



S.C. VFW - District 1 Newsletter

From the President:

Hey all!

I am happy to say that I have visited with many of you. I look forward to seeing the rest of you this month. Those that I have visited were very open and welcoming. I thank you. You are doing great. You are all on track to receive the Auxiliary of Excellence Award! I'll do my best to keep you on that track. I would like to see everyone of our auxiliaries receive that award. Let's show everyone that we are District "1."

October brings us fall and Halloween. Many of you are planning a truck or treat event with your Auxiliary. Don't forget the Department Trunk or Treat being held at Headquarters on October 25th. Set up is at 9 and the fun starts around 10. The very first Trunk or Treat was held in October 2021. Since then, it has become more and more successful. Be ready to wear your costume and have a really good time. I think the adults have as much fun as the children. You can look for me as a bumblebee! Imagine that!!

Many of you are planning a Freedom Festival. This is a great way to get the word out about who we are and what we do. Did you know we awarded \$2.29 billion dollars for scholarships last year?

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From the Commander:

When we say Goodbye to Customs and Traditions.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the Active, Guard and Reserve forces. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, we are the nation's largest organization of war veterans and its oldest major veterans organization.

We are an organization that was established with the desire to helping Veterans, and built on Customs, Traditions, and Rituals. Cultural loss refers to the disappearance of cultural elements, such as traditions, languages, art, and social practices that define a group of people. It's a process that can occur due to various factors, such as, globalization, colonialism, modernization, and environmental changes.

The 21st century has its benefits for sure, but it brings its own share of problems as well. Customs, Traditions, and Rituals are the umbrella for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but it seems like we are now forgetting to take our umbrella with us, as customs and tradition seems to be taking a backseat in our busy lives.

When we say Goodbye to customs and traditions, WHAT DO WE LOSE?

Customs and Traditions provide a sense of stability and comfort. They ground us in a familiar routine, offering a framework for this organization's milestones. We often feel a sense of loss and disorientation when these traditions fade.

Traditions play a crucial role in preserving cultural identity. They give us to our heritage , and provide a sense of belonging to a larger community. Losing or altering these traditions can weaken cultural ties and dilute the identity that the founders of this great organization had intended.

Technology has a dual role in the transition away from traditions. On one hand, it can erode traditional practices by promoting a fast global lifestyle. This lifestyle often values convenience over heritage. But technology can also be a powerful tool. It can help keep traditions alive and bring them back.

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District 1 Officers 2025-2026

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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@gmail.com

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



District1's official
polo shirt:

\$30

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2025

- 13 U.S. Navy 250th Birthday / Columbus Day
- 18 Recognition of Women in Military Service
- 23 Beirut Bombing (1983)
- 26 Day of the Deployed
- 27 Navy Day
- 28 Statue of Liberty Birthday (1886)

November 2025

- 10 US Marines 250th Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day / Armistice Day
- 15 District 1 Meeting ,10:00am, Post 5091 (Memorial)

December 2025

- 1 Civil Air Patrol Birthda7 (1941)
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day (see page 12) / Bill of Rights Day
- 13 US National Guard Birthday (1636) / Wreaths Across America Day (noon, Beaufort National Cemetery)
- 20 US Space Force Birthday (2019)
- EVERY FRIDAY: R.E.D. Shirt Day

REGISTER YOUR POST & AUXILIARY

From the Secretary of State:

If your charitable organization no longer falls under the exemption provisions of the statute, it is very important that your organization register as a non-exempt charitable organization with the Secretary of State's office using the Registration Statement for a Charitable Organization. Failure to file the proper registration statement may result in an administrative fine of up to \$2000.

To file your application online, please visit the Secretary of State's website at <https://sos.sc.gov/before-you-file-online>

The Secretary of State's free **Give Smart SC** mobile app is now available! Before you make a donation, use **Give Smart SC** to see if a charity is registered to solicit in South Carolina, and review information provided on the charity's most recent annual financial report.

Give Smart SC is available through the App Store and Google Play. Remember to always give from the heart, but give smart!

Registration is easy and will prevent a lot of headaches should you get audited by the State.



Wreaths for the Veterans' Victory House



All Posts & Auxiliaries within District 1 are asked to submit a Buddy Poppy Christmas Wreath, which will be given to the Victory House, located at 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro, SC 29488. The Posts will not get these back.

The Buddy Poppy Christmas Wreath should be no bigger than 16 inches, and light enough to hang on a door. The wreath should contain at least 1 Buddy Poppy with the paper tag still attached. These wreaths need to be brought to the District Meeting on November 15th, 2025 that will be held at Post 5091, and there they will also be judged with a winner selected.

Please do not decorate with the following items:

- No candy, or anything that looks like candy
- No glass items, for fear of breaking
- No sharp or pointed items
- No vulgar language or obscene gestures



Be The Light Pantry — Supporting Military Families During the Government Shutdown

During the 2019 government shutdown, a grassroots effort called Be The Light Pantry was created to support U.S. Coast Guard families in Astoria, Oregon — serving more than 1,300 people in need.

Now, as another government shutdown impacts service members and federal workers across the country, Be The Light Pantry is being established in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to support all branches of the military, retirees, and furloughed federal employees across Berkeley, Charleston, and surrounding counties.

The pantry will take place on October 18th & 19th at VFW Post 9509 & Auxiliary, in partnership with Towns4Troops-SE, a nonprofit accepting donations on behalf of the pantry, and Benchmark Structures, who are generously donating a large shed to serve as the pantry space.

To make this effort possible, we're asking for the community's support:

- Donations of nonperishable food, household essentials, and personal care items (no expired or opened items, please).
- Donations can be dropped off at [232 Firewheel Court Summerville, SC](#).
- Gift cards valued at \$25 or less, which will be distributed directly to families in need.
- Monetary donations can be made via Venmo @Towns4TroopsSE. These funds will be used to purchase additional gift cards and essential items such as groceries and gas for affected families.. If you can't donate - please share to help us get the word out to as many people as possible.

Together, we can Be The Light for those who serve and sacrifice for all of us.

If you have any questions, please reach out at 252-241-1661.



Government Shut Down 2025

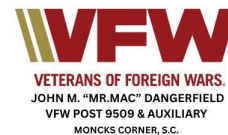
Be The Light Food Pantry

Be The Light Food Pantry to benefit all Active Duty Members and their Families, Retirees and Furloughed Federal workers impacted due to the government shutdown. Bring a grocery bag and come restock your pantry.

DETAILS:

- Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th | 11 AM -3:00 PM
- VFW Post 9509 & Auxiliary | 1141 S Live Oak Dr, Moncks Corner, SC
- Please Bring Government ID
- POC: Stacey Benson | 252.241.1661

NOTE: If the shutdown ends before all funds are used, any remaining monetary donations must remain with the military services and will be split equally amongst the branches in our area to help families in the future. Additionally, any leftover food donations will be circulated back into the local military community.



Benchmark Structures

Post 3334 & Auxiliary:



OCTOBERFEST Sat Oct 4th in Summerville.

Auxiliary 3433 spend the day in team spirit with the Comrades promoting the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships. It also gave the Auxiliary time to speak with many school children and parents about scholarships through the Young Americans Patriots Contest & Young American Art Contest. A very good day all around.



Post 445 & Auxiliary:



John's Island Post and Auxiliary started off the summer by hosting a Game Show night, where the proceeds went to fund Veterans in need throughout the Post. They are looking forward to doing more in the future.

In July the post celebrated Independence Day for all Veterans and family members.

One of the things they did for Veterans was volunteer at Soldiers Angels food bank drive through, where Auxiliary member Barb Barger helped to direct traffic.

On September 12 local first responders were honored for Patriots Day and a service for remembrance of that day in 2001 was held. Several youth members were helping out in the kitchen.

More events to help Veterans in the community are planned for the future.



Post 12102 & Auxiliary:



Colleton County will soon break ground on their Veterans Park, located across from the Walterboro Airport. Servicemen fallen in the line of duty are already being honored by the city of Walterboro at the downtown waterfall.

Members of the Post and Auxiliary attended the Legislative Delegation meeting. Commander Ferrell addressed the delegation, and a total of 21 Comrades and Auxiliary Members were in attendance. All Comrades and Auxiliary Members had the opportunity to visit not only with the Legislative Representatives but also other members of local governmental bodies.



Post 3137 & Auxiliary:



Members of the VFW Post 3137, from Isle of Palms, participated in the Heroes Run.

VFW Post 3137 won first place for having the most participants for a military-affiliated team.

The 9/11 Heroes Run was held on Sept. 13 on Daniel Island. The run supports the Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) First Lt. Travis Manion, USMC, made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of his patrol in Iraq in April 2007.



Oktoberfest on
27 September with Dirndl
& Lederhosen. Schnitzel
and Sauerkraut for dinner.





CALL FOR HELP

I'm Cpl Jacob Richardson, a combat camera Marine currently stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. I'm writing because my team and I are putting together a video honoring the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps, and we're looking for veterans who would be willing to sit down for an interview with us. We reached out to American Legion Post 93 (as well as others in the nearby area) and they told us that you guys might be able to help us with this.

We've sat down with Marines who served as far back as Vietnam, but we're still looking for Marines who served during the Korean War or WWII.

If anyone at your post fits this description and would be willing to help out with this effort, or you know of someone who might be, please let us know. We'd really appreciate getting to work with you to help honor and celebrate this important milestone in Marine Corps history.

Here's my contact info in case you have questions or would like to discuss further:

Email: jake.13.richardson@gmail.com

Phone: 240-397-1213

Thank you all for your service. This project is about and for those who came before.

Semper Fidelis,
Cpl Jacob Richardson
4571 Combat Videographer
Communication Strategy & Operations (COMMSTRAT)
Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island
United States Marine Corps

2025 National Convention







Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony

Date: December 7, 2025

Time: 11 a.m.

Patriots Point - U.S.S. Yorktown

40 Patriots Point Road

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

*Immediately following the Ceremony - Lunch at:
VFW Post 10624 - Mt. Pleasant, 1411 Stuart Engals Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 (843-884-0062)*

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>

Please notify the editor(s) regarding any changes.



**No One
Does More
For
Veterans**

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Social media platforms and digital archives provide a space for sharing. They also offer a space for celebrating customs and traditional practices. People with a shared heritage can connect through online communities. They can do so even if they are far apart.

Keeping our customs and traditions by adding traditional knowledge to curricula can foster our member's deeper appreciation for this organization. It will include the knowledge and practices of their heritage. At the same time it can encourage innovation and critical thinking.

Chris Manning
Commander, District 1
VFW Department of South Carolina

Life Membership - Comrades

By becoming a VFW Life member, you make a lifetime commitment to serving your fellow service members and veterans. That's something to take great pride in.

You'll also enjoy many great benefits of being a Life member! You will:

- Avoid annual dues and renewals.
- Maintain your membership in any Post you choose, worldwide!
- Never pay an increase in dues—Guaranteed!
- Receive a 10% discount on exclusive [VFW Store](#) merchandise for the first year.

You can become a [VFW Life member by making a one-time payment](#), or you can pay for your Life membership through our installment plan with an initial \$45 payment and the Life membership amount billed over an 11-month period.



Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes

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We volunteered 194,177 hours at VA and non-VA medical facilities. We have 10,742 members who volunteer within the Hospital Program. We worked with 144,818 youth last year. We are busy, busy, busy! Let the community know we are here and what we do. For further information on what I have here go on MALTA, member resources, membership. You can order beautiful flyers that you can use at no charge.

Always remember – I am YOUR District President. I am here because you put me here. I am honored to be your President.

Never hesitate to call me should you have a question or concern –

(843)708-0705

Hugs! - *Beth*

