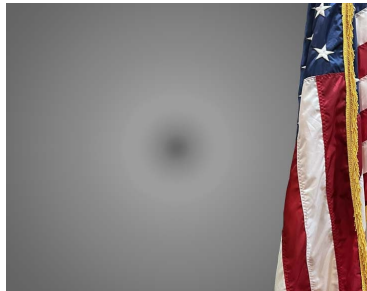
DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Jeff Henry

812-972-1877

aaqm@vfwsc.org

D0 P08346



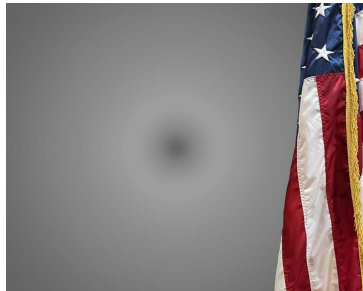
DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

John Burris

864-356-5341

jwb5usa@yahoo.com

D4 P09273



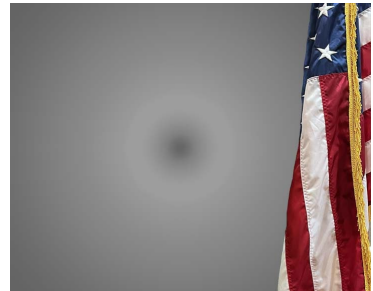
DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

Kenneth Obriot

803-517-0064

kcobriot@gmail.com

D5 P12136



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

Laurie Strange

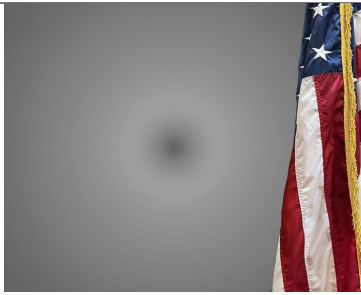
803-729-1655

ptsdveteransvillage@gmail.com

D6 P12345



DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER
Gregory Lee
 540-710-3377
sgmgreglee@aol.com
 D7 P10804



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER
Kenneth Wright
 803-874-4972
kwr8740420@aol.com
 D9 P10729

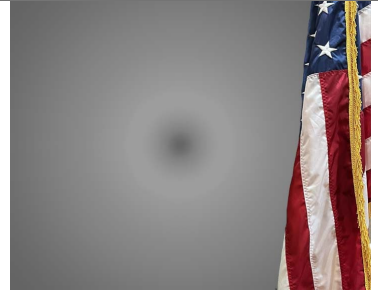
National / State Chairman



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
 ADMINISTRATION 2026-2030**
Dwight Hora
 843-338-8031
horadm@hotmail.com
 D1 P08760



**NATIONAL AND STATE
 LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN**
Scott Craig II
 843-555-1212
legislative@vfwsc.org
 D2 P08738



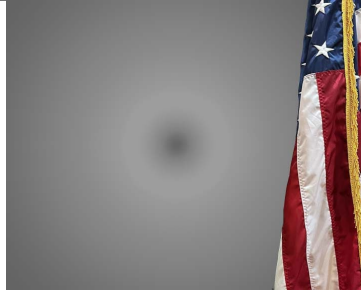
**NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE
 CHAIRMAN**
Shannon R Gaskins
 843-499-7642
shannongaskinsvfw@gmail.com
 D1 P09509

General Order: G27-003 – Appointments

2026-2027 Staff and Program Chairman



ASST. ADJ/QUARTERMASTER
Jeff Henry
812-972-1877
aaqm@vfwsc.org
D2 P08346



AWARDS CHAIR
Darren Wiseman
803-807-8186
dmwiseman965@gmail.com
D2 P08738



BUDDY POPPY CHAIR
Curtis Peterson
843-744-2089
curtis.peterson62@gmail.com
D1 P10624



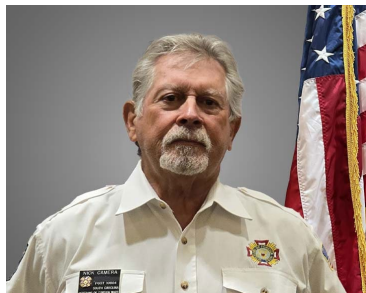
BUDGET FINANCE CHAIR
James F Fox
803-201-5799
Jf7122@gmail.com
D1 P10624



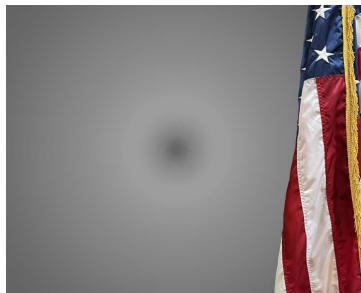
BYLAWS CHAIR
Dwight Hora
843-338-8031
horadm@hotmail.com
D1 P08760



CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
Mary Azbell
402-738-0084
scvfwcoo@gmail.com
D4 P10058



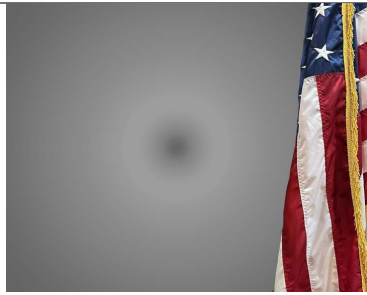
COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR
Nick Camera
843-390-4124
ncamera1@gmail.com
D7 P10804



