

August 2024

Meet your Commander



Rex Brown, Post 3137, Isle of Palms

My name is Rex Brown. As your new District Commander, I appreciate your confidence in me to guide District 1 to another banner year for 2024-25. Congratulations to Curtis Peterson for his leadership the past two years.

I grew up in Columbia, South Carolina. After high school, I attended Clemson University and then The University of Georgia for my Masters in Education. While attending college, I joined the South Carolina Army National Guard to earn money for college. During this time, I went to Basic Training and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where I was trained as a Crane Shovel Operator. This did not last long. Several units in the SC Army

National Guard were reorganized into the 30th Infantry Division. I ended up in an Artillery Battalion, Service Battery. While in the Service Battery, my Commander decided to send me to Officer Candidate School, where I obtained my Commission as a Second Lieutenant. After Commissioning, I was assigned to a 155mm SP firing battery. This was my start of some 34 years service in the Guard, Reserves and Active Duty.

I became affiliated with the VFW during my first tour in Bosnia in 1996. My Brigade Commander provided me information about the VFW, so I signed up as a member of the Wiesbaden, Germany Post. In 2004, I became a life member. In 2009, I transferred my membership to VFW Post 3137, where I am currently a member.

While a member in Post 3137, I served as Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and All-American Commander for two years. I served as Junior and Senior Vice Commander for District 1 under Curtis Peterson.

As we go forward in 2024-25, my focus is to continue supporting Veterans and to seek out new Veteran Programs. It is essential that we explore every opportunity available to support our veterans. Another program, corporate sponsorship is high on my list. If we could obtain a few corporate sponsors for District 1, that would open the door to providing more assistance to our veterans and members. Supporting families is high

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on my list for the upcoming year. With the high cost of food, gas, utilities, clothing, rent, etc, it is essential that we try to help out as much as possible. If any member has a possible corporate or business contact that might be a potential sponsor, I would appreciate their contact information.

Finally, it is essential we continue with building our membership base. If every post pitching in and doing their part, we can be All-State and All-American this coming year.

Yours in Comradeship,

Rex Brown, Commander

Meet your Auxiliary President



Sharen Petersen, Post 10624, Mt. Pleasant

District 1 Officers 2024—2025

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Commander: | Rex Brown, ph.: 843-214-9116 rex_brown01@hotmail.com |
| Sr. Vice: | Chris Manning, ph.: 843-291-7542 C.manning1967@gmail.com |
| Jr. Vice: | Matthew Leaird, ph.: 843-568-5850 mleaird@comcast.net |
| Adjutant: | Betty J. Hilliard, ph.: 843-327-0055 bjh@bellsouth.net |
| Quartermaster: | Michael Goad, ph.: 757-574-2552 Michael.c.goad@outlook.com |
| Auxiliary President: | Sharen Peterson, ph.: 817-941-1099, sharenpeterson86@gmail.com |
| Sr. Vice: | Stephani Havlin, ph.: 843-263-5594 shavlin58@gmail.com |
| Jr. Vice: | Norman Weaver jr., ph.: 843-893-6288 ncliffweaver@gmail.com |
| Secretary: | Kelly Wiggins, ph.: 843-323-0586 Kellywiggins71@gmail.com |
| Treasurer: | Sandra Rowland, ph.: 843-870-3048 sandyrowl@gmail.com |
| District Newsletter: | David & Beate Lies, ph.: 574-850-5916 vfwdistrict1newsletter@gmail.com |
| District 1 Website: | http://vfwscd1.org/index.php |



District1's official polo shirt:

\$30

For questions regarding
availability, please call
843-327-3858

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2024

- 10 School of Instruction, 10 am—HQ
 - 31 DISTRICT MEETING, 10 am—Post 3433
- AUX: Bond due

September 2024

- 1 Flag Unfurling @ Darlington Racetrack
- 20 POW / MIA Day
- 29 VFW 125th Birthday
- 30 Auxiliary District Dues are due

October 2024

- 18-20 Big 10 Conference
- 26 Family Freedom Festival @ SC VFW Headquarters
DISCTRICT ROUNDTABLE, 10 am—Post 10624
- 31 Patriot's Pen & VoD Entries due to Posts

November 2024

- 8–10 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE, Nashville, TN



What's in a Name?

Post 445 (James Island)



the Rear Admiral J. J. Raby Post

Rear Admiral James Joseph Raby (US Navy)

(September 17, 1874, Bay City, Michigan – January 15, 1934, Midway, Georgia).

Raby was appointed a midshipman on September 9, 1891. Commissioned as an ensign on July 1, 1895, he advanced rapidly in rank, becoming commander on July 1, 1914, captain on November 23, 1919, and rear admiral on November 1, 1927.

In 1912, he commanded the battleship *Oregon* (BB-3) with additional duty as Commander of the port of Apra, Guam. During World War I, took out the first merchant convoy under American escort during the war. He received the Navy Cross for convoy escort duty while commanding *Albany* (CL-23) and later *Missouri* (BB-11). He held a commission as an Air Pilot and often flew his own plane.

After various assignments in Washington, D.C., in 1922 Raby became Commandant of the Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, until 1926, and later of the 8th Naval District. In 1931, he became Commandant of the 6th Naval District with additional duty as Commandant of the Charleston Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina. In January 1934, he was transferred from command of the Sixth Naval District to San Francisco, where he was scheduled to assume command of the Twelfth Naval District on 1 February.

He died near Midway, Georgia, approximately 30 miles south Savannah, in a traffic accident on January 15, 1934, when the car in which he was riding turned over in attempting to pass another. He was 59 years old. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 6, Site 9629. His wife, Jane Callaghan Raby, sustained major injuries but survived, and died in 1957. She is buried in the same plot as Admiral Raby.





Post 12120 & Auxiliary

Membership drive at the Veterans' Victory House while the Traveling Tribute Wall was in town.



Comrades & Aux. members were rewarded with comradery and interesting stories from the residents and visiting veterans.

Membership drive at ACE Hardware in Walterboro.

Post & Auxiliary members endured sweltering temperatures but were able to welcome several comrades as new members to the Post.



Post 3137 & Auxiliary

A good time was had celebrating Independence Day at the Post.



Post 10256 & Auxiliary

The Goose Creek Police Department made a donation of over \$200.00 to the Goose Creek Post. This donation was provided by officers in exchange for their special “red shirts Fridays”.



Post 3433 & Auxiliary

Flag retirement ceremony lead by Boy Scout Troup 711 in Summerville.



Post 8760 & Auxiliary

Thanks to Lee, Bob, Josh, Scrap and Sport for putting the flag on the roof of the Post.



2024 – 2025 Department Membership Program

LET’S KEEP DISTRICT 1 NO. 1 IN MEMBERSHIP

GOALS:

- ◇ Continue to build strong membership programs at the Post, District & Department levels
- ◇ Mentor new and current members of the Post. Make all feel welcome and included.
- ◇ Continue to work together and promote all VFW programs
- ◇ Be visible in the community by attending community events, recruiting new members and holding Buddy Poppy events.

OBJECTIVES:

- ◇ Every member will recruit and mentor at least one new member.
- ◇ Every Post will renew current members with retention being 75% or higher
- ◇ Every Post will recruit a minimum of 5 new members.
- ◇ We will increase Life & Legacy memberships.
- ◇ We will increase and improve membership drives throughout the state.
- ◇ We will develop new Posts and / or revitalize existing Posts.

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING AWARDS:

- ◇ 5 new members: recognition at the Post level, certificate and \$20
- ◇ 10 new members: recognition at the District level, certificate and \$30
- ◇ 15 new members: recognition on the Department website, certificate and \$50
- ◇ 25 new members: recognition on the Department website, certificate and \$100 or free registration at Convention or Conference.
- ◇ 50 new members: recognition on the Department website, certificate and \$150 or free registration for 2 Conferences or Conventions (with recognition)
- ◇ 75 new members: recognition on the Department website, certificate and \$200 or free registration for 3 Conferences or Conventions (with recognition)
- ◇ 100 new members: recognition on the Department website, certificate and \$250 or free registration for 4 Conferences or Conventions (with recognition)

LEGACY MEMBERSHIP:

- ◇ Any post reaching 15 new Legacy members or increasing their Legacy Life membership by 15 will be awarded \$150.

EARLY BIRD AWARD:

- ◇ Any Post that reaches 102% by 12/31/24 will be awarded \$100 at the Mid-Winter Conference.
- ◇ Any District that reaches 102% by 4/30/25 will be awarded \$300 at the Department Convention.

NEW POST DEVOLPMENT:

- ◇ For each new Post created the Department will provide \$300 toward necessary materials for that Post.

MEMBERSHIP TROPHY:

- ◇ During each Council of Administration meeting the membership trophy will go to the District that has the highest membership percentage. It will be determined by the percentages of the morning of the meeting.
- ◇ The District with the highest membership percentage on 6/30/25 will receive a Top District 2024/25 trophy for the District to commemorate the accomplishment.
- ◇ The District Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.
- ◇ The Post with highest membership percentage on 6/30/25 will receive a Top Post 2024/25 trophy for the Post to commemorate the accomplishment.
- ◇ The Post Commander will also receive a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.

GOLDEN PEN AWARD:

- ◇ Posts that have completed all required tasks on the “All American” dashboard and are at 95% membership by 12/31/24 will have their Adjutant entered into a drawing for the Golden Pen Award. This award is an engraved pen set. It will be presented at the Winter Conference in February along with a \$100 gift certificate to the VFW store (this is only valid for Posts who have turned their bonding paperwork and audits in correctly and on time).

IN WATERS DEEP by Eileen Mahoneyg

In ocean waters no poppies blow,
No crosses stand in ordered row,
There young hearts sleep beneath the wave,
The spirited, the good, the brave,
But stars a constant vigil keep
For them who lie beneath the deep.
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer
On certain spot and think. "He's there."
But you can to the ocean go...
See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride,
In and out with every tide.
And when your span of life is passed,
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."
And they who mourn on distant shore
For sailors who'll come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...
For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row.
And they can never lonely be
For when they lived... they chose the sea.



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

This year the VFW enters its 125th year of service to America's veterans.

We are honoring the impacts and achievements that will continue to positively impact the lives of all future generations of veterans, forever.

We are Celebrating the Legacy.



vfw125.org



Veteran's Victory House

Advantage Veterans Services, Inc.

Our Admissions Team

Amy Spears, RN
Admissions Coordinator
(843) 599-2955
aspears@hmrvti.com

Stephanie Ballard
Director of Admissions
(843) 538-3000 Ext. 102
sballard@hmrvti.com

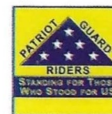
2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro, SC 29488 • Fax: (843) 538-4216

Christian Motorcyclists Association

Rodger and Terri Holland

RODGER..
rodgerwrh@yahoo.com
843-697-5590

TERRI
racefant15@outlook.com
843-860-5590



PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

Riding with Respect

Ken "Bigfootken" Bahrenburg

Ride Captain

Bigfootken@yahoo.com

248 Fire Hill Road
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-599-5607

God Bless America



STOP CLAIM SHARKS NOW

A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to “assist” or “consult” veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. This practice is illegal!

In fact, none of these private companies is better than the others. They are all operating illegally. Claims Sharks are not VA-accredited, meaning they are not required to adhere to professional and ethical standards, so their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent. Some of their predatory practices include guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase; advertising expedited VA claims decisions; requesting login credentials to access a veteran’s personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov; imposing their predatory contracts; and telling veterans to forego VA medical examinations while offering consultations from their own network of doctors.

The VFW opposes proposed legislation like the PLUS for Veterans Act or any legislation that would assign future benefits and legalize these practices to allow companies to charge up to \$12,500 for claims assistance. No veteran should have to pay for earned benefits.

Visit your local VAO office or contact the South Carolina VSO Officer

Department of South Carolina VSO Officers:



John Johnson
Command Sergeant Major, USA (Retired)
VFW Department Service Officer
Columbia, South Carolina
Office: (803) 647-2442/2443
Fax: (803) 647-2313
6437 Garners Ferry Rd, Suite 1124
Columbia, SC 29209



Nicole Lassman
Claims Consultant/Administrative Assistant
Office Phone: (803) 647-2242

Office Schedule

Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Scheduled Appointments