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210 GLASSMASTER ROAD LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

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vfwsc.org admin@vfwsc.org 803-808-0317

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2025 ELECTION EDITION

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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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South Carolina

YOUR 2025-2026 STATE & AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP TEAMS



State Commander: TODD HAVILAND
Sr. Vice: THEONIS BROWN
Jr. Vice: CHARLES HOLLOWAY
Quartermaster: DENNIS HAMILTON
Chaplain: WILTON FOWLER



Auxiliary President: MARIETTA HILL
Sr. Vice: BARBARA SHULER
Jr. Vice: PATRICE LAMB
Chaplain: RAMONA BRANDON
Treasurer: SHARON PETERSON
Conductor: ANDY MACHEMER

The rest of Commander Haviland's team can be found in the "State Commanders Guidebook". Go to vfwsc.org, go to the "ABOUT" tag, click on, scroll down to State Commander Guidebook.

You can find the rest of President Hill's team the same as above on the Auxiliary web page.



The Convention is over, the State and Auxiliary elected and appointed officers have been chosen and sworn in. Now it is time for your new State Commander to take the reins and lead us into 2025-2026 by administering to the affairs of and transacting the business of the Department.....WRONG!

ARTICLE V, Section 522(b) says: the COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION “SHALL” be responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the Department between Department Conventions !

In the case of South Carolina, that CofA consists of about 18 people, including the Commander (those that constitute the CofA can be found in Section 522(a) of the National By Laws).

Some of the State affairs the CofA is responsible for are:

1)Budget, 2)Audit Department Accounts, 3)Disposition of Property, 4)Schedule/Attend 2 meetings a year (ensuring an acceptable quorum with a one member one vote allowance).

Commander Haviland’s specific duties are outlined in the Manual of Procedure, ARTICLE V, Section 518(a)(1)

EDITORIAL

If you are going to be a VFW Post? You have a responsibility to live up to the motto that “No One Does More for Veterans”. That means, YOUR Post leadership should be taking an active part in keeping current membership informed and wanting to get involved, mentoring new members, doing various VFW programs, doing things that support the community, and most importantly, doing those things that would make fellow eligible veterans want to be part of YOUR Post and the VFW in general.

You, and your Post/District have an obligation to do the best it can. Being a VFW Post means that you meet the challenges of completing the various programs and financial obligations that make and support the VFW. The “All State” and “All America” Dashboards outline those things necessary for you to call yourself a VFW Post or District and live up to the VFW world of “Veterans Helping Veterans”!

Working together, we can do great things for ALL our fellow veterans, our communities and the VFW! Let’s make 2025-2026 worth remembering!

******The SENTINEL Newsletter is back, thanks to Commander Haviland, and will be published quarterly at the end of each calendar quarter (1st full edition will be published around October 1st).**

The SENTINEL is YOUR Newsletter. It will be published electronically on the VFW website and sent to each District Commander for them to hopefully forward to every post in their district. I need your inputs! Tell me what good things individuals are doing in your post? What good things your Post or District is doing/has recently done. Just send me the event, what was happening? How was the Post or District involved? Pictures with info identifying who/what’s in the picture and an email/phone number of someone I can talk to (if I need to) about their submission.

I know many Post and Districts have their own website or use Facebook to herald their activities/events, but the SENTINEL is there for all of the SC VFW to see. I also send a copy of the SENTINEL to National HQ so they can see the good things happening within the SC VFW.

Most of you did not see it, but the SENTINEL earned a VFW National award this year (for a 2024 submission) for being the second-best publication (all categories) in all the VFW.

Getting the word out

I have always been a firm believer in keeping VFW members informed. Something that I believe is drastically lacking at most levels of the VFW. How do you get the word out to that 95, 90, 75% of your membership that does not attend your monthly business meeting, or District meeting? With my being appointed Editor, With the support of Commander Haviland, I want to reestablish the recognition program that I had in years past. I am asking that any Post or District that is producing a Newsletter, that you will send me a copy of your publication. For Posts, any Post that submits at least three (3) Newsletters during this year, or any District that submits at least two (2) newsletters during this year, will receive some form of a Certificate of Recognition (presented at the 2026 Convention). Any Post or District that shows continued use of a Webpage or Facebook page to get the word out, will also be recognized.

Monthly calendars do not qualify as a newsletter/bulletin .

A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES OF WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR



Back in late June, **Post 8738** held a fund-raiser gala, that I am told, was a rousing success. Participants dressed in their finest and the meal was superb (so I am told)



Each year, on the 4th of July, our local American Legion (Post 186) sponsors a “Salute to America” flag carry on the entire 8 miles of beach which constitute North Myrtle Beach. 20 Teams of four carry the U.S., POW-MIA, S.C. and Purple Heart Flags for about a 6-8 block segment. **Post 10804** and Auxiliary always have several members participate in this tremendous show of Americanism.



Picture 1: Mrs. Everything in the S.C. VFW Auxiliary, Kate Brock (right) presenting the S.C. VFW Auxiliary Outstanding Auxiliary President Award to DONNA MATTHEWS of **Post 11079**
 Picture 2: Is KAREN ZALIEDZIESKI, **Post 6740** holding her Outstanding Auxiliary Member award for 2024.

Back in March, the National Council of Administration approved a new fund-raiser for the VFW. It is called the “VFW STARS AND STRIPES SOCIETY.



The donation program is open to anyone, or any business. There are three levels of donations that will earn someone one of the above items.

To get all the info on this program visit: Heroes.VFW.org/StarsAndStripes

SUPPORT YOUR VFW AT EVERY LEVEL

BILL La MONTE

Writer/Editor

4william6@gmail.com

252-308-3507

Membership, Community Service and Fundraising are my priorities. We need to hit 101% ...Being in the community will help with recruitment.



**"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran doesn't have that problem." –
RONALD REAGAN**