**CONFERENCE/CONVENTION
CHAIR**
Don Criscoe
803-608-6698
dcriscoe52@gmail.com
D2 P08346



HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN
John Bacon
843-412-2526
searuler@sc.rr.com
D1 P03433



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Fernando Roldan

843-263-6149

frjrgoldwing1955@gmail.com

D1 P08760



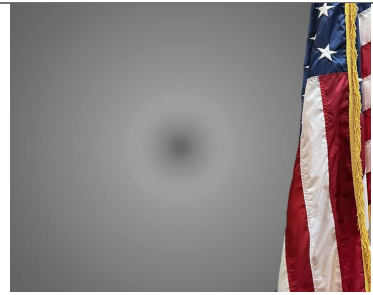
NATIONAL HOME CHAIR

Curtis Peterson

843- 744-2089

curtis.peterson62@gmail.com

D1 P10624



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Lies

574-850-5915

davelies63@gmail.com

D1 P12102



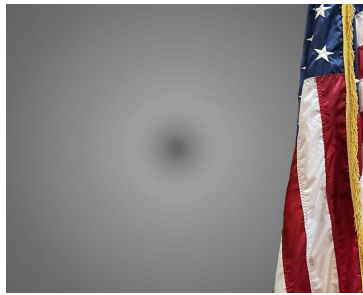
PARLIAMENTARIAN

Dwight Hora

843-338-8031

horadm@hotmail.com

D1 P08760



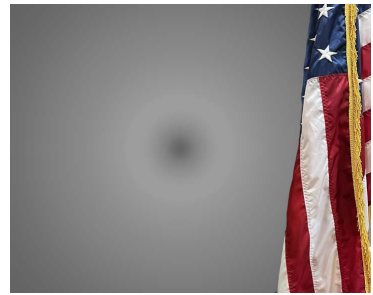
PP, VOD, TEACHER CHAIR

Chris Manning

843-291-7542

c.manning1967@gmail.com

D1 P09509



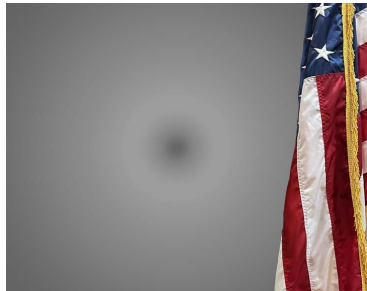
PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR

TBD

000-000-0000

email@tbd.com

D0 P00000



SVA CHAIR

Cynthia Latimer-Latimore

864-395-8523

cynthialatimer3@gmail.com

D4 P06734



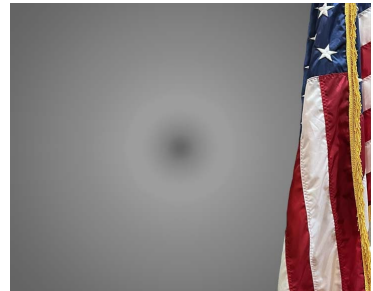
VMS CHAIRMAN

Darren Wiseman

803-807-8186

dmwiseman965@gmail.com

D2 P08738



WEBMASTER

Betty Hilliard

843-327-0055

bjh@bellsouth.net

D1 P03433

2026-2027 Veterans Service Office



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

John Johnson

VA Accreditation # 45376

803-647-2442

john.johnson34@va.gov

D2 P08738



VSO CLAIMS CONSULTANT

Nicole Johnson

VA Accreditation # 51814

803-647-2442

nicole.johnson9@va.gov

D2 P08738



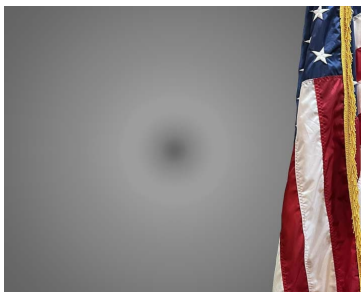
ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER

Jerri Williams

VA Accreditation # 55015

803-647-2442

jerri.williams2@va.gov



OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Gary Brunson

803-647-2442

gary.w.brunson@gmail.com

2026-2027 Auxiliary VFW Department Officers

<p>PRESIDENT Barbara Shuler scauxbshuler@yahoo.com</p>	<p>SR VICE PRESIDENT Patrice Lamb patrice.lamb843@gmail.com</p>	<p>JR VICE PRESIDENT Romona Brandon romabrandon@yahoo.com</p>
<p>SECRETARY Lisa Levangie-Colon llevangiecolon@gmail.com</p>	<p>TREASURER Sharen Peterson sharen.peterson86@gmail.com</p>	<p>CHAPLAIN Andy Machermer machermers@verizon.net</p>
<p>CONDUCTOR Raina Bryant rainakbryant@gmail.com</p>	<p>GUARD Mary Gaskins angelagaskins843@gmail.com</p>	<p>PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR Shirley Trosper spooff@embarqmail.com</p>
<p>JUNIOR PAST DEPT. PRESIDENT Marietta Hill margiebanana9@gmail.com</p>	<p>CHIEF OF STAFF Kate Brock patriot.vfwsca@gmail.com</p>	<p>HISTORIAN Tammy Sain tigertamm1948@yahoo.com</p>

Department of SC – Past State Commanders

* LEGEND

*** DECEASED
 AA..... ALL AMERICAN
 CC..... CO-CAPTAIN
 DAA DISTINGUISHED ALL AMERICAN
 TC TRIPLE CROWN

Year	Past State Commander	* Award.....	* Deceased
1935-1937.....	A. W. HAMILTON		***
1937-1938.....	J. W. BRADFORD		***
1938-1939.....	EUGENE E. PETIT		***
1939-1940.....	CHARLES A. ARMSTRONG		***
1940-1942.....	LANDON E. CARTER.....		***
1942-1943.....	W. H. BALLENTINE		***
1943-1944.....	J. A. BAGNAL		***
1944-1945.....	J. D. MORRISON.....		***
1945-1946.....	JOHN C. MCCUE		***
1946-1947.....	THEO E. BOONE.....		***
1947-1948.....	JOHN C. WILLIAMS		***
1948-1949.....	WENDELL M. LEVI		***
1949-1950.....	JAMES W. COTHRAN.....		***
1950-1951.....	RUFUS W. GOSNELL.....		***
1951-1952.....	JAMES R. MANN		***
1952-1953.....	ROBERT P. GRIFFIN		***
1952-1953.....	JAMES W. COTHRAN PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF.....		***
1953-1954.....	ROBERT O. PURDY		***
1954-1955.....	WILLIAM B. WORTHY		***
1955-1956.....	ROBERT E. MOSELEY		***
1956-1957.....	EDGAR L. MORRIS		***
1957-1959.....	BERNARD D. DUSENBURY		***
1959-1960.....	JAMES B. SMOAK		***
1960-1961.....	CARL E. CUMMINGS.....		***
1961-1962.....	DAVID S. TAYLOR		***
1962-1963.....	WILLIAM C. BROWN.....		***
1963-1964.....	ARNOLD C. MUIR		***
1964-1965.....	SPECIAL ORDER 153 - JANUARY 9, 1991, PER/SECTION 719 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS ...		
1965-1966.....	LEON M. TAYLOR		***
1966-1967.....	H. W. WILLIAMS		***
1967-1968.....	ZACK PACE		***
1968-1969.....	JAMES J. RAMAN		***
1969-1970.....	LAURIE L. LANE.....	AA	***
1970-1971.....	BILLIE P. RANDALL		***
1971-1972.....	J. DAN TRUETT, Jr.....	AA	***
1972-1973.....	J. NORMAN PORTER.....		***
1973-1974.....	W. C. THOMAS.....		***

Department of SC – Past State Commanders – Continued

Year	Past State Commander	* Award.....	* Deceased
1974-1975.....	THOMAS H. BURNS	AA	***
1975-1976.....	GARY LITTLEFIELD	AA	***
1976-1977.....	F. W. WYCOFF, Jr.	AA	***
1977-1978.....	M. FRANK EDWARDS.....	CC AA	***
1978-1979.....	R. L. "BOB" HIGHT, JR.	AA	***
1979-1980.....	HARRY M. FARRIS		***
1980-1981.....	KENNETH L. HARTMAN	AA	***
1981-1982.....	LEE D. FINLEY.....		***
1982-1983.....	F. D. WILLIAMSON	AA	***
1983-1984.....	HENRY S. ALLEN	CC, AA.....	***
1984-1985.....	WILLIAM J. JOLIN.....	A.A	***
1985-1986.....	THOMAS E. MORRIS.....		***
1986-1987.....	GEORGE A. BOPP.....	AA	***
1987-1988.....	WILLIAM M. CHAPMAN	AA	***
1988-1989.....	NED L. JOHNSON	AA	***
1989-1990.....	GEORGE M. PULLIE.....	CC AA	***
1990-1991.....	JOHNNIE C. ROBINSON	AA	***
1991-1992.....	CARL A. ROBINSON, Sr.....	AA	***
1992-1993.....	JOHN A. BUCK	AA	***
1993-1994.....	TEO RIVAS.....		***
1994-1995.....	KEITH HARPER		***
1995-1996.....	BILL LARK.....	AA, TC.....	***
1996-1997.....	ARTHUR D. MANN		***
1997-1998.....	JOHN D. PATTY.....		***
1998-1999.....	ROBERT A. "OLLIE" OLSEN		***
1999-2000.....	GERALD T. POTHIER.....	AA	***
2000-2001.....	L.D. "LYN" DIMERY.....	DAA, TC.....	
2001-2002.....	MELVIN L. "MEL" EMORE		***
2002-2003.....	M. HUGH GUNTER, Jr.	AA	
2003-2004.....	RICHARD N. BELL.....		
2004-2005.....	HENRY T. BOZARD		***
2005-2006.....	WILLIAM "BILL" DICKEY		***
2006-2007.....	JOHN DAVID MELLERT.....	AA	***
2007-2008.....	JOHNNY L. WILSON	AA	
2007-2008.....	JIMMY LEE WALLACE VA	AA	
2008-2009.....	FRANK M. FOGNER.....	DAA.....	
2009-2010.....	ALBERT LANDSPERGER.....		
2010-2011.....	RONALD P. BULLOCK	AA	***
2011-2012.....	WILLIAM D. CAMPBELL		
2012-2013.....	AUGUSTUS SINGLETON	AA, TC	
2012-2013.....	MARGO SHERIDAN VA	AA	***
2013-2014.....	RODNEY J. BURNE		
2014-2015.....	DENTIST B HARVIN	AA	
2015-2016.....	BETTY JEAN HILLIARD.....		

Department of SC – Past State Commanders – Continued

Year	Past State Commander	*Award	*Deceased
2016-2017	WILLIAM "BILL" HAVLIN	AA	
2017-2018	HARRY MCFADDEN		
2018-2019	JOHN L. SULLIVAN, Jr.	AA	
2019-2020	ROBERT W. HOLSCLAW	AA	
2020-2021	EDWIN A. "TED" TUFTS II	AA	
2021-2022	DWIGHT M. HORA	AA	
2022-2023	EDWARD STEFANAK, JR.	AA, TC	
2023-2024	JAMES FOX	AA, TC	
2024-2025	JANET CHISOLM-RICHARD		
2025-2026	TODD A HAVILAND	AA, TC	

2026-2027 State Commanders Schedule

DATE EVENT..... LOCATION

JUNE 2026

June 19–21..... State Convention DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, SC
June 24 @ 6:00pm..... CoA Budget Approval Meeting Zoom

JULY 2026

July 8 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
July -25-29 VFW National Convention Reno, NV

AUGUST 2026

August 8 @ 10:00am Department School of Instruction (SOI) HQ 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
August 12 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

SEPTEMBER 2026

September 9 @ 10:00am..... Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
September 14 – 17 Fall Legislative Committee (Tentative)..... Washington, DC
September 24 – 27 Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming Milwaukee, WI
September 10-13..... Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Training Kansas City, MO

OCTOBER 2026

October 1 – 4 Department Junior Vice Commander Training Kansas City, MO
October 10 @ 10:00am Council of Administration (CoA)..... HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
October 14 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
October 22 – 25 Southern Conference Mobile, AL
October 31 @ 9:00am Freedom Festival - Trunk or Treat..... HQ 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

NOVEMBER 2026

November 10 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

DECEMBER 2026

December 7 Pearl Harbor Memorial USS Yorktown Patriots Point, Mt Pleasant, SC
December 10 @ 10:00am..... Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

JANUARY 2027

January 13 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
January 22-24 Mid-Winter Conference Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach, SC

2026-2027 State Commanders Schedule – Continued

DATE EVENT..... LOCATION

FEBRUARY 2027

February 10 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
February 27 – March 4 Washington Legislative Conference Washington, DC

MARCH 2027

February 27 – March 4 Washington Legislative Conference Washington, DC
March 10 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

APRIL 2027

April 10 @ 10:00am Council of Administration (CoA) HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC
April 14 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting Zoom
April 15 – 18..... Department Senior Vice Commander Training Kansas City, MO

MAY 2027

May 12 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting HQ/Zoom 210 Glassmaster Rd. Lexington, SC

JUNE 2027

June 4–6..... State Convention DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, SC

JULY 2027

July 31 – August 4..... VFW National Convention Milwaukee, WI

Membership Program

“STEADFAST & LOYAL”

Tont Brown
State Commander
2026-2027

Membership Mission

To recruit, retain and mentor a strong membership base that is all-inclusive regardless of age, race, gender, and religious beliefs.

To grow a membership well versed in the mission of the VFW including grassroots and program knowledge, members that are active at all levels of the organization to include Department activities and local communities.

Introduction

The #1 priority for South Carolina in 2026-2027 is to refocus our posts and members in the areas of active recruiting, and to work towards the goal of retaining and upgrading membership throughout the entire state.

Success starts at the Post level:

Post must have a strong active membership committee, as well as defined dates to conduct membership drives quarterly. Post should be coordinating with the District and Department membership chairmen monthly with updates and annotating progress. Success doesn't happen overnight, it's steady, continuous work.

Membership Goals

1. Department Goal is to be 100%+1 No Later than January 31, 2027.
2. Post Goal is to show 5% growth and retention or more in membership monthly.
3. Continue to build strong membership programs at the Post, and District levels, while working with the Department Membership Chairman.
4. All Post and District will develop a plan to contact minimum

Membership Objectives

1. Every Post needs to renew current members with retention being 80% or higher.
2. Increase Life and Legacy Memberships.
3. Increase and improve membership drives throughout the State.
4. Develop new Posts, and / or revitalize existing Posts.

Legacy Membership

Any post reaching 15 new legacy members or increasing their legacy life membership by 15 members in 2026-2027 will be awarded \$250.

Membership and Other Awards

NOTE: Membership Contacts

Fernando Roldan
Department Membership Chairman
843-263-6149
frjrgoldwing1955@gmail.com

Early Bird Award

1. Any post that reaches 100%+1 by 1/1/2027 will receive \$200.
2. Any District that reaches 100%+1 by 1/31/2027 will receive \$500.

Recruiting Awards Individual Awards

5.....Black and Gold VFW Lapel Pin & 1 entry into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member

10.....State Commander's VFW Coin & 2 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member.

25.....\$25 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 5 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 1 entry into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

50.....\$50 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 10 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 3 entries into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

100.....\$100 gift certificate for the VFW Store & 20 entries into a drawing for a life membership that can be passed on to another member or 5 entries into a drawing for a legacy upgrade.

Top Recruiter

The top recruiter in the Department as of 6/1/2027 will receive 3 hotel nights and their registration fee for the Department Convention.

Membership Incentives by Quarter:

1. **7/15/2026-9/30/2026**
Each member that renews or reinstates a member will have their name placed in a drawing for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Card (1 entry per renewal/reinstate)
2. **10/1/2026-12/31/2026**
Each post that increases their membership percentage by 2% will be placed in a drawing for \$500
3. **1/1/2027-3/31/2027**
Any member that recruits 5 or more new members will have their name placed in a drawing for a \$200 VFW Store Gift Card
4. **4/1/2027-6/15/2027**
Any Post that is over 100%+1 will be placed in a drawing for \$500

Membership Notes and Contacts

- Awards given to a Post may be transferred to any member of that Post.
- No more than one stipend will be awarded to an individual for a given event.
- Posts, Districts, and Departments must reach a minimum of 100%+1 membership to qualify for any award.
- Employees and officers of the VFW National Headquarters are excluded from receiving stipends or awards in this program unless otherwise authorized by the State Commander and the Quartermaster.

Membership Trophy

During each Counsel of Administration meeting the membership trophy will go to the district that has the highest membership percentage. It will be determined by the percentages at the end of the last quarter

1. The district with the highest membership percentage on 6/30/2026 will receive a Top District 2026-2027 trophy for the district to commemorate the accomplishment.
2. The District Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.
3. The post with the highest membership percentage on 6/30/2027 will receive a Top Post 2026-2027 trophy for the post to commemorate the accomplishment.
4. The Post Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.

New Post Development

For each new post created the department will provide \$300 toward necessary materials for that new post.

Golden Pen Award

Posts that have completed all required tasks on the All-American Dashboard, have turned their bonding paperwork and audits in correctly and on time and are at 95% membership by 12/31/2026 will have their Adjutant entered into a drawing for the Golden Pen Award.

The drawing of this award will be at the first staff meeting of 2027. This award is an engraved pen set. It will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference in January along with a \$100 Gift Certificate to the VFW Store.

All-State Post Requirements

Submitting Records and Payments

RECORDS: Post, District, State Representatives: All Forms, Documents and Records should be submitted as follows where applicable:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records and / or Checks: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

SUBMISSION / PAY:

You can pay for your Buddy Poppies, Bonds, Delegate Fees etc. using Online banking with Zelle. Most banks have this option to send or receive payments directly. Locate Zelle and add **qm@vfwsc.org** to Zelle contacts. Name the contact **VFWSC State Quartermaster**. (You would only have to do this once)

1. Choose Send
2. To: **qm@vfwsc.org** or **VFWSC State Quartermaster** as the named contact
Enter the amount to send
3. In the Comments, write: Post (post number): for Buddy Poppies, Bonds, Delegate Fees etc.
4. Send
5. Payment instantly received, logged and matched up with your bonds to be processed

or

Mail it in: Make ALL Checks or Money Orders Payable to **"VFWSC"**

VFW Department of SC
Attn: State Quartermaster
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

The Post Commander

The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander must attend the following meetings/events:

- District School of Instruction
- Two District Meetings
- District Round Table (Only one required)
- District Convention
- Conduct 2 Post membership Drives by **12/31/2026**
 - Once a post reaches 100%+1 all future membership drives will not be required.
 - **Records are kept by District Commanders and turned into the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster each Quarter at aqm@vfwsc.org.**
- Conduct 2 Post membership Drives by **06/30/2027**
 - Once a post reaches 100%+1 all future membership drives will not be required.
 - **Records are kept by District Commanders and turned into the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster each Quarter at aqm@vfwsc.org.**

Membership 100%+1

1. Must make 100%+1 in membership with 80% retention.
2. Posts that make All State will receive a plaque. The Post Commander and Post Quartermaster will have the option of receiving an All-State Cap and Pin.
3. Posts who make the above requirement by 3/30/2027 will be awarded at their own Post meeting.

Post Inspections

1. Post inspections will be based on a pass or fail rating.
2. Post inspections will be completed by 10/31/2026.
3. Post corrections to inspections need to be completed 12/31/2026.

Officer Bond(s)

Post Quartermaster/Commander Bond renewed no later than 8/31/2026 to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org.

All-State Post Requirements – Continued

Trustee Audit Reports Due

Post Trustee Audit Reports turned in correctly and on time to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org

1. **07/30/2026** (April-May-June, Ending 6/30/2026)
2. **10/30/2026** (July-August-September, Ending 9/30/2026)
3. **01/30/2027** (October-November-December, Ending 12/31/2026)
4. **04/30/2027** (January-February-March, Ending 3/31/2027)

Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppies 500 ordered by 09/30/2026.

Make Donations

Make a Donation to the Following Programs. All Donations to be paid to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org no later than 01-31-2026.

1. VFW Department of SC (All State)
 - a. Commander's Special Project (CSP – Department Operations) \$125 minimum
 - b. National Home (NH) \$75 Minimum
 - c. Veterans Service Office (VSO) \$75 Minimum
2. VFW National OMS (All State and All American)
 - a. National Veterans Service Programs - Donate to NVS through VFW National Programs Dashboard \$125 Minimum
 - b. Defense Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Agency - Donate to DPAA through VFW National Programs Dashboard \$75 Minimum

Community Service Reports

Post must submit reports by 4/30/2027 (VFWSC Login > Members Only)

1. Community Service, 5 per Quarter
2. Americanism, 4
3. Youth Activities, 4
4. Safety, 12

Legislative Reports

Must submit 10 legislative reports to the State Legislative Chairman by 4/30/2027.

These will be simple questionnaires documenting the advocacy actions your members have taken. Did you engage your community for an Action Alert? Did you brief your membership on a legislative priority during a post meeting? Have you invited a member of Congress to an event at your post? Submit your 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, and Why on the [VFWSC Legislative Report](#)

It is our duty to advocate for our veterans, their spouses, and their children. It is why the VFW exists. So please, reach out to legislative@vfwsc.org if you have any questions. We will work hard this upcoming term, but we need your help. Thanks for your time, and thanks again for still serving.

All-State Post Requirements – Continued

Awards Submitted

- **Post Member of the Year (James W. Cothran Award)**
Post to submit Post Member of the Year no later than 4/1/2027
- **Patriots Pen**
Must submit one Patriots Pen winner to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2026
*District Chairman will use **Scholars App** interface to Promote winner to the Department PP Chair.*
<https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Voice of Democracy**
Must submit one Voice of Democracy winner to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2026
*District Chairman will use **Scholars App** interface to Promote winner to the Department VOD Chair.*
<https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Teacher of the Year**
Must submit one of the following Smart/Maher Teachers Citizen Education Award to the district awards chairman no later than 11/15/2026 (Elementary K-5, Middle School 6-8, High School 9-12).

All-State District Requirements

Submitting Records and Payments

RECORDS: Post, District, State Representatives: All Forms, Documents and Records should be submitted as follows where applicable:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records and / or Checks: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

SUBMISSION / PAY:

You can pay for your Buddy Poppies, Bonds, Delegate Fees etc. using Online banking with Zelle. Most banks have this option to send or receive payments directly. Locate Zelle and add **qm@vfwsc.org** to Zelle contacts. Name the contact **VFWSC State Quartermaster**. (You would only have to do this once)

1. Choose Send
2. To: **qm@vfwsc.org** or **VFWSC State Quartermaster** as the named contact
Enter the amount to send
3. In the Comments, write: Post (post number): for Buddy Poppies, Bonds, Delegate Fees etc.
4. Send
5. Payment instantly received, logged and matched up with your bonds to be processed

or

Mail it in: Make ALL Checks or Money Orders Payable to **"VFWSC"**

VFW Department of SC
Attn: State Quartermaster
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

The District Commander

The District Commander, District Senior Vice Commander or District Junior Vice Commander **must** attend the following meetings:

1. Department Budget Approval
2. Department School of Instruction
3. Department CoA Meetings
4. Department Convention

Membership 100%+1

Districts that meet All State requirements by 04/30/2027 will receive All State honors at the State Convention.

Districts who meet all the above requirements by 6/30/2027 will be awarded at the Department SOI.

The District Commander and Quartermaster will have the option of receiving All State Cap and Pin.

Districts Must Have Held the Following Meetings:

1. District School of Instruction
2. Two District Meetings
3. District Round Table (Only one required)
4. Four District Membership drives

Post Inspections

All Post inspection will be completed by 10/31/2026 with a pass or fail rating.

All Post inspections completed by 12/31/2026, all post must have a passing rating

Officer Bond(s)

The Quartermaster/Commander Bond renewed by 8/31/2026

All-State District Requirements – Continued

Trustee Audit Reports Due

District Trustee Audit Reports turned in correctly and on time

1. **07/30/2026** (April-May-June, Ending 6/30/2026)
2. **10/30/2026** (July-August-September, Ending 9/30/2026)
3. **01/30/2027** (October-November-December, Ending 12/31/2026)
4. **04/30/2027** (January-February-March, Ending 3/31/2027)

Make Donations

Make a Donation to the Following Programs. All Donations to be paid to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster at aqm@vfwsc.org no later than 01-31-2026.

1. VFW Department of SC (All State)
 - a. Commander's Special Project (CSP – Department Operations) \$125 minimum
 - b. National Home (NH) \$75 Minimum
 - c. Veterans Service Office (VSO) \$75 Minimum
2. VFW National OMS (All State and All American)
 - a. National Veterans Service Programs - Donate to NVS through VFW National Programs Dashboard \$125 Minimum
 - b. Defense Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Agency - Donate to DPAA through VFW National Programs Dashboard \$75 Minimum

Awards Submitted

- **Patriots Pen** - District Patriots Pen Winner no later than 12/15/2026 using the Scholars App interface to Promote to your winner to the Department. <https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Voice of Democracy** - District Voice of Democracy Winner no later than 12/15/2026 using the Scholars App interface to Promote to your winner to the Department. <https://scholarsapp.com/>
- **Teacher of the Year** - District Teacher of the Year winner no later than 12/15/2026 Districts are encouraged to submit one Teacher of the Year winner in each of the three categories (Elementary K-5, Middle 6-8 and High School 9-12)

Employer of the Year

Submit Employer of the Year (No Government Businesses) no later than 4/30/2026

Department of South Carolina Awards

Public Servant Awards

to include

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT
3. FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Candidates Must Have Demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

Nomination letter containing the Candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.

- One (1) page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- One (1) page resume of the candidate's background in his/her field.
- One (1) page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in his/her field.
- One (1) Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the Candidate.

First place winners in all categories will be presented to the Post Commander at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Awards should be presented at a venue chosen by the award recipient and outside the VFW Post to maximize public exposure of award.

Post Safety Chairman should send the above information to:

VFWSA Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSA Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFWSA Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Are Due No Later Than 12/15/2026

Life Saving Awards

YOUTH LIFE SAVING, LINE OF DUTY LIFE SAVING, VALOR LIFE SAVING AWARD

CRITERIA:

- Documentation of the event such as newspaper clippings, etc.
- Name of the individual receiving the award.
- Date of presentation to be held.
- Name and address of the Post Commander or Auxiliary President who will be presenting the award.

1. YOUTH LIFE SAVING AWARD

- The age group for this award is seventeen (17) and under.
- To honor individuals who without regard for their own comfort and whose actions resulted in the saving of another human life.

2. LINE OF DUTY LIFE SAVING AWARD

- To honor individuals who in the execution of their assigned duties have acted resulting in the saving of another human life.

3. VALOR LIFE SAVING AWARD

- The age group for this award is eighteen (18) and over.
- This award honors civilians who acted resulting in the saving of another human life and have placed their own safety at risk.

1st Place awards in all three categories will be presented to the Post Commander at the Mid-Winter Conference.

The Post will present the award at a venue chosen by the award recipient and outside the VFW to maximize public exposure of these awards such as at a city council meeting etc. are highly encouraged.

The Post Safety Chairman or Commander should send the above information to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, PHOTOS) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC

622 Bridlewood Ln

Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Due No Later Than 12/15/2026

Youth Cadet Awards

1. NAVAL SEA CADETS
2. CIVIL AIR PATROL CADETS
3. JROTC

CRITERIA:

Cadet awards may be initiated by the local VFW Post or directly by the cadet's unit. In either case, documentation should come from the unit as follows:

- Naval Sea Cadets: from the unit commanding officer in a letter with copy to NSCCHQ.
- Civil Air Patrol Cadets: from the candidate's squadron by submitting a CAPF-120.

CRITERIA FOR CIVIL AIR PATROL AND NAVAL SEA CADETS

- Good academic standing
- Satisfactory progress in the cadet program
- Outstanding achievement in community service and/or the cadet program
- Outstanding leadership in the cadet program
- High moral character
- Exceptional professionalism in appearance and actions (Officer Award)
- Outstanding military bearing and conduct in and out of uniform (NCO Award)
- Involvement in patriotic programs, drill team, color guard, etc.
- Demonstrated potential and willingness to assume higher levels of responsibility

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR JROTC

- Positive attitude toward the ROTC program
- For JROTC, must be enrolled as a 10th - 12th grade JROTC student
- Must maintain a "B" average in ROTC curriculum and a "C" average in all remaining subjects with no failing grades in the previous semester
- Active in at least one other student extracurricular activity (music, athletics, government, etc.)

A plaque and \$100.00 cash award will be presented to the Department winner.

The Post should send all the above information to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nominations Due No Later Than 12/15/2026

Social Media Award

Most Outstanding District and Post Social Media

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT MUST HAVE STRONG EMPHASIS PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING:

CRITERIA

1. A strong emphasis on membership is important:
 - a. e.g. dues reminders to members, application for membership requirements
 - b. Contacts for a potential new member to call.
2. District/Post Newsletter:
 - a. It is important to post current newsletters on your social media.
 - b. Post monthly calendar to promote participation. Emphasize special projects and patriotic events.
3. Post descriptions of National, Department, District, Post programs and events:
 - a. Explanation of VFW, District, Post programs and their importance.
 - b. Due dates, to who and where to submit applications.
4. Community Service events.
 - a. Descriptions of the event with dates.
 - b. Pictures with captions tell a story and help to explain the event.
5. Special Events
 - a. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, VFW events with pictures.
6. Contact information - Your Social Media page is the way to get the word out about your District and Post. Current contact information attracts members and guests to your site.
 - a. Post meeting times.
 - b. Post address and business hours.
 - c. A picture of the Post Home – Showing where we live is useful to attract potential new members to the District or your Post.

The Department Webmaster will be the sole judge for this award; no letters of recommendation are required.

Content updated with current information will be a strong indicator for judging.

This award is separated into two categories, District and Post. One award will be presented in each category. The award will be presented at a conference or regular Council of Administration meeting.

Social Media submissions are based on the calendar year January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

Samuel U. Roach Award

Most Outstanding Post and District Commander

CRITERIA

MUST BY ACTION, VISION, PLANNING UP DOWN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND:

Inspire the members of the Post or District to succeed in the following programs:

1. **Community Service Reporting:** Must have Community Service reports sent to the Community Service Chairman
2. **Americanism Reporting:** Must have Americanism reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
3. **Safety Reporting:** Must have Safety reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
4. **Youth Activity Reporting:** Must have Youth Activity reports sent to the Community Service Chairman.
5. Must attain at least 100% plus two (2) in Post/District membership.
6. **Post:** Must order Buddy Poppies
7. **District:** All Posts must have ordered Buddy Poppies.
8. **Post:** Must have submitted a "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and a National Citizenship Education.
9. **District:** Must have submitted a "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and a SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD. Teacher entry to the Department for judging.
10. Teacher entry to the District for judging.
11. Must have shown teamwork throughout the Post- not doing everything yourself.
12. Must be Inspected prior to 12/31/2026.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2027

Melvin L. "Mel" Emore Award

Most Outstanding Post and District Quartermaster

CRITERIA

WHO, BY EXEMPLIFYING THE OUTSTANDING SPIRIT, LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM OF PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER/DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EMORE:

1. **Post:** Sent to the Department Quartermaster all Trustees Reports of Audits no later than 30 days after end of quarter.
2. **Post:** That all duties have been performed according to ARTICLE II, Section 218, (a) Officers, (5) Quartermaster.
3. **District:** All duties have been performed according to ARTICLE IV, Section 418, (a) Officers, (5) Quartermaster.
4. **District:** Sent into the Department Quartermaster all Trustees Reports of Audits no later than 30 days after the District Meeting/Convention.
5. **Post and District:** Quartermasters must verify if the Quartermaster from the previous year complied with the National By-Laws/Manual of Procedure Section 222 - Delegates, District Conventions & Meetings, Department & National Conventions.
6. **Post and District:** Current VFW year Department Governance Policies must be on file with the Post or District Adjutant or the Adjutant/Quartermaster.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2027

James W. Cothran Award

Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

HONORING OUR DEPARTMENT'S ONLY PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JAMES "JIMMY" W. COTHRAN

CRITERIA

1. Post Commander, or Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend District Training Session and attend all regular scheduled or special District meetings.
2. The post must have a Post Appointed Service Officer.
3. Post must meet the membership quotas as established in the ALL-STATE program.
4. At least one (1) entry sent to the District for judging of "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen," and Citizenship Education Teacher Award.
5. Must have ordered Buddy Poppies.
6. Trustees Reports of Audits must have been submitted to the Department Adjutant / Quartermaster no later than 30 days after the quarter's end.
7. Post must have been inspected prior to 12/31/2026.
8. Post must have sent in a donation to the Department Quartermaster for our VFW Service Office to help with the cost of supplies.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2027

Louis Thornton Award

Most Outstanding Veterans of Foreign Wars Member

WHO BEST EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT, LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM OF PAST STATE SERGEANT-OF-ARMS LOUIS THORNTON.

CRITERIA

1. Must be active in recruiting new members or bringing back past members to be re-instated in the Post.
2. Must actively participate in Community Service, Americanism, Safety and Youth Activities both in the Post and in the Community.
3. Must be present at Post sponsored programs such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW/MIA day and any other patriotic events that are held in both the Post and the community.
4. The conduct of the member in the Post and the community must exemplify a positive image which adds to the prestige of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
5. The member, who by example, motivates others to become more involved in Post and community activities.
6. Members must attend Post meetings, District meetings and at least one (1) Council of Administration meeting.
7. Must have attended either a District or Department a School of Instruction.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any officer (both elected and appointed) or a member in good standing to:

VFWS Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWS Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VPW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2027

Clyde Lindsay Award

Most Outstanding Post Community Service Award

POST WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$599.00 STIPEND TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

CRITERIA

1. Post must submit a written summary with pictures, news clippings etc. of how the Post interacted with their community from May 1st to April 1st.
2. Post must have actively participated in Community Service, Americanism, Safety and Youth Activities in the Community.
3. Post must have sponsored a Community Flag Disposal Program open to the public.
4. Some type of communication must have been distributed, whether by flyers, the local newspaper, or on a collection box for U.S. flags.
5. Post must have placed flags or wreaths at a cemetery remembering deceased veterans.
6. The post must have donated at least one (1) flag to an institution (school etc.).
7. Post must have submitted at least one entry of "Voice of Democracy," "Patriot's Pen" and National Citizenship Education Teacher to the District for judging.
8. Post must have representation at either a District or Department School of Instruction.
9. Post must have had representation at all District meetings and functions.

Letter(s) of recommendation and written summary may be submitted by any member in good standing at the Post or District levels and must be submitted to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, PHOTOS) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2027

J. Francis Carlisle Award

Most Outstanding Post Chaplain-of-the-Year

AWARDED TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION TO A POST CHAPLAIN WHO PROVIDES EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

CRITERIA

1. Chaplain must be the chairman of the Post "Visiting Veterans" committee.
2. Chaplain must visit and comfort the sick, disabled, or shut-in veterans of the Post and Community.
3. Chaplain must provide spiritual guidance to veterans or a family member (s) of a veteran in need.
4. Chaplain must be the Chairman of any memorial service including Memorial Day.
5. Chaplain, if able, must attend all Post meetings.

The Department Chaplain will judge this award basing his/her decision on the overall services, as stated above, to veterans and their families.

Nomination letters can be submitted by any member in good standing at the Post or District levels to:

VFWSC Digital Records (PDF, .DOC, .DOCX - *NO PICTURES OR PHOTOS*) Email:

To: Adjutant/Quartermaster aqm@vfwsc.org

Cc: Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster aaqm@vfwsc.org

VFWSC Paper Records: (Will be converted to Digital Records) Mail To:

VFW Department of SC
622 Bridlewood Ln
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Nomination is Due No Later Than 4/1/2026

Department of South Carolina Districts and Posts

VFW Members can access the District and Post Locations and Officers for the current Term in the “**Members Only**” section of the VFW Department of SC website.

<https://vfwsc.org/>

Login > Members Only > Post Officers for 2026-2027 Term

Linked Files:

- District and Post Officers for 2026-2027 Term
- Post Information Records for 2026-2027 Term

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