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April - June 2026

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Commander: *TODD HAVILAND* Auxiliary President: *MARIETTA HILL*

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It's not the price you pay to become a member,

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It's the price you paid to become eligible

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CONGRATULATIONS to all the newly elected Commanders, Presidents and officers (elected and appointed) at the State, District and Post levels. This is YOUR year. Make it a good one for the SC VFW!!



For WOMEN SPECIFIC issues call 855-829-6636

Looking for VA help and don't know where to go?? [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number

*****The elections are over, all officers have been installed at Post, District and State levels.** Now it is **YOUR TIME** to step-up and help this new leadership make the S.C. VFW (at all levels) the best it can be.

Does your District or Post have a vacancy in its election report? Here's your chance to help in a great way. Let that District or Post Commander know that **YOU** are ready and willing to fill that vacancy. You won't be doing it alone! There are plenty of former officers out there that will make sure of that.



Do you know that every year over \$1BILLION in gift cards go **unused** in the U.S.? Have you received gift cards that you are not going to use? Here's a great idea: Take those gift cards to your nearest VA Hospital or Clinic Volunteer Services office. They will be glad to put them to use helping less fortunate veterans in your area.

PS: While you are at it. Don't forget to fill out a Community Service report .

VIETNAM VETERANS – As of June 2025 (the latest numbers available) it was estimated that less than **23%** of my fellow, in country, Vietnam Veteran brethren were still with us.

Want to keep current with most everything VFW? Just subscribe to these two FREE VFW publications.

CHECKPOINT



This National VFW publication comes out once a month and it highlights all the good things that VFW Posts are doing around the world. Is your Post doing something noteworthy? Want to get it published in CHECKPOINT, just send your event with pictures and an explanation to:

JDyhouse@vfw.org



This National VFW Publication keeps you informed on all things YOUR VFW is involved with in the political arena and all their legislative efforts.

You can join Action Corps Weekly on your phone by calling 50457 and texting VFW or
Go to <https://www.vfw.org/joinActionCorps>



As Commander **TODD HAVILAND** slowly creeps off into SC VFW history. We, the members, want to thank him and his team for a great year.

Travel safe! Stay off the walls and stay upright!!!



VOD & PP NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS: On Saturday, April 11th the VFW held its national awards program in Philadelphia.

*Finishing in 15th place in the Voice of Democracy category from Charleston, SC was **REILLY DUKES**. She received a \$2,500 scholarship

*Finishing in 30th place in the Patriots Pen category, from Winnsboro, SC was **THOMAS SUMMER**. He received a \$500 scholarship.

*Congratulations to our state representatives. THANK YOU to all the posts that participated in these Youth Activity programs this year.



YOUR VFW is interested in what you, as a person, or you, as a post, are doing to continue serving your military and your community since you took off your uniform.

The “STILL SERVING” program is a way for you/your post to show what good things you are doing in your community. When you accomplish a ‘community project. Send it to STILL SERVING and they will publish it in the STILL SERVING portion of the ‘community’ portion of the VFW web site.

Simply go to **VFW.org**, scroll over to **COMMUNITY**, drop down to **STILLSERVING**, click on **STORIES**, drop down to **Share Your Story**, fill out the **Submit Your Story form**.

Don’t forget to include a photo hi-lighting your event.

Once your event has been reviewed and accepted by VFW, you will get an email verification stating your story has been accepted.

In a couple of days go to STILLSERVING and your event will be featured there along with other submittals.

Just like that, you have VFW world-wide recognition for your/your posts community project!!

FORGET NONAGENARIANS! MEET 109 YEAR OLD CENTENARIAN GUS PRENO!!!

Happy 109th Birthday to Navy veteran and North Myrtle Beach VFW Post 10804 member and WWII, D-Day invasion participant

GUS PRENO



On April 13th, **Mission BBQ of North Myrtle Beach hosted a 109th birthday party for Gus. Well over 100 people attended the party and they included family and friends, several members of Post 10804 and Auxiliary, American Legion Post 186 and their Legion Riders, the Management and staff of River Park Senior Living (Gus lives in the Assisted Living portion of this complex), the Horry County Police Department and EMS services, local media, and a bunch of people just wanting to say Happy Birthday to Gus. Gus served on the Destroyer Tender USS Melville during the D-Day Invasion. Gus was presented a "Special Citation of Recognition" from the VFW National Commander-in-Chief.

Gus's birthday celebration was featured in the May 2026 edition of CHECKPOINT. A VFW world wide publication.



QUESTION: What U.S. military medals have the name of the recipient inscribed on the back of the medal??

The Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross are the only two.

NOTE: In some cases **Purple Heart Medals** are inscribed. But these are primarily done for recipients who are recognized long after the fact. Example: I had a friend who was awarded a Purple Heart in 2020. He actually earned the Purple Heart during the early days of the Korean War (1951). His name (and other info) was inscribed on

the back of the medal.

VA Home Loan Information

VA Home Loan Foreclosures: Since May 2025 when VA allowed the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program to expire, veterans have contacted the VFW noting that foreclosures are on the rise. VA stopped accepting new VASP applications last year before a permanent replacement relief program was in place. Congress responded by passing the VFW-supported *VA Home Loan Program Reform Act* ([Public Law 119-31](#)) into law on July 30, 2025, establishing a permanent partial claims program to help veterans bring delinquent mortgages current and avoid foreclosure. **As of today, VA has yet to implement the program.** At a recent hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, a VA witness confirmed veterans must rely on temporary measures such as forbearance and loan modifications until partial claims programs are implemented, which is not expected until June. Lawmakers expressed frustration with the delay and urged VA to use every available authority to prevent veterans from losing their homes.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEVERE WEATHER SEASON?



Here's a severe weather survival tip you generally don't see in any be prepared brochures:

Make sure you have an ample supply of small bills (\$1, 5, 10). If severe weather strikes, power will be out, or the computer operating systems in most stores will probably be out. Any kind of credit card will be USELESS! If the stores can't operate the cash registers, then, in most cases, they can't/won't sell you anything. Lots of gas stations have backup generators for their gas pumps, but not their cash registers.

If you have small bills where they don't need to make change, some stores/gas stations will sell to you, IF THEY DO NOT HAVE TO MAKE CHANGE!

Starting in May, I always keep at least \$100 in small bills available.



PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES – How they work:

When an ex-President wants to build a Presidential Library. They must secure personal, private and public monies to build the building/s. Once the building is complete. The **National Archives and Records Administration** takes over the control and operating costs of each library. The standard acceptable size is 70,000 sq ft or less. Anything over 70,000 sq ft requires more private money be obligated to the library (there is a formula for this).

Last year, NARA required **\$109 million** Congressionally appropriated funds (taxpayer dollars) to administer to the Presidential Library program.

In 2024 the Presidential Libraries took in over **\$6 million** in tourist fees and an additional **\$1.5 million** in library store sales. **NONE** of this money is used to offset the cost to the taxpayers. Each library gets to keep whatever fees and sales they get.



A FINAL SALUTE : In 2025 a total of **23 members of our military** died in 14 far off locations around the world. Of the 23, only two died of hostile actions (in Syria).

The DoD does not provide information on service member deaths in the U.S. The only thing they report is that; since 2001 there has been a total of **7064 US military that have died.**

REST IN PEACE!

To take this one step further – In 2025, 221,599 Americans served on foreign soil. They include:

*169,589 Active Duty **military**

*23,160 National Guard and reserves

*28,160 DoD employees.

These numbers do not include Classified personnel, personnel that are TDY, on a Contingency or deployed to unknown locations.

****South Carolina veterans – did you know?** That in 2025, the VA opened **FOUR** new VA medical facilities in SC? They are

SUMTER – a VA Clinic

AIKEN – a VA Clinic

ORANGEBURG – a VA Clinic

COLUMBIA – a VA Medical Center



The VA receives millions of claims from Veterans each year for disability benefits and continues to process them faster than ever while maintaining high accuracy rates. This means more Veterans are receiving the benefits they've earned through their service on a timely basis. For example:

- After processing a record of more than 3 million claims in fiscal year 2025, VA is on a similar pace in FY2026 and has processed more than 1.5 million claims halfway through FY2026.
- In FY2026, VA completed 1 million disability claims faster than ever and hit this milestone on Feb. 2, 2026.
- VA's claims-processing accuracy has increased to 94.02%, which is the highest 12-month accuracy rate in the last two years.
- The average number of days needed to complete a claim has fallen from 141.5 days to 80.7 days since the start of the second Trump Administration, a 43% decrease.

VA also receives hundreds of thousands of claims for Veterans Pension, Survivors Pension, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation each year. DIC benefits are for the surviving spouses, the children, or the parents of a service member who died in the line of duty or through a service-related injury or illness.

During the second Trump Administration, VA has stepped up its levels of service to ensure Veterans and Survivors receive the benefits they deserve:

- In February, the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits fell to less than 100,000 claims for the first time since 2020.
- VA has decreased the average time to complete an initial Veterans Pension claim from 170 days to 57 days, a 66% reduction. The average time to complete an initial Survivors Pension claim has dropped from 172 days to 73 days, a drop of more than 55%.
- VA has nearly eliminated initial Veterans Pension claims that are part of the VA disability claims backlog (older than 125 days), reducing this backlog from 3,514 claims to just 71 claims, a 98% reduction. The Survivors Pension backlog has decreased from 3,391 claims to 115 claims, a 96% reduction.
- The average time to complete DIC claims has dropped from 163 days to 73 days, a decline of more than 50%.
- The number of DIC claims in the VA disability backlog (older than 125 days) has dropped from 13,501 claims to 2,257, an 83% reduction.

Additionally, VA has cut the average time to complete burial claims from 70 days to 31 days, a reduction of more than 50%.



ALL AMERICAN/ALL STATE POSTS – For whatever reason, there are posts out there that, year-in and year-out, do not participate in the VFW All American and All State Dashboards. That is to say, they do not participate in those items that help them qualify for being an All American or All State Post. Some posts may participate in those required Dashboard items, but they do not enter their activity on the Dashboard. Some post make no effort

to do any of the Dashboard projects.

Here is a sampling of South Carolina as recorded on the All American and All State Dashboards as of 14 May:

- *More than 1/2 the posts showed no VOD/PP participation
- *1/2 of the posts did not record a Round Table
- *7 posts did not record a current 990 on file
- *25 posts did not contribute to the Commanders Special Project
- *28 posts did not donate to the National Home

- *5 posts reported no Community Service
- *6 posts had less than 10 hours of Community Service

ALL AMERICAN DASHBOARD

- *1/2 of the posts showed no VOD/PP/Teacher participation
- *25% of the post did not buy poppy's this year
- *28 posts had no Community Service reported
- *28 posts had no VMS support

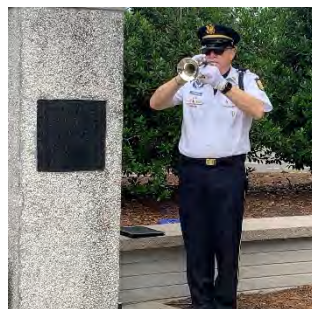
NOTE: Some posts may have accomplished some of these projects but they did not report it/improperly reported it, or it has just not been recorded yet.

Z-Z-Z – A recent sleep study in Finland found that persons over **40** who did not have regular sleep habits (going to bed at different times each night) were twice as likely to have a cardiac event (heart attack or stroke) than those with regular sleep habits. This study suggests that you try to go to bed at a regular time (say 10:30 as an example) each night and that you get at least **7 hours and 56 minutes** of sleep each night.
SWEET DREAMS!!

A COUPLE OF MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



CYNTHIA LATIMORE of Greenville VFW Post 6734 was invited to be a speaker at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville SC on Sunday May 24, 2026. I opened my speech, giving honor to God and with a scripture from John 14:6 and spoke about it. I then introduced myself, then gave the meaning of Memorial Day and why we celebrate it. It was indeed a honor to speak there



On Memorial Day, North Myrtle Beach VFW Post 10804 and Little River American Legion Post 186 partnered to provide a Memorial Day service that included 73 participants and an audience of over 350 people. Post 10804 provided a free lunch afterwards that was attended by over 125 people.

YOUR PHONE IS NOT SAFE AT ALL



Do you store just about everything on your cell-phone??

Did you know that there is a list of the top five selling items that cyber-criminals want off of your phone and that you should NEVER have stored on your phone?

They are: Your **Passport** or **Drivers License** (a cyber-crook can sell these pictures for upwards of \$600). Your **Insurance** or **Social Security** cards, any **Tax documents**, and **Selfies** with **Document Verification**

Information (proof that it is really you.)

ALSO: ever get a call where the caller asks if he/she is speaking to (your name) and you answer **YES** and the caller hangs up? You just gave a cyber-thief a critical tool that they have recorded and can use to provide responses to all kinds of questions when accessing any of your account information , including your banking.

NEVER!!! Say yes to a question on the phone if you don't know who you are talking too!!

FORE!!!



DILLON POST 6091 is holding a fund-raiser golf-tournament on FRIDAY, August 21st at the Dillion, Vivian Johnson Memorial Golf Course.

They are looking for playing teams and sponsors. If you, or your post want to help out or want to play? Contact:

DANIELLE SMITH at qmvfw6091@aol.com, or 843-506-8084 by August 7th.



Mt. EVEREST – Are you an avid/average

walker/hiker/climber? Do you know that during the 2025-2026 Mt. Everest climbing season? Over **1,000** persons (not including the Sherpa Guides) made it to the top of Mt. Everest!

Six climbers, including two Sherpas died on Mt Everest in 2025

VFW MEMBERSHIP – The end of the 2025-2026 membership year saw SC with a membership of 14,994 members. Of this, there are 1,879 Annual/Continuous members listed. For those of you in that 1,879 group. Do you know you could save hundreds of dollars in membership fees and more

importantly, you could be free of those constant reminders to renew your annual membership, by becoming a LIFE MEMBER.

Here's some examples of what I am talking about:

*You are a 50 year old "(41 to 50) Annual Member". If you live to be an 80 year old VFW member, you would have paid **\$1,350** in Annual membership fees. If you became a Life Member at 50, you would pay \$375.00. A savings of **\$975.00**

*At 60 years old (51 to 60) your annual payments would total **\$900**. That same Life Membership would cost you **\$335.00**,.A savings of **\$565.00**.

*You're 70 (61 to 70), annual payments would be \$450.00, A Life Membership would cost \$290.00,A savings of **\$160**.

Can't afford to pay a Life Membership all at once? The VFW allows a one year installment plan of 11 monthly payments of less than \$34 a month (depending on age). See a VFW Membership Application.

WANT TO BE THE ULTIMATE LIFE MEMBER? LOOK INTO THE LEGACY LIFE PROGRAM!

H.R. 1247 – Better known to us veterans as the Major Richard Star Act – Has been languishing in the halls of Congress since early **2022**. The most recent attempt to pass the bill was blocked by a Senator from Wisconsin who's opposition to the bill is that he claims it would add \$10 to \$12 BILLION to defense spending over the next decade (that's a \$Billion a year, a drop in the bucket for any government spending project. Not only did he block the "unanimous consent" portion of a bill passage, but he also blocked any alternative motion to hold a roll-call vote.

The Richard Star Act is a bipartisan bill aimed at allowing medically retired, combat-injured veterans, forced to retire early, to collect both their full military retirement pay and disability compensation.

EVERY veteran in every state needs to push Congress to get this bill passed.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Women Veterans

Welcome all women Veterans, servicewomen, family members, caregivers, and advocates! The Center's mission is to advocate for improved outcomes and access to VA benefits, services, and opportunities for women Veterans through education, outreach, and collaboration.

Our Vision is to empower, enroll and encourage women Veterans to trust and choose VA.

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 by Public Law 103-446 to advocate for improved outcomes and access to VA benefits, services, and opportunities for women Veterans through education, outreach, and collaboration.

We are women Veterans proud to serve our sister Veterans and those who serve them. Stay in touch, sign up for emails, [follow us on Facebook](#), [X @VAWomenVets](#) and [Pinterest @DeptVetAffairs](#). We share information on benefits and services, events, stories, research and more. Thank you for your service!



Many of you comrades travel and stay in motels in non-smoking rooms – How many of you actually check your bill? There is a growing trend by the motel industry to charge a **smoke cleaning fee**, even though you were in a non-smoking room. You don't have to pay it.

Certain, higher end, motels have installed sophisticated smoke detectors that can detect smoke particles, chemical changes in the air from cigarettes, marijuana and vapor-based products. Motels will charge you from \$250 to \$500 to clean a room of this smoking product residue if you violate their no smoking policies.

NO PLACE IS SAFE ANYMORE

What do you do if you find yourself in an ACTIVE SHOOTER situation?

Police training for active shooter scenario tell you to do three things

***RUN/FLEE** : if at all possible, and you think you can do it safely get out of the area and keep your hands as visible as possible. Call 911 when safe to do so.

***Hide/Seek Protective Shelter**: if you can't safely evacuate an active shooter area. Find a place to hide. If possible, get in a room where you can close/lock/barricade a door. Put objects between you and the door. Stay out of sight, Call 911, tell them where you think the active shooter is and where you are

***FIGHT/Defend yourself**: If it comes down to you and the shooter and you think you might die? If possible, call 911 and leave your phone on. Do everything possible to defend yourself. Look for things to throw at him/her. Try to incapacitate him/her. If more than one of you, spread out, attack from different directions.

If you succeed in stopping the shooter threat, or the shooter leaves the area. Make sure you tell 911 who you are, give them your description. When help arrives, make sure you keep your hands clearly visible.

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH VFW POST 10804



On a web site called **AMERICAN FLAGS** they have a section called:

Heroes Hangouts -25 VFW Posts you should know.

Listed #12 (out of the 25) is **SC VFW Post 10804**
(the only SC post listed)

How about a little VFW trivia

- *In 1930 the VFW moved its headquarters to Kansas City because of the Union Station train system which was a hub for 32 different railroad lines (easy access to anywhere).
- *The VFW was the first major veteran's organization to contribute to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial
- *The VFW National Conventions used to be called ENCAMPMENTS
- *The VFW has more than 6,000 posts worldwide serving under 52 Departments
- *The first ALL WOMEN VFW Post was formed in Topeka Kansas in 1995.
- *in 1978 women veterans were finally formally admitted to the VFW. Women veterans actually started qualifying in 1921.
- *During WW II the VFW helped recruit over 100,000 men for the Armed Forces. Over 65,000 became Army-Air Corps Aviators.
- *During WW II the VFW was a consultant to the formation of the United Nations.
- *Babe Ruth presented President Harding with the FIRST OFFICIAL "Buddy" Poppy in 1923
- *Under the flagpoles in the VFW HQ Centennial Plaza are samples of earth collected from over 200 battlefields where American forces fought since 1776

Here's a WW II historical fact: Many of you may know the US had POW Camps in the U.S. that housed mainly German and Italian POW's. They were all over the U.S., but primarily West of the Mississippi River. Texas and Oklahoma had the majority of the camps (EX Oklahoma had 34). POW's that died in the Texas camps were buried in the National Cemetery's at Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss.

STATE CONVENTION 2026

(June 19-21)

THANK YOU TO OUR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



CHRISTOPHER HAYNES



KARLENE BEAMS

MEET YOUR 2026-2027 SC LEADERSHIP TEAM



Commander THEONIS "Tony" BROWN



Auxiliary President BARBARA SHULER

YOUR 2026-2027 STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander – TONY BROWN
Sr Vice Commander- CHARLES HOLLOWAY
Jr Vice Commander – CURTIS PETERSON
Quartermaster: DENNIS HAMILTON
Chaplain – CHARLES BLANKIN
Judge Advocate – BETTY HILLIARD
Surgeon – JEFF HUNTER
National Council – DWIGHT HORA

President – BARBARA SHULER
Sr Vice – PATRICIA LAMB
Jr Vice – RAMONA BRANDON
Secretary – Lisa Levangie-COLON
Treasurer – SHAREN PETERSON
Chaplain – ANDY MACHEMER
Conductor – RAINA BRYANT
Guard – MARY GASKIN
Chief of Staff – KATE BROCK

NOTE: The new District Commanders/Presidents and Committee Chairman will be posted in the Commanders Handbook which should be available in July.



YOUR 2026-2027 LEADERSHIP TEAM



State Officers



State Officers & District Commanders



State Registration



Auxiliary Registration



A couple of the set-up and prep crew

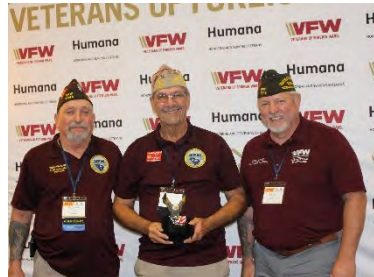


The SC VFW and Auxiliary would like to say **THANK YOU!** To all the vendors, guest speakers, volunteers and information providers who helped make this Convention a success:

The 2026 Convention Vendors: Central Savannah Area “Honor Flight”, NEUROLUMEN, The Elwood Team, VALANTHROPY, South Carolina Veterans Hall of Fame, MEMORIESin WRITING LLC, ADVOCATE Health Advisors, OAK INSURANCE LLC, Avalon Global Insurance Services, HEARTFELT HOME CARE, Corporal Waverly Woodson Jr Support Team of the Girl Scout Troop 423 of Darlington, and MICHELIN Tires



State Commanders Appreciation Awardees



State Membership Recruiting Awardees





Congratulations to Chaplain WILTON FOWLER for your “50 YEARS” of dedication to the VFW

STATE BANQUET 2026





STATE AWARDEES 2026





- *Outstanding Post Chaplain – **RON BOYCROFT, Mount Pleasant Post 10624**
- *Outstanding District and Post Commanders –
 District – **GINGER GRAHAM, District 2**
 Post – **BRUCE KNOBLOCK, Sumter Post 3034**
- *Outstanding District and Post Quartermasters –
 District – **MICHAEL GOLD, District 1**
 Post – **ROY WILLIAMS, Lexington Post 8738**
- *Outstanding Post Community Service – **North Myrtle Beach Post 10804**
- *Outstanding VFW Member – **PETER STURTEVANT, Lancaster Post 12136**
- *Outstanding VFW Post – **Dillon Post 6091**

State Auxiliary Awardees 2026



- *Outstanding Department program Chair – **ANDY MACHEMER** (Americanism)
- *Outstanding District president – **MARY SCHOMBURG** Post 10804
- *Outstanding Auxiliary President – **RAINA K. BRYANT** Post 8738
- *Outstanding Auxiliary Treasurer – **MAGDALENA “Maggie” SHAFFER** Post 10420
- *Outstanding Auxiliary Secretary – **KATHLEEN LEE** Post 10804
- *Outstanding Auxiliary Program Chair – **LISA LASKO** Post 3137
- *Outstanding Auxiliary Member – **MAXINE SULLIVAN** Post 10624
- *Outstanding Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer – **JANICE NEGUS** Post 11079

*Membership Award – **AUXILIARY 10058, Travelers Rest** for **115.15%** paid membership

During the Saturday Business Meeting there were many awards presented and recognition provided to many of our outstanding Auxiliary Team!

Some of my notes from the Saturday Business Meeting

- *There were 300 Comrades and Auxiliary registered for this Convention
- *There were 15 “First Timers”
- *The Membership Trophy was transferred from District 5 to District 2 who finished out the year in 1st place.
- *Nick Camera Community Service reported that the State contributed the value of over \$1.3 million in Community Service Projects. District 1 was first in the state with \$293,000.
- *As of the convention the state had a 102.41% membership which placed us 6th in the nation.
- *Budget Chairman Mike Mishoe reported there were seven posts in the state in jeopardy.
- *The Convention passed two by-laws changes:
 1. One that, after next year, the State Convention could be held anywhere in the state, not just Columbia
 2. That any initiative to sell the state headquarters would require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates (not just a simple majority).
- ***Thank you to the 20 persons who gave blood during the Friday Blood Drive** 😊

CONGRATULATIONS to Membership Chairman MARY AZBELL for conducting multiple membership upgrade drawings to LIFE & LEGACY LIFE upgrades.

CONGRATULATIONS to MATTHEW L. LEAIRD, Post 3137, who lead the way in recruiting this year with “55” new members.

Other Recruiting Awardees are: Alan Martin, Shannon Gaskins, Mary Azbell, Scott Loftus, M. Hugh Gunter Jr, Todd Haviland, Arthur Jamison, Christopher Hicks, David Philbeck, Fernando Roldan, Barry Barclay, Jay Hart, Peter Wiedel, Karen Collins, Robert Sedelow, Brian Jacobsen, Samuel Kirby, Joey Williams, Ted Tufts, Kayla Hunt, Robert Fazen, Steely Crawford, Scott Craig II, Carrie Howard

***At the State Elections on Sunday. 36 posts voted on the new state leadership. 17 posts were no-shows at the convention and most of the remaining posts were ineligible to vote because they had unresolved financial responsibilities to their District or the State.

AROUND THE CONVENTION 2026

RESPECT



MICHELIN TIRES, LLOYD THURMON, MAKING A \$5,000 DONATION TO THE SC VFW



Blood Drive



Recruiting



Raffle Prize



BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY





More Around the Convention





YOU DON'T GET ANY BETTER LOOKING THAN THIS !



YOUR 2026-2027 LEADERSHIP TEAM & COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION





INAUGURATION



YOUR 2026-2027 AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP TEAM





EDITOR NOTE: This is my last State Newsletter. I want to thank all of the past state commanders who had the faith in me to allow me to do my thing in writing the SENTINEL. Special THANKS to PSC Rodney Byrne, previous SENTINEL Editor, for passing the torch to me and Special Thanks to PSC Harry McFadden for allowing me to be the first Commander I served under as SENTINEL editor. Thank you to everyone who contributed to my quarterly offerings and efforts to keep the veterans of SC as informed as possible.

Bill La Monte



Support YOUR VFW Store

SUMMER FUN

GET YOUR GEAR NOW!

VFW

VFWSTORE.ORG

SUNSHADE
Silver with red
VFW Logo.
Polyester.
60 x 28". Made
in the USA.
1233 \$13.95



**NEW! 250TH
ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENT**
This 'America
Semiquincentennial'
ornament showcases iconic
symbols – the American
flag, the Statue of Liberty,
and the Constitution.
2 1/2 x 2 3/8 x 1/4".
Made in the USA.
1063 \$29.95
While quantities last.



BEACH TOWELS 100% cotton.
VFW logo screenprinted. 30 x 60".
1095 Red \$26.00
1258 Orange \$26.00
While quantities last.



NAVY USA CAP Embroidered USA
on front. Six-panel, structured, low
profile, 100% cotton. Printed stars
and stripes. Adjustable hook-and-
loop back closure. Imported.
7121 \$16.95



Back



Front

**MEN'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY
T-SHIRT** Navy blue 100% preshrunk
cotton. Screened design on back.
VFW logo screened left chest. U.S.
flag screened left sleeve. Imported;
decorated in the USA.
7499 S-3XL \$24.00
While quantities last.



**LADIES' 250TH ANNIVERSARY
V-NECK T-SHIRT** Navy blue
100% preshrunk cotton.
Screened design on front. VFW
logo screened right sleeve.
Imported; decorated in the USA.
7450 S-3XL \$24.00
While quantities last.



1776 FLAG CAP Five-panel,
structured, with hook-and-loop
closure. Woven loop label on
closure "EST 1899" for the year
the VFW was founded. Imported;
decorated in the USA.
7201 \$20.00

Prices valid through 8/31/2026

To place your order, call 1.833.839.8387 or go online to VFWSTORE.ORG

Here are some VA contacts you may find helpful:

Benefits and services overview:	www.choose.va.gov
Burial and memorial benefits:	www.cem.va.gov
Caregiver support:	www.caregiver.va.gov
Community care:	www.va.gov/communitycare
Disability claims appeals:	www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status
Education benefits:	www.va.gov/education
Geriatrics and extended care:	www.va.gov/geriatrics
Health care eligibility:	www.va.gov/health-care
Homeless veterans:	www.va.gov/homeless
Memorial certificate program:	www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp
Mental health:	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
PACT Act:	www.VA.gov/PACT

POST 911 VETERANS: www.va.gov/post911veterans

VETERANS CRISIS LINE: www.veteranscrisisline.net

72 hour emergency care notification portal:
emergencycarereporting.communitycare.va.gov/request

VA Welcome kit: www.va.gov/welcome-kit

Women Veterans: www.womenshealth.va.gov

VA forms: www.va.gov/vaforms

VA vet centers: www.vetcenter.va.gov

These contacts and much more information can be found in the VA FEDERAL BENEFITS handbook and by going to www.va.gov/getstarted
