



## Department of South Carolina

# *SENTINEL*



Commander – ED STEFANAK, Jr



South Carolina

Auxiliary President – BETH TUFTS



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Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Vfwsc.org

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THIRD QUARTER (Jul – Sep) 2022

## ALL AMERICAN STATE 2021-2022

*It's not the price you pay to become a member.  
It's the price you paid to become eligible!*

**HAVING PROBLEMS? NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?...The “VETERANS CRISIS LINE LINE” is open 24/7. Just call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. It takes an average of 8 seconds for your call to be answered. You are NOT alone!**

**HOT!! – The FCC has approved a new, 3 digit (988) crisis line (acts in the same principal as 911). It connects with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Just dial 9.8.8. and then option 1 (veteran)**

**VA WOMEN VETERAN HELP LINES...1-855-829-6636 or [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)**

**\*\*\*The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.**

If you are frequently in any one of those. PLEASE call one of the helplines listed above !

**Want to stay current with VA & VFW issues? Go to [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org) and sign-up for “Action CORPS Weekly”.**

**Want to stay current with what is happening within the VFW in S.C.? Just go to [VFWSC.org](http://VFWSC.org).**

**GET YOUR FLU SHOT !! Why you are at it – Have you gotten a PNEUMONIA or SHINGLES shot. What about the COVID shot? How about the COVID Booster Shot? As of this writing, there are still 71 MILLION people in America who have NO COVID shots.**

**Are you a veteran of Afghanistan? Or the family member of a veteran who served there? And you/they need some help. Contact 877 – WAR – VETS (877-927-8387). This is a 24/7 helpline.**

**\*\*\*In 2021 there were more than 8,000, military-on-military, sexual assaults reported to DoD**

**COVID – Is NOT dead! So far this year over 1.7 MILLION South Carolinians have had COVID or experienced COVID like symptoms. There are still over 450 people dying each week from COVID or COVID related symptoms/illnesses.**

**WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs published “Whole Health System Approach to Long COVID” — a guidebook for caring for Veterans with Long COVID. \_\_**

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**From the Desk of the State Commander - ED STEFANAK, Jr.**

### **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

**We are 3 months into the 2022-2023 VFW year. It has been a complete honor for me to serve as your State Commander and the time has been flying. We have been operating at a very high pace this year as many posts and districts have been doing some amazing recruiting events and getting out into the community. Keep up the good work, but now we have to refocus and concentrate on Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and the Teacher's Citizenship Education Award. Those are due to the posts by October 31st, 2022. I was pleased with the turn out we had at the Department School of Instruction as all 8 District Commanders were present, 43 Post Commanders were present, and we had a total of 95 comrades in attendance. That was an outstanding turn out and honestly very humbling. Since the School of Instruction,**

**we did a webinar to educate our membership on the PACT ACT, our State VSO John "JJ" Johnson did a great job giving out vital information to our comrades. September was an event packed month as we conducted a National Recruiting event at Darlington with our neighbors from North Carolina. We recruited 47 new comrades that weekend. A job well done goes out to Christine Rogers Post 11079 in Elgin, Scott Peck Post 11079 in Elgin, Dennis Hamilton Post 3137 IOP, Chris Manning Post 10256 in Goose Creek, and Ben Mockalis Post 9539 out of Spartanburg. You all did an Outstanding Job! We also had a 2-day Patriots Day**

**Event at Department HQs Sept 10-11th. State Surgeon Gene Bryant did a great job putting this event together and I appreciate all the posts who attended, set-up tables and helped with the set-up. That same weekend, POW/MIA Chairman and District 8 Commander Chad Caldwell, State Senior Vice Commander Jim Fox, State Chaplain Wilton Fowler, Department Auxiliary Senior Vice President Laura Jo Sweetsir and many comrades and auxiliary members of Post 9539 in Spartanburg honored a returning POW from WW2, SSG. The next week, we did a Community Blood Drive at Department HQ, again set-up by State Surgeon Gene Bryant. We had 20 people give blood that day and POW/MIA Chairman and District 8 Commander Chad Caldwell and State Chaplain Wilton Fowler did an amazing job conducting a POW/MIA ceremony for POW/MIA day. The next day we participated in Steps and Strides an Event held by the Vet Center to raise awareness for veteran's suicide. State Surgeon Gene Bryant did an excellent job putting this event together as over 30 comrades and auxiliary members participated in the walk and festivities. The same day, Post 10980 in Eutawville had a ceremony honoring 3 WW2 Veterans with citations from Senator Tom Scott and American**

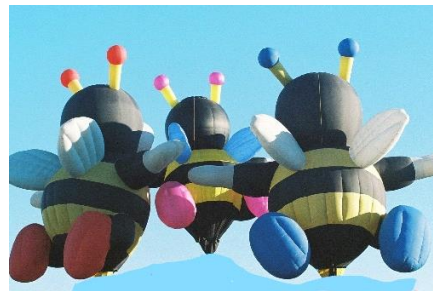
**Flags over the State House. Post Commander Kurt Knouse did a great job putting this event on for these 3 heroes. We had a great number of State Officers and State Chairman attend this event to include NCOA PSC Ted Tufts, National Legislative Chairman Dentist Harvin and Department President Beth Tufts.**

**Keep up the good work comrades. Let's keep Madam President Beth Tufts in your prayers as she recovers from her surgery. Let's finish 2022 out strong. I'm proud of all of you and for your hard work and dedication to this organization.**

**#scmania**

**From the Desk of Madam President, BETH TUFTS:**

You can never imagine how much your prayers, best wishes and cards have meant to me during my recent surgery and recovery. In the meantime, I am doing my very best to fulfill the many responsibilities you have entrusted to me. I may not be able to answer all of your questions and concerns right away but please know I am working on them. I still "bee-lieve" in our Veterans and I "bee-lieve" I will be back on my feet soon. Your prayers and wishes have made a great difference in my life and recovery. I can never thank you enough. I am asking that you keep working on our Department membership goals. If your Auxiliary makes 100% in membership by December 31 you are almost assured to be a Bumblebee Auxiliary! I know you can do it. Contact our members that have not paid their dues.



Impress on them the importance and benefits of being an Auxiliary member. We all had a special reason to become a member. I am sure they did too. Let them know that those opportunities are still here. Share your Auxiliary story with potential new members. Let them know how much we "bee-lieve" in our Veterans and how we strive everyday to continue to prove how much we "bee-lieve" in our Veterans. The future of the Department of South Carolina VFW Auxiliary will be a success with all of the help and support you give one another. You are the ones that keep our Department going and I truly appreciate it. Please know that I am still VERY EXCITED TO BE YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT! I am excited to be part of a team that makes South Carolina such a wonderful place to call our VFW Auxiliary home. Proving we "bee-lieve" in our Veterans.

Hugs,

Beth

**Meet your Sr. Vice Commander – JIM FOX:** - My name is Jim Fox, your VFWSC Sr. Vice Commander. I was born in 1956 and grew up in upstate NY, where I graduated from high school in 1974. I joined the Air Force the same year I graduated (Jun 1974) and was a jet engine mechanic and supervisor throughout my 22-year military career (retired Sep. 1996). I was fortunate to meet my

wife Jane while still on Active Duty; we married in 1988 and became stepparents to each other's children (total of five children), who have since blessed us with three beautiful grandchildren. After retiring from the military (1996), I became a Real Estate Broker and for another 22 years I helped people/businesses buy and sell property; I retired for a second time in 2018.

I earned my VFW eligibility while serving in Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991, and in the later year (1991) I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Three years before retiring from a career in real



estate (2015) I became an active member of Elgin VFW 11079, holding the position of Quartermaster (QM) (2015-2017). During that time I was also voted in as the District 2 QM, a position I held for two years (2016-2018). While serving my second year as District 2 QM, I was elected the Post Commander of VFW 11079; as a united team we proudly earned both All State and All American honors. At the end of my year as Post Commander (2018) I was proud to be elected as our District 2 Commander, which I held for one year (2018-2019); during this time our District achieved All State and All American honors. In June of 2019 I was elected the VFWSC QM, which I held until June of 2021, earning All American QM for both of those years. In June 2021 I was humbled and proud to be elected as the VFWSC Jr Vice Commander, and I became the VFWSC Sr. Vice Commander the following year (June 2022).

I've held a variety of positions throughout the many years I've served the VFW, and I look forward to applying what I've learned to make my year as the VFWSC Commander (2023-2024) a prosperous year. Thank you to everyone who's trusted and/or relied on my abilities as a VFW leader; it was an honor to help you reach your many goals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help you or your post foster all the good things the VFW does.

**My priorities this year: (1) Supporting the commander 100%. (2) I will be at every recruiting event that I can attend to help our Posts, Districts and the Department increase our membership across the state. (3) I will be helping the District Commanders with Posts in their district that needs help and guidance. (4) I will be assisting the commander with his programs and events to make sure he has a very successful year. I look forward to seeing everyone in my travels.**

#### **What's an Adjutant? And just what does he or she do?**

**YOUR STATE ADJUTANT** – Is the eyes and ears of the State Commander. He or she is appointed to the position by the incoming State Commander. An appointment that shows the



commander's great respect for the appointee. Besides all the duties he/she might be asked, by the state commander, to perform.

### **YOUR State Adjutant:**

\*Is the 'official correspondence officer' for the state. In this capacity, if anything official from the state is sent anywhere/to anyone. The Adjutants signature must be on the document along with the State Commanders.

\*Is responsible for the preparing of any reports as directed by the State Commander, CofA or the Department Convention (as you can see, at times he/she has more than one person to answer too).

\*Is the keeper of the books and records not associated with the books and records kept by the Quartermaster. Adjutant records must be kept in a legible and uniform fashion (either electronically or on paper). These records are subject to inspection by the Trustees (yes, they should periodically inspect Adjutant records). Adjutant records can also be inspected by any authorized officers and/or Department members.

\*All Adjutant records must be kept at State Headquarters. Some records kept are:

1. Rosters of Department officers and Committees
2. District officers to include Committee Chairman and meeting times and places.
3. All Post and Post Officers, meetings times and places, membership data and any other information provided by the State Quartermaster.
4. Files and records as prescribed by National Headquarters and the Department CofA
5. Prepare and maintain minutes of each CofA meeting and Department Convention
6. A file containing the proof of eligibility of all elected and appointed Department Officers
7. Maintain a copy of Department, District & Post By Laws and the current Manual of Procedure and Rituals of the VFW.

Now that you know what YOUR State Adjutant is responsible for. Let's meet the man currently occupying the State Adjutant chair. Not a bio, just a little info.

### **Adjutant – KEVIN L. JOY**

Started out in NY, eventually moved to SC. He is a Life Member of Gandy-Griffin Post 4262 in District 2. Kevin retired from the Army as a First Sergeant, serving more than 25 years. He earned his VFW eligibility with tours to Afghanistan and Kuwait.



**Why did you take the appointment as Adjutant? I accepted this position to lend my capabilities and experience to help achieve the Department Commander's vision.**

**P.S.** If you ask comrade Joy? He will humbly tell you that besides all those responsibilities listed above. He is responsible for the day-to-day operation of State Headquarters, serves as a

member of the Building Committee and provides oversight of the state Veterans Service Operations and State Newsletter.

**From the desk of your State Quartermaster – Ella Calvert**



I want to remind Post and District Quartermasters to:

1. File and send me a copy of their Annual Tax 990,
2. File their Annual Charity Registration and if they are holding any type of raffles (50/50, booze wagon , etc) they need to file their Annual Raffle Registration with the SC Secretary of State. Each registration is \$50. Send me a copy of the approval letter from the SC Secretary of State.
3. File their Form 1024 with the IRS for tax exemption. The filing fee is \$600, but they need to send me a copy of their filing AND the IRS Approval Letter.
- 4, Trustee Audits (July-September) are due not later than 31 October 2023.
5. 2022-23 Post Delegate Dues are due by 15 May 2023.
6. We still have Kelly Green and Red Polo Shirts available for \$30 each.
7. CofA Bldg is available for rental contact the Headquarters for assistance.

Questions call me at 803-348-6643.

**MEMBERSHIP** – There is a new Chairman of the Membership Committee. He is **SCOTT PECK**, Post 11079 of District 2. He can be reached at **254-251-1579**, or [sns.peck69@gmail.com](mailto:sns.peck69@gmail.com)

**FROM YOUR VETERANS & MILITARY SERVICE CHAIRMAN**

**Darren Wiseman**

**State VMS activity so far this year**

- \*Chairman provided training on VMS, MAP and Adopt a Unit during State Sol
- \*Met with SCANG, 132MP Company about Adopt a Unit program. Assisted two posts in adopting a unit.
- \*The Department conducted 145 veteran assistance programs in August
- \*Post 6740 conducted wellness checks on veteran and spouse and attended two unclaimed veteran funerals
- \*Post 445 collected and donated **\$10,000** to Kentucky Disaster Relief
- \*Post 8738 interviewed and conducted a podcast with the WWII member who is believed to be the **longest serving VFW member. Since 1946!!**
- \*Post 9539 collected and donated \$838 to Kentucky Disaster Relief. **They also donated 24 computer tablets to veterans in the Palmetto Patriots Home.** Giving them a means to communicate with family and friends and to provide personal entertainment

**IN all, YOU helped 200 veterans, and provided \$10,598 in assistance**

**WHAT DO YOU DO TO PROTECT AND DISTRIBUTE YOUR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS ONCE YOU ARE NO LONGR IN NEED OF THEM??**

**This is called “Estate Planning”**

**ESTATE PLANNING STARTERS, SAVE TIME AND GET ORGANIZED**

Once you have decided to create or update your estate plan, you will eventually need to talk with an estate planning attorney. He or she can draft your will or trust so that it accomplishes your goals, like how you want to distribute your estate, whom you want to be your executor or personal representative and what charities you wish to support. Go to VFW.org and look up estate planning. The starter kit and training brochure gives you everything you need to know.

**Want to leave something to the VFW or your Post? It's as simple as putting the following in your will:**

**“I give, devise, and bequeath to South Carolina VFW (or your Post #) (list either the state or post mailing address), their tax ID #,        % of my estate, or the sum of \$        ; or the following described property        ; or        % of the rest , residue, or remainder of my estate.**

**HERE IS WHAT IS A VA TOTAL DISBILITY RATING BASED ON?**  
**(TITLE 38, CHAPTER 1, PART 4 OF THEIR CFR)**

**§ 4.15 Total disability ratings.**

The ability to overcome the handicap of disability varies widely among individuals. The rating, however, is based primarily upon the average impairment in earning capacity, that is, upon the economic or industrial handicap which must be overcome and not from individual success in overcoming it. However, full consideration must be given to unusual physical or mental effects in individual cases, to peculiar effects of occupational activities, to defects in physical or mental endowment preventing the usual amount of success in overcoming the handicap of disability and to the effect of combinations of disability. Total disability will be considered to exist when there is present any impairment of mind or body which is sufficient to render it impossible for the average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation; *Provided*, That permanent total disability shall be taken to exist when the impairment is reasonably certain to continue throughout the life of the disabled person. The following will be considered to be permanent total disability: the permanent loss of the use of both hands, or of both feet, or of one hand and one foot, or of the sight of both eyes, or becoming permanently helpless or permanently bedridden. Other total disability ratings are scheduled in the various bodily systems of this schedule.

**§ 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual.**

(a) Total disability ratings for compensation may be assigned, where the schedular rating is less than total, when the disabled person is, in the judgment of the rating agency, unable to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation as a result of service-connected disabilities: *Provided* That, if there is only one such disability, this disability shall be ratable at 60 percent or more, and that, if there are two or more disabilities, there shall be at least one disability ratable at 40 percent or more, and sufficient additional disability to bring the combined rating to 70 percent or more. For the above purpose of one



60 percent disability, or one 40 percent disability in combination, the following will be considered as one disability:

- (1) Disabilities of one or both upper extremities, or of one or both lower extremities, including the bilateral factor, if applicable,
- (2) disabilities resulting from common etiology or a single accident,
- (3) disabilities affecting a single body system, e.g. orthopedic, digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular-renal, neuropsychiatric,
- (4) multiple injuries incurred in action, or
- (5) multiple disabilities incurred as a prisoner of war. It is provided further that the existence or degree of nonservice-connected disabilities or previous unemployability status will be disregarded where the percentages referred to in this paragraph for the service-connected disability or disabilities are met and in the judgment of the rating agency such service-connected disabilities render the veteran unemployable. Marginal employment shall not be considered substantially gainful employment. For purposes of this section, marginal employment generally shall be deemed to exist when a veteran's earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, as the poverty threshold for one person. Marginal employment may also be held to exist, on a facts found basis (includes but is not limited to employment in a protected environment such as a family business or sheltered workshop), when earned annual income exceeds the poverty threshold. Consideration shall be given in all claims to the nature of the employment and the reason for termination.

(Authority: [38 U.S.C. 501](#))

(b) It is the established policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs that all veterans who are unable to secure and follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of service-connected disabilities shall be rated totally disabled. Therefore, rating boards should submit to the Director, Compensation Service, for extra-schedular consideration all cases of veterans who are unemployable by reason of service-connected disabilities, but who fail to meet the percentage standards set forth in [paragraph \(a\)](#) of this section. The rating board will include a full statement as to the veteran's service-connected disabilities, employment history, educational and vocational attainment and all other factors having a bearing on the issue.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VA !! There is a massive section within Chapter 4 explaining the Disability Rating System!

#### **Do you know the life span of that paper money in your wallet?**

<b>\$1.00 bill – 6.6 years</b>	<b>\$5.00 bill – 4.7 years</b>	<b>\$10.00 bill – 5.3 years</b>
<b>\$20.00 bill – 7.8 years</b>	<b>\$50.00 bill – 12.2 years</b>	<b>\$100.00 bill – 22.9 years</b>

#### **THINKING OF MOVING TO CALIFORNIA?**

You have a military retirement, social security and maybe a little disability income. Add that to the monies you have been saving for a home in California, a million dollar inheritance. YOU BETTER STAY WHERE YOU ARE! Especially if you are thinking of moving to Malibu, CA. Last year 81 homes sold for more than \$5 million. The median price of a house in Malibu is \$6.9 million (Up \$1.4 million from 2 years ago).

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**Why do we call each-other “COMRADE”? –** Besides the fact we use comrade because we forgot the name of the VFW member we were talking too! COMRADE is defined as : A companion who shares one’s activities, or is a fellow member of an organization. The definition goes on to say (this is where it relates to us) a fellow soldier or member of the armed services.

### **THE VA SAYS “WHOLE HEALTH” STARTS WITH YOU**

With this in mind, the VA initiative focuses on supporting veterans through “Self-Care”! This involves a “Circle-of-Health” which includes:

- \***Moving the body** – Exercising and moving for energy, flexibility and strength
- \***Surroundings** – Having comfortable, healthy spaces that support your body and emotions
- \***Personal development** – Moving towards what matters most to you
- \***Food and drink** – Nourishing your body to not only live, but live well
- \***Recharge** – Getting enough sleep, rest and relaxation
- \***Family friends and co-workers** – Developing close, loving, supportive relations with others
- \***Spirit and soul** – Cultivating a sense of connection, purpose and meaning
- \***Power of the mind** – Tapping into your ability to heal and cope through mind-body approaches.

**NOTE:** you can learn more by going to the VA and asking to speak with the WHOLE HEALTH staff, or visit [va.gov/wholehealth](https://va.gov/wholehealth) to learn more.

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**The U.S. needs immigration reform** – Did you know there are more than **11.4 million** unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S.. Of these, **about 45%** are those who entered the U.S. legally, but overstayed their visas

COURTESY: American Legion Magazine

**VA LOANS** — The Department of Veterans Affairs has paid out more than \$6.7 million across 10,000 loans since mid-May 2021 through [Instant Loan Approval](#), a feature that automates the loan approval process for Veterans.

Provided through [VA Insurance Service](#), the Instant Loan Approval process offers eligible Veterans the option to [borrow the cash value](#) of their VA-administered life insurance policy by streamlining the online loan request process and offering a quick automated decision.

Loan options are available for the following VA-administered programs: National Service Life Insurance, Veterans’ Special Life Insurance, Veterans’ Reopened Insurance and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance.

### **VA CARE AND SURVIVABILITY**

I recently read an article written by the State Surgeon of the Pennsylvania VFW. He found an article written by Chad Kessler, MD, MBA Director of Emergency Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. The article appeared in the British Medical Journal.

To make it short, the State Surgeon quoted some facts: That veterans who needed emergency care and were rushed by ambulance to a VA Hospital VS a non-VA Hospital, HAD LOWER MORTALITY RATES. That the veterans survivability rate was **20% BETTER** at the one month mark. Mortality rates were also lower for veterans who were taken to hospitals where they had previously received care.

The study looked at the data on about 583,000 veterans over age 65 who had emergency room visits- either at VA or a non-VA Hospitals between 2001 and 2018. In all there were 1.4 million ambulance transports. All veterans in the study were enrolled in both the VA and Medicare:

**NOTE:** The study was carried out by researchers from VA, Stamford University, Carnegie-Mellon and the

## RECRUITING

You are out recruiting and you aren't doing that well in getting the point across about the VFW and your Post. What you need to do is take a step-back and look at just exactly what you are presenting. No one is going to want to be a part of what you do, if you can't tell them why you do it or give them a reason to care.

The first step is to communicate what you believe by effectively presenting

\*What YOUR Post does: Give at least three good answers to this point

\*How does YOUR Post do what they do? At least another three really good examples

\*Why does YOUR Post do what they do? What's your cause, your purpose, your belief, why does your organization exist? This is the heart and soul of any good recruiting initiative

\*Who does YOUR Post serve? Just veterans, veterans and civilians, your local community, etc

You should be able to give at least three good examples for each of the above. If you can effectively answer these four questions to yourself? You have the necessary answers to most anyone's questions, and that will make for good recruiting by you!

**ONE NEW MEMBER RECRUITED BY YOU IS 100% BETTER THAN NO NEW MEMBERS!**

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## RECORD RETENTION & DESTRUCTION

**Post Commander's & Quartermaster's: Did you know that S.C. VFW has a three page document called the "Post Record Retention & Destruction Policy", BUT there is no official state policy on District Records?**

This policy covers everything possible in regards to any kind of post documenting. It shows 'Retention Periods' ranging from two years to permanent retention. Anyone within your post who creates/handles any type of documentation (including electronic, IE emails) should be competently familiar with this document.

The document covers such things as: The Post must keep all membership applications permanently, but can destroy membership role's/lists after six (6) years.

**Post Commanders, are you aware that;** If a Post does not have a permanent home? Post records must be kept in the Adjutant's or Quartermaster's residence. If a Post does not have a permanent home, authorized records destruction! must be done at the Adjutant's, or Quartermaster's home.

**All** document destruction shall be halted if your Post is under investigation by any governmental law enforcement agency, or the SC VFW. Routine destruction CANNOT be resumed without the written approval of legal counsel, or SC VFW State Commander.

**P.S. ALL** District record retention & destruction shall be according to Post guidelines.

**P.S.S.** – Since most Districts do not have a home. Where are District records kept? Should be with the District Adjutant or Quartermaster.

**HERE'S SOMETHING I'LL BET MOST POSTS/DISTRICTS ARE NOT DOING:** At the next regularly scheduled,

**VOLUNTEERING** – Is something VFW members do well. Last year **YOU** volunteered over **9 MILLION HOURS** in **Community Service**.



July 23<sup>rd</sup> saw State Sr. Vice Commander Jim Fox present the SC VFW Scout of the Year Award to Eagle Scout Cole Remillard. Looking on is Post 10804 Commander Mike Mishoe  
For his Eagle Scout project, Cole placed two new flag-poles at the entrance of Post 10804 and re-lanscaped the whole front of the Post building. Cole was nominated for the award by Commander Mishoe and Post 10804





**COMMANDER MISHOE** stands with Ken & Charlene Broadhurst (super VFW & Auxiliary volunteers and community members), Country Lakes President Karen George, CL Vice President John Klemenz and VFW member and event organizer Bill La Monte.

Commander Mishoe gave Country Lakes 55+ Community a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding support of Post 10804 and the VFW.

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**\*\*\*CONGRATULATIONS TO: our State VMSP Chairman for having the below recognition published in the National VMSP News & Reports for August 2022. Congratulations to Posts 6091, 12102 and 9539 for being specifically mentioned in the article.**

**South Carolina Chairman** – During July 2022, the Department of SC hosted and participated in a total of 40 events – activities that benefited over 500 veterans/Post 12102 provided transportation for a veteran to attend his VA appointments and grocery store visit. Post 6091 visited Marine veteran on hospice and assisted the family with his benefits package. Post 9539 donated \$500 to assist disabled veteran with purchase of handicap van and wheelchair ramp at the veteran's home/Provided District Commanders with intent moving forward as the new Chair takes over the program and the expectations for Department members, Posts and Districts.

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**WAY TO GO: Post 10624** – In taking the initiative to recognize a local police officer who responded to a baby not breathing and unresponsive 911 call before EMS could arrive. The officer was able to revive the baby and received the heart-felt appreciation from the parents.

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**POST 6091 ASKED TO BE A GUEST SPEAKER AT LATTA ROTARY**

Dillon VFW Post 6091 Commander John Harlow and Quartermaster Jim Chavis presented the Rotary program on 9/6/2022 at the Latta Rotary Club. The presentation included information about the history of the Dillon VFW and its ongoing programs to help local Veterans.





School is back in session and there are many students who don't have the basic supplies for the classroom. **CLOVER Post 6732** decided to do something about that and they were able to donate over \$448 in supplies to three K-4 schools in the Clover area. Pictured are Dr.'s Millicent Dickey and Mark Hopkins of the Clover School District, also Post Commander John Hill, Quartermaster Robert Mann and Jr. Vice-Commander William Blanton



On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> YOUR State HQ hosted a Blood Drive. There were 19 donors. Thanks to Chairman Bailey Bryant and the VFW members and Auxiliary who worked hard to make this event another success story for SC VFW.



In September, members of your VFW and Auxiliary and supporters participated in a "Steps-In-Strides" walk to support helping end veteran suicide. One of the many things YOUR VFW/Auxiliary does to help veterans in need.



September also saw members of YOUR VFW conducting a POW Remembrance Day at State Headquarters

The House of Representatives recently passed five pieces of legislation that are all veteran related. You can find the full content of the bill by going to a search engine and typing in the bill EX: HR 7846

- \*H.R. 7846 – Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act (Rep. Luria)
- \*H.R. 5916, as amended – Wounded Warrior Access Act (Rep. Aguilar)
- \*H.R. 7939, as amended – Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act (Rep. Levin)
- \*H.R. 8260, as amended – Faster Payments for Veterans' Survivors Act (Rep. Pappas)
- \*H.R. 7735, as amended – Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefits Act (Ranking Member Bost)



Now each bill must go to the Senate for passage and approval. There is no current time-line for when any of these bills will receive a Senate review.

**See something you want passed? Contact Senators Scott & Graham and urge them to support the bill in question.**

**DON'T FORGET to send Dentist Harvin a copy of any congressional correspondence you send/receive.**



On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> **Francis Marion Post 10980** honored three of its WW II members. **DAVID SMART, ULA HORNIKE** and **ERNIE SHANTIE** were treated to a party, gifts and a meal and lots of well wishes from family, comrades and auxiliary alike. A representative from Senator Tim Scott's office presented each with a flag flown over the Capital.

**GREAT EFFORT POST 10980!!**

**YOUR POST CHARTER** – Has your post charter document been lost or damaged to the point it is not usable? The simple solution is to write the VFW Adjutant General and ask for a replacement. The replacement document may not look like the original, but it will have the same original charter names on it. **REPLACEMENT COST \$25.00**

**SPEAKING of IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS** – If your post has a 50, 75, or 100 year anniversary coming up. The VFW will issue the post an Anniversary Citation, noting the years milestone. The good thing for you at the post level is that you don't have to do anything to get this form. VFW National will automatically send the certificate to Department Headquarters, who, in turn, will coordinate with the Post for presentation.

NOTE: Some posts want 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary citations. These requests have to be made by the post to the National Adjutant General.

**SPEAKING of OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS** – VFW National recommends that any post conducting any type of activity, operating a club/canteen, or post home, **SHOULD** adopt Post By-Laws. These By Laws must be submitted to the Department and National Commander's for review. By Laws show what your post is trying to accomplish!

**HOW IMPORTANT IS the MONTHLY POST MEETING ?** – It **IS** the center of all Post activities! EVERY member has the right to attend all meetings and has a voice in their proceedings. The Post meeting is supreme to the Post Officers, Committees and employees. The membership present may overrule decisions of the Post Commander, or House Committee. Post members may approve expenditures, set policies and delegate authority. A Post meeting **CANNOT** take any action contrary to the National or Department By Laws, or rules in conflict with its own Post by Laws.

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**LEGACY LIFE** – From June 2021 to June 2022 **OVER 3,200** of your fellow VFW members changed their Life Membership in for a Legacy Life Membership. Why don't **YOU** join them this year??

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**DID YOU KNOW** – That during the last VFW year? There were over 1,500 Posts that **DID NOT** sign up a single new member, nor did they reinstate any recently expired memberships. Let's hope there were NO Posts in SC that were part of this failure to understand the need for membership.

NOTE: For the first time since the end of the Korean War, the VFW has gone under 1 million members. You can do your part to reverse this trend. It is simply called – **RECRUITING!**

## ***123<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022*** **Kansas City, Missouri July 16-21**



**Most of the South Carolina Delegation**

### **NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

**Post 10804** – Received a National Community Service Award

**Bill La Monte, State Editor** – Received a National Publications Award for the SENTINEL

### **AUXILIARY**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PDP KATE BROCK & the S.C. AUXILIARY for EARNING the “CIRCLE of EXCELLENCE” AWARD!!**

**Post 10804 Auxiliary (everything in SC VFW Auxiliary)** – Cathey Farley was made a National Ambassador for the Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children

**SuzAnne Taylor** – (Aux 12136) Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home For Children

Best promotion to educate the community about the Buddy Poppy. She also won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Outstanding Chairman, same program.

**Carol Long** – (Aux 6740) Historian & Media Relations

Best promotion of Relations Training, Best use of Social Media to inspire members  
1st place Outstanding Chairman Performance for Historian & Media Relations ----- Carol Long

**Ramona Brandon** – (Aux 4262) Legislative

Best promotion of legislative education and member involvement in the Legislative Program

**Theresa Montague** – (Aux 4262) Membership

2nd place Outstanding Chairman Performance for Membership

**Sharen Peterson** – (10264) Youth Activities

1st place Outstanding Chairman Performance for Youth Activities



There is a tradition at the National Convention in that each state signs every-other state's identification placard. Along with the state signatures, on the other side of the placard every SC member attending had the opportunity to sign the state placard. Adding to the tradition. Each State Commander provides a "state gift" to every other state commander. This includes members from Europe, Asia, Puerto Rico and American Territories

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**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS** – I live in a sub-division of 140 homes. Of those, there are 20 homes with veterans. This summer I started a once-a-month veteran's coffee for veterans and their spouses. We hold our get-together at our clubhouse. There are only a couple of us that are VFW eligible, but that doesn't matter as the point is to get any veterans together to talk about anything they want to talk about.

I have coffee, water and pastry available (at my cost) just to help make everyone comfortable. I come prepared with a few veteran related topics (to fill voids in the conversations), but for the most part. It is open discussion for whatever anyone wants to talk about or open for discussion.





Picture 1: Myrtle Beach VA Clinic Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mrs. Anderson (back left corner in pink) talks about services available at the clinic and answers questions from the veterans. Picture 2: Mrs Anderson with Post 10804's Bill La Monte, the event creator, coordinator and host.

In August, I had a speaker from the Myrtle Beach VA Clinic come and talk about all the services available at the Clinic (and provide some information brochures), what a veteran needs to do to see if they are eligible for VA services and about the opportunity to do some volunteer work at the Clinic and how to become eligible to be a volunteer.

**Each month I get to send in a "Community Service" report for our Post (10804).**

MAYBE this is something someone in your post could take on if they live in a sub-division/community that has several veterans?

**The VA has approved it's budget for AT RISK VETERANS. It goes into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>.** The budget is \$431 million and it will be divided, by way of VA grants, amongst 258 different "non-profit" organizations that provide services to veterans at risk of becoming homeless and homeless veterans.

**WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR SC VETERANS?** There are two organizations in the state that I have found that will be receiving some of this grant money. They are:

- The South Carolina Alston Wilkes Society and they cover Charleston & the Low Country, Greenville, Anderson, Spartansburg and the 'Upstate', Columbia and the 'Midlands'
- In North Carolina, the Eastern Carolinas Homeless Organization (part of the Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network) that covers the Myrtle Beach and Sumter County areas.

These monies are to be used for meeting the needs of homeless, or those in threat of becoming homeless, veterans (and their families) by helping to ensure the veteran has the opportunity to move towards more stable housing.

Naturally, there is an application process and any veteran requesting this sort of assistance will need to check with their local VA or apply on line.

In 2021, the VA, through this grant system, placed 19,000 homeless veterans into permanent housing.

**Go to VA NEWS RELEASES and look for VA Awards \$431 million in grants. All the information is there or through connecting links identified in the article.**

## STATE SCHOOL of INSTRUCTION

### August 2022

This year's state SOI was a resounding success with a full house in attendance. All eight District Commanders, a total of 43 Post Commanders and 95 Comrades were in attendance. No ZOOM available for this meeting. Before the SOI there was a joint-session in which there was a discussion on a program called Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Auxiliary

All American awards were presented to District 1 Commander **Curtis Peterson**, District 7 Commander **Mike Mishoe**, Post 4262 Commander **Theonis Brown**. **L.C. Mills** of District 1 Post 9509 was pinned with his **50 years of service to the VFW**.

The SOI included training for Post Service Officers, everybody training on the Legislative process through the VFW, the Veterans and Military Support Program (VMSP), the in's-and-out's of the State and National Web-Sites, meeting protocol's and the By Laws, the State Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Recognition programs, Community Service and the importance of reporting what you do, the Membership program, Community Outreach, Adjutant and Quartermaster training. The day was completed with the State Commander briefing on the State Membership program, all American and All State qualification requirements and associated awards programs.

The National Home for Children will receive \$330 from today's activity. The Veteran and Military Support Program (VMSP) received \$495 in donations and the 50/50 winner went home \$320 richer.

Thanks to the **RF Grill** for lunch, **Humana** for a \$1,000 donation and to those who contributed \$750 in private donations.





## IS YOUR POST/DISTRICT DOING ALL IT CAN TO HELP VETERANS?



Back in August, VFW Post 10804 held a “TOWN HALL” for area veterans and their spouses (you did not have to be a VFW member to attend). Thirty six showed up. The VA had state and national representation at this get-together. After a brief introduction by the three VA representatives in attendance. The floor was open for questions/comments. There were a few bad comments about VA healthcare, a couple of good comments and a couple of “why do I keep getting the run-around when I am dealing with the VA”? NOTHING was ‘off-limits’.

The session lasted a little over an hour with time allotted afterward so veterans, desiring to do so, could get one on one time with the VA Representative.

From the VA there was:

**STEPHEN GREEN** – Outreach Program Specialist who’s job it is to evaluate the quality of service provided by VA facilities. There are only two of these positions in the whole country.

**PERRY A. WILLIAMS, Sr.** – He is the Senior Claims Representative for the VA in SC.

**JADE BEKLEY** – She is the state VA representative for Horry County and Regional Integration Officer



This was some pretty high-power VA representation for a Post sponsored function.

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Several members of the SC VFW and SC Auxiliary pay their respects and helped to lay to rest three previously unclaimed veterans (two from Vietnam and one from Afghanistan) at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery this past August.

Steve Goulet, past commander of American Legion Post 193 is the coordinator of these veteran burials. He is the SC Program Manager for the Unclaimed Veteran's program.

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**I'll bet you didn't know** – That there was once an **ALL WOMAN VFW POST!!** That Post was Post 11555 in Topeka Kansas chartered back in 1995, with a membership of 45.

To continue the women in the VFW saga. More and more posts are seeing all three of their top three elected positions going to women. This because, since 9-11, more and more women are joining the VFW.

NOTE: Post 11555 no longer exists and there is no record I can find as to when their Charter was revoked and why?

**SPEAKING OF VFW POSTS & MEMBERSHIP** – In 2020 there were over 6,000 VFW

Posts worldwide. At the start of this VFW year, that number is 5,883 (even SC contributed to that declining number).

When the new National Commander-in-Chief spoke on his recruiting plan and awards system for this year. He related that **ONLY 1%** of today's VFW force actively recruits a new or reinstated member. Just think of what the VFW membership could be like if each of the other 99% of membership recruited/reinstated 1 member.

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### **THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT WHY WE HAVE TO RECRUIT**

As every comrade knows. In order for an organization to survive. It needs MEMBERSHIP! Because a lot of the current membership is dying. We/YOU need to recruit. For example:

**WWII VETERANS** – As of January 1<sup>st</sup> (there are no posted current numbers) there are only 240,329 veterans that were still alive. This out of a total of 16+ million. There are 234 WWII veterans dying each day. The youngest veteran is 92. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, there were 3,007 SC veterans still alive.

**KOREAN VETERANS** – It is estimated that 500,000 veterans participated in the Korean War. Of those, an estimated 600 are dying every day. The youngest veteran would be about 86 years old.

**VIETNAM VETERANS** – Estimates range from 2.7 to 3.1 million veterans served in Vietnam. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, there are only about 600,000 of us still alive with an estimated 390 dying daily.

NAVY VETERANS & Navy/CIVILIAN SHIPYARD WORKERS – Mesothelioma (an aggressive cancer) could be in your life. With Asbestos being the only cause of Mesothelioma, if you served/worked in the Navy, on the docks any part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (prior to 2000)? You might be in danger of contracting Mesothelioma. A solid 33% of all cases are by Navy personnel. It could take 20 to 50 years for Mesothelioma symptoms to show in a person exposed to Asbestos. The smart thing for you to do, is have regular medical checkups. Early symptoms are a bad cough, shortness of breath, weight loss, or pain in the chest or ribs.

COURTESY of VFW MAGAZINE

**DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 – A Day That Will Live in Infamy** – Glenn L. Jeffers Post 10624 is doing its part in making sure that the men and women who lost their lives that day, are not forgotten. Post 10624 is part of a group that pays homage to their memory by holding a "Wreath Laying" Memorial Service on the USS YORKTOWN at Patriots Point outside Charleston, SC. Starting at 11AM. Lunch is provided at the post afterwards.

YOU are welcome to join them, or if you, or your post can't be there? You/the post can purchase a Memorial Wreath for \$35 and you can have it dedicated to anyone you wish. Wreaths must be ordered by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Any questions can be directed to Bill or Dana King at [billking747fe@gmail.com](mailto:billking747fe@gmail.com) or 843-270-2575

A LITTLE DECEMBER 7th PEARL HARBOR HISTORY: 2,403 known persons (including 68 civilians)



were killed that day, 300 aircraft and 19 ships were damaged or destroyed, including eight battleships..

All Navy sailors killed during WW II and their bodies not recovered, are still classified as Missing-In-Action (MIA), presumed drowned. This is why the Navy MIA numbers are so high, over 32,000 MIA.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA BIRTH CERTIFICATES** – Did you know that

\*The birth information gathered by the hospital/medical facility is SOLEY for the purpose of that facility registering the birth. Not for you.

\*Birth Certificates are not automatically mailed to the parents and not from the hospital/birth facility

\*The hospital or medical facility place of birth will NOT order a Birth Certificate for you

\*If you want a Birth Certificate; you MUST BE one of the persons listed on the Birth Certificate, be the parents named on the certificate, be a legal guardian or representative.

\*Authorized requestors must request a certificate on-line, by phone, in person, by mail or drop-off.

You will be required to provide proof of authorization. DHEC State Vital Records, Columbia

\*It takes about 5 to 7 days to receive a Birth certificate and minimal cost is \$17 for a single copy.

\*ABSOLUTELY NO ONE can get a blank copy of a Birth Certificate

THE ABOVE APPLIES TO ALMOST ALL STATES

#### **HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH SOME OF THE RITUALS OF A STANDARD MONTHLY MEETING?**

\*When the Commander (or Presiding Officer) says they are about to open the meeting for the transaction of business. The OFFICER OF THE DAY will validate everyone's eligibility to be at the meeting. **QUESTION:** How does the Officer of the Day let the Presiding Officer know there are members present who's dues are not current?

**ANSWER** - That person is required to STAY STANDING (while everyone else sits) while the Quartermaster determines the status of those standing. If found NOT current, those standing members will be required to PAY THEIR DUES, or LEAVE THE MEETING!

\*\*When you enter the meeting room, prior to the start of a meeting. There is an Altar (table) with a BIBLE on it. Is that BIBLE open or closed? The BIBLE is closed until the Commander starts the meeting and orders the Posting of the Colors. When the Colors are presented, the Commander will call "Present Arms, Order Arms", Attention. AT THIS TIME the Chaplain will proceed to the Altar and OPEN the BIBLE. If Colors already present, the Chaplain will open the BIBLE immediately after the initial "Present Arms, Order Arms, Attention! Call.

**At the end of the meeting** - The BIBLE will be CLOSED by the Chaplain immediately after the Closing Prayer and the Presiding Officer calls the room to Attention

\*\*\***QUESTION** – Is it mandatory to remove your VFW Cap during a prayer?

**Answer** – is NO, removal of the VFW Cap is optional (page 17 of RITUAL portion of the book)

\*\*\*\***QUESTION** – Are non VFW member guests allowed at a VFW Meeting? **ANSWER** – At the discretion of the Commander, **YES, Section 203 (guests) in Manual of Procedure.**

**ONE LAST THING** – If YOU are an elected or appointed officer at the Post or District level. Did you know that you are required to wear the VFW CAP to ALL official meetings? **Manual of Procedure, Section 803, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph (starts regulation caps---**

**If you are going to be an officer? You should take pride in looking the part!**

Use the order form in the VFW Catalog and make sure you have your State Commander sign it.

**BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW. Let's look at a few posted happenings over the next few months:**

#### **OCTOBER**

- 15** – District 2 Meeting & Roundtable
- 22** – Department “Trunk or Treat” at HQ 11AM-2PM
- 28 -30 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE**
- 30** – All post audits due to State QM
- 30** – VOD/PP/Teachers packages due at POST level

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 5** – Joint Meeting at HQ – Veterans Day celebration, C of A meeting, and Department Inspector Training
- 11** – Veterans Day – what is your post doing?
- 19** – District 1 Meeting
- 21 – 27** – State HQ closed for Thanksgiving

#### **DECEMBER**

- 7** – Memorial at Patriots Point on the Carrier Yorktown
- 10** – SC physically handicapped Christmas Party
- 15** – VOD/PP/Teacher award packages due to the respective State Chairpersons
- 15** – Public Servant & Youth Cadet packages due to State Adjutant
- 19** – Judging for the above listed nomination packages
- 21 thru Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** – HQ CLOSED for holidays
- 31** – Web Site & Media packages due to webmaster (Betty Hillard)
- 31** – Newsletter packages due to Editor (Bill La Monte)

#### **JANUARY**

- 6 – 8 COOTIE GRAND SCRATCH**

**LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA INCOME, BUT DON'T WANT TO WORK MUCH?** – South Carolina is hiring Poll Workers to work the various election sites on election days. They are paying \$200 for one day's work. Just go to South Carolina Poll Worker Hiring and it will give you the option to explore and application paperwork. Basically:

- \*You have to take and pass an Online Training Course
- \*Attend, in person, a 1-2 hour Poll Worker training session before each election
- \*You have to be physically fit as you will work the entire election day from 6AM to 7:30PM
- \*Complete a Poll Worker Packet during training

You can also find all the above by going to/contacting your County Election Office

**In each edition of the SENTINEL, I try and put things that are interesting for the majority of the readership.**

**What would YOU like to see in the SENTINEL?**

**Please send your inputs to me at [4william6@gmail.com](mailto:4william6@gmail.com)**

**Thanks**

**Bill**

**BILL La MONTE**

**Editor/Writer**

**4william6@gmail.com**

PS My computer had crashed and I lost several of your post inputs this past quarter. Hopefully all will work well for the next edition. Keep those good things coming to me!