



# Department of South Carolina *SENTINEL*



Commander – JIM FOX



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

South Carolina



Auxiliary President – LAURA “JO” SWEETSIR

Official Publication of the Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars  
210 Glassmaster Road, Lexington, SC 29072

Vfwsc.org

find us on Facebook

803-808-0317

THIRD QUARTER (Jul - Sep) 2023

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

*Your VFW Worldwide Publications Award Winner for the Second Year in a Row*

***“Moving Forward”***

**HAVING PROBLEMS? NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?...The “VETERANS CRISIS 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 three-digit crisis hotline is DIAL 988, then option 1**

**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**##The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.**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? There are still over 200 people a week dying from COVID, the FLU or COVID like symptoms!**

**##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.**



**Marine Corps height restrictions explained the easy way.** – These two members of N. Myrtle Beach Post 10804 both previously served on active duty in the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps requires its male troops to be between 4’8” and 6’10” tall. To illustrate this, the veteran on the left is currently 6’11” (was 6’10” in Marines) tall and the veteran on the right is 5’2” tall.

**Members at Large and joining a Post – It’s a new year and something you new Post Commanders and Quartermaster have to be aware of, is the verification process when allowing a “Member-at-Large” to join your Post.**

A Member-at-Large application does not require the applicant to **provide proof** of eligibility. The form just has the applicant sign attesting to the fact they are VFW eligible. The form does provide a website for the applicant to go to to validate their eligibility. **BUT**, there is no requirement to submit proof of eligibility when applying to a state for an At Large membership. Many people falsely, or unknowingly apply for At Large membership that are NOT eligible.

Where does this come in for the Post? Do your due diligence when reviewing an At Large membership to your Post. Make sure you **review and validate** their eligibility credentials (DD 214, etc) BEFORE you accept them as a Post member.



***Our VFW Core Values:***

- \*Always put the interests of our members first
- \*Treat donors as partners in our cause
- \*Promote patriotism
- \*Honor military service
- \*Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- \*Serve our communities
- \*Promote a positive image of the VFW
- \*Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

**ONE THING I DIDN'T HAVE AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST NEWSLETTER WAS A LIST OF THIS YEARS "COOTIE" OFFICERS**



Having been duly elected by the Grand, and installed by Supreme Adjutant Tracy Woodman - the following Elected and Appointed Officers of the Grand Pup Tent of South Carolina shall be afforded all due recognition and are empowered by this General Order to become familiar with, and to perform the duties of their individual positions.

OFFICERS: Betty Hilliard GRAND COMMANDER, Milton Drummond GRAND SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, Waverly "Chief" Patterson GRAND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, Harry L. McFadden GRAND QUARTERMASTER, PGC Joe Moravchik GRAND CHAPLAIN, PGC Norris Stevens GRAND JUDGE ADVOCATE, Art Fogle . GRAND SURGEON, Shirley Rouse-Rainey GRAND HISTORIAN, PGC James "Smokey" Stover GRAND CHIEF OF STAFF, Jacquelyn Z. Brooks GRAND ADJUTANT, Tim Hallman GRAND INSPECTOR, Jay "Gator" Hart

GRAND HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN, Harry L. McFadden GRAND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Paul D. Lyles GRAND PROVOST MARSHALL, Tom Smith GRAND ASSISTANT PROVOST MARSHALL, PGC James R. Stover GRAND ONE YEAR TRUSTEE, PGC Lee English GRAND TWO YEAR TRUSTEE, PGC Erik Rothering GRAND THREE YEAR TRUSTEE, Elected GRAND COUNCIL MEMBERS Crystal Wilson, Dennis Scott, Tim Hallman, Joy Clark, Kenny Wright

By Order of: Betty Hilliard Grand Commander GRAND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTE: COOTIES have their own style of doing things with their own language. The State Commander is a GRAND (Betty Hilliard), their meetings are called SCRATCHS, their National Convention is called a SUPREME SCRATCH, their local chapters are called PUP TENTS, and the list goes on.

COOTIES are volunteer members of the VFW. Their motto is "KEEP THEM SMILING IN SHEETS OF WHITE", which means they spend a lot of time visiting ailing veterans or veteran family members who are in a hospital, nursing home, veteran care facility, or living at home. COOTIES try and make an ailing veteran's day a better one.

If you are interested in joining the COOTIES, I suggest you contact GRAND Betty Hilliard

PS: Our own, Dwight Hora -is the National "SUPREME GRAND".



**Greetings from the State Chaplain's corner:**

The news I have is that God is good and he is still in control, the rivers may rise, the winds may blow, the valley may be deep but believe me it takes two mountains to make a valley and with God the Mountain top is reachable so keep climbing.

I just want to give a shout out to all the Post and District Chaplains who on a daily basis reach out to other post and District members and their families. Comrades you may not know how much a phone call or a card means to someone who may be going through a difficult time, and if someone asks for your prayers, pray, let God hear from you on their behalf.

This has been one of the hottest years I can remember in South Carolina and another reason to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly.

Comrades things go better when we go together. Here's hoping I see all of you at this year's mid winter conference, we're going back to the beach so make preparations and be there with us.

Please know that each of you matter to me so if I can ever be of help please reach out to me.

SC VFW State Chaplain Wilton Fowler

864-414-1753

[wlf61542@aol.com](mailto:wlf61542@aol.com)

## ARE YOU A POST SERVICE OFFICER?

If so, you should download and reference the **VFW Guide for Post Service Officers**. It is a 28 page document that helps a Post Service Officer do their job. As a Post Service Officer, **YOU MUST** pay attention and comply with the very first statements in regard to your appointed post position and level of authority in helping veterans. They are listed below.

Sec. 1. Representation: Post Service Officers (PSOs) are local advocates who assist veterans and their loved ones in navigating a complicated benefits landscape. Post Service Officers serve as a conduit to critical programs and services in the community, but they are not accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of representing claimants in their benefit claims before VA.

Therefore, Post Service Officers do not hold legal standing to represent claimants in their benefit claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. This distinction is reserved for individuals accredited by VA through the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. in accordance with Title 38 U.S.C. § 5902 - Recognition of representatives of organizations and the VFW National Veterans Service Policy & Procedure.

Post Service Officers may assist veterans in understanding their benefits as outlined in this VFW Guide for Post Service Officers and should refer any potential claimants to the appropriate VFW-accredited individual for representation that conforms to VA regulations.

---

**The VFW** - Being a member of the VFW means being an agent of change. **BUT...** To be a leader within the VFW means connecting with those around you; inspiring them with a shared sense of mission; and through education and engagement, mobilizing them in order to accomplish a common goal.

---

## A LITTLE WWII HISTORY

As of the end of 2022 there was an estimated 167,000 U.S. living veterans from WWII. What's amazing, is the number of "last surviving" WW II veterans from around the world. Below is a sampling of the last person alive (as of Dec 2022):

- \*American Triple Aviation Ace
- \*Monuments Men (the troops who hunted down arts, jewelry, artifacts stolen by the German Army)
- \*USS Indianapolis (when it sunk)
- \*Soviet woman combat aviator
- \*German flying ace
- \*USS Arizona (when it sunk)
- \*US witness to the German surrender
- \*British woman spy
- \*Japanese airman who attacked Pearl harbor

NOTE: It is estimated that the last American WWII survivor could make it to 2034 (17 years old at enlistment, coming into the war at the very end, 1945 (he/she would be 106)  
Courtesy : WIKIPEDIA

**ARE YOU IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION AND HAVING A HARD TIME  
FINDING SOME DIRECT GUIDANCE?**

If you go to [VFWSC.org](http://VFWSC.org), along titles, scroll over to ABOUT, click on there, scroll down to Commander 23-24 scroll down under his title and at the bottom of some other offerings, there is a document listed called VFW POST COMMANDER GUIDE. In this guide there are 215 pages of helpful information for every level of post leadership and activity. You should find what you are looking for there.

For you DISTRICT COMMANDERS & Senior Leadership. At the end of this Guide is a section titled District Commanders Guide. There you will find 17 pages of helpful information that should make your job as a district leader a lot easier. **HAPPY READING!**

---

**TO INCORPORATE**

**The VFW at the National & Department levels want every Post & District to be INCORPORATED. It is the best way to protect yourself!**

What does this mean, what does it entail?

With a VFW Post or District, it means that you are filing with the state of S.C. to become a Legal Corporation, a “non-profit”. This entitles the Post/District to get a Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS so the Post/District does not have to pay taxes on its income and other things.

Incorporation also makes your Post/District ‘part-of-the-whole’. That is, they become part of the State & National VFW. Your operation is not a stand-alone entity. Your Corporation is your Post or District number (your unique name).

Incorporation also protects the leadership and membership from being sