



From the Commander:

First of all, I would like to congratulate all the elected and appointed officers for District 1, South Carolina and I look forward to a very exciting and productive year 2025-2026. I would also like to congratulate the elected and appointed officers for each Post. Welcome aboard to everyone. I would be remiss if I did not extend these congratulations to the elected and appointed officers of the Auxiliary.

I want to encourage maximum participation in all District Meetings, District Functions and events, as well as participating in all individual Post events. There is always information that is passed along that can and will assist you. Remember that "COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS "

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is more than just a canteen, it is an organization that is dedicated to helping other veterans in our communities, not just members, but all veterans. Getting active and staying active will keep you going in a positive direction. If we can learn to set aside our differences and look for the greater good, we will make District 1 stand out in the Department of South Carolina.

District 1 brought home the Membership Trophy from the Department Convention last month a great honor. This was because of the hard work done by YOU, in recruiting new members. We can keep this trophy in our District by continuing the work. Start now, today, in actively recruiting, don't wait for the next member to do it.

Again, between the Department, the District, and the individual Post events, it will be a very active year. Get involved and participate.

A little about myself, I served in the United States Marine Corps from April 1986 through May 1996, during which I served as "boots on the ground" through Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I joined the VFW at Post 10256, where I served as All-State and All-American Post Commander for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. I also served as the Buddy Poppy Chairman for the Department in 2022-2023, I currently live in Moncks Corner, SC, with my wonderful wife, Elonna Manning and I am a life member here at Post 9509.

I look forward to serving this District as your Commander.

Semper Fi, Chris Manning

From the President:



My name is Beth Tufts. I joined the “Ladies” Auxiliary in 2007 under the eligibility of my husband, Ted Tufts, a gulf war veteran. Since then, I have been 3433 Auxiliary President 2014-2015, District 1 President 2016-2018 and again in 2019-2020. I was awarded Department Outstanding District President in 2017 and 2020. I was Department President from 2022-2023. As Department President I led our Department to the Circle of Excellence which is the highest award a Department can receive. My theme was “We bee-lieve in our Veterans.” I continue to follow that dream as I work with the Auxiliary no matter my place I hold in the organization. I look forward to working with you this year. Look forward to hearing from me often as I believe that communication is important.

First of all – your bonds are due by the 31st of Aug. Our current Department President and former District 1 President, Marietta Hill, is counting on us to get these in on time. Our audits for April, May and June are also due to the Department Treasurer by April 30. Remember your quarterly audits have to be submitted in order for your Auxiliary to vote at the 2026 Department and National Conventions. If you have a problem with any of these please contact Sharen Peterson, Department Treasurer at 817- 941- 1099.

I look forward to being your District President this year. I am open to anyone with a question. You do not have to be an officer. There is no question you may have that we cannot address together. I look forward to working with you. I believe we are going to have a great year. My contact information is phone – 843-708-0705. I am open to text messages, and I answer messages left for me as quickly as I can. I look forward to hearing from you! You will definitely be hearing from me. I think communication is the best policy!



District 1 Officers 2025-2026

Commander:	Chris Manning, ph.: 843-291-7542 C.manning1967@gmail.com
Sr. Vice:	Matthew Leaird, ph.: 843-568-5850 mleaird@comcast.net
Jr. Vice:	Marc Jabob, ph.: 843-860-1186 chiefjake74@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Betty J. Hilliard, ph.: 843-327-0055 bjh@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster:	Michael Goad, ph.: 757-574-2552 Michael.c.goad@outlook.com
District Chaplain:	Chuck Blankin, ph.: cpblankin@gmail.com
Auxiliary President:	Beth Tufts, ph.: 843-569-3475 btufts55@gmail.com
Sr. Vice:	Cliff Weaver, ph.: 843-893-6288 ncliffweaver@gmail.com
Jr. Vice:	Michele Jones, ph.: 843-835-3564 Michelejones12102@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@mai.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: **15th of July, October,
January & April**

District 1 Website: <http://vfwscd1.org>



District1's official polo shirt:

\$30

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2025

- 4 US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
- 9-13 National Convention
- 23 **District 1 Meeting, 10:00, Post 3433 (S.o.I.)**
- 31 End of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2010)

September 2025

- 2 V.J. Day (1945)
- 11 Patriot's Day
- 17 Constitution & Citizenship Day
- 19 POW / MIA Recognition Day
- 28 Gold Star Mother's / Family's Day

October 2025

- 7 Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001)
- 13 U.S. Navy 250th Birthday
- 18 Recognition of Women in Military Service
- 23 Beirut Bombing (1983)
- 25 **Commander's Round Table, 10:00, Post 10256**

District 1—Awards

Many Auxiliaries and Posts brought home certificates, plaques and trophies from the 2025 Department Convention.

Out of 9 Report categories, like Americanism or Buddy Poppy, (4 groups in each), Dist. 1's Auxiliaries netted 21 certificates. Not sure if that's a record for one district, but definitely a terrific accomplishment.

District 1 has the Most Outstanding Post QM, VFW Member, District Commander on the Comrades' side along with the Auxiliary getting recognized for Outstanding Chairman, Treasurer, Aux. Member, and District Mentor.

Seven posts made All State and District 1 was first in Membership.

Congratulations, District ONE !



SC Department President, Donna Marie King's Homecoming - 17 May '25



Thank You!



National President, Brenda Bryant, visiting South Carolina— 17 April '25



Post 3137 & Auxiliary:

The I. o. P. Post placed 1000 flags on grave sites in Mt Pleasant, SC Memorial Gardens. Another group of volunteers handed out poppies in the local shopping center.

On Memorial Day a service was held at the Post to remember all the men and women who lost their lives while serving our great country in the military. The National Moment of Silence was observed at 3 PM, followed by the playing of TAPS. A breakfast For Gold Star families was held on Sunday June 1. That same day the local band Fowl Play entertained about 100 members and guests.

The Post presented the Americanism Award to Boone Hall Plantation on June 12, 2025. The Americanism Award recognizes local businesses which support our active duty military and veterans.

Isle of Palms volunteered with Operation Gratitude to assemble 5,000 Care Packages for local Veterans and First Responders on Flag Day.



Post 12102 & Auxiliary:



The town of Walterboro, South Carolina held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the war memorial in downtown Walterboro during which VFW Auxiliary 12102 members passed out “Buddy”® Poppies along with a note explaining what should be done with the poppy; the poem In Flanders Fields was printed on the back. “Post 12102 Auxiliary is a small group but we are very active in our community,” writes Beate Lies, Auxiliary President, who sent in pictures.

(featured on VFW Auxiliary-National Organization’s Facebook page)



Post 10624 & Auxiliary:

Operation Gratitude

Post 10624 and Post 3137 assisted in making support packages for Local Veterans and First Responders.

Goal was to fill enough bags to fill up over 5000 boxes—went over the goal in short time. It was hot but very rewarding.



Fisher House

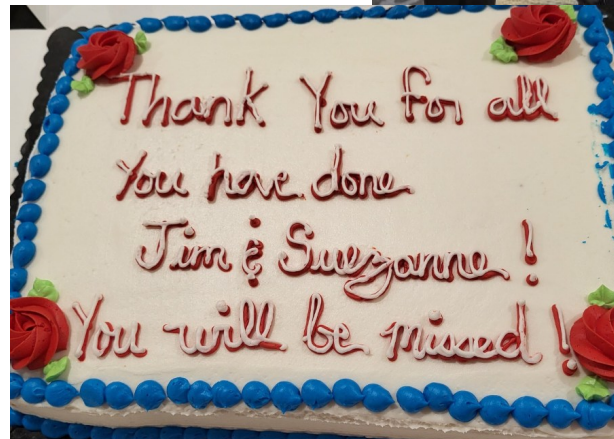
Members of Post 10624 and 3137 cooked and served pork chops, mac & cheese, green beans, salad and desserts for families staying at Fisher House while love ones are in the hospitals.

2025 Department Convention





Past President Pinning
(they did it on the floor)



Although my year and term is over, my final event was at the Convention. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who assisted with the District 1 Hospitality Room— food and ticket sales, especially for keeping everything replenished. The quick setup on Saturday was crazy.

KUDOS goes out to: Michele Jones (Note from the editor: Michele was like the Energizer Bunny, constantly on the go) Sandy Rowland, Cliff Weaver, Angela Gaskins, Cassie Pope, Curtis Peterson, Rick Turner, Cathy Barna, & Judy Dodrer and Patrice Lamb. If I have forgotten anyone, I am terribly sorry.

Everyone appeared to have had a great time and Mike Goad's karaoke machine was definitely a hit. I loved the songs and the singing, thank you again for being the DJ.

Thank you to all the auxiliaries for a great year and I am looking forward to my new position as Department Treasurer.

Sharen Peterson
District 1 President (for: 2024-2025)
Department Treasurer (for: 2025-2026)

VFW on Facebook:

SC Auxiliary:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/scvfwaux
SC VFW:	https://www.facebook.com/vfwscnporg
District 1:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/198761523908653/
Post 445:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/973830482714978
Post 3137:	https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3137
Post 3433:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1796558270882352
Post 8760:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/165976093077539
Post 9509:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/444614837607947
Post 10256:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/125051570874729
Post 10624:	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558511078139
Post 12102:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/vfw12102

On Facebook under “Group Settings”, then “Web Address” you can change your Post’s FB link from the string of numbers to your Post number (like 3137 and 12102 did)



Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes



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



**No One
Does
More For
Veterans**



Veterans should NEVER go into debt to access their earned benefits, and the VFW has repeatedly expressed concerns about charging veterans for initial claims assistance based on their future benefits. But right now, our elected representatives are considering H.R. 3132, CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, which would do exactly that.

The VFW strongly apposes this legislation, but we need your help to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill. This bill, as written, includes some safeguards and reforms that VFW members could support but the proposed fee structure is ultimately a poison pill that we cannot accept because it will harm veterans.

Contact your elected representatives today and urge them to VOTE NO on H.R. 3132, the CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, and protect veterans against predatory Claim Sharks.

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/126981/Respond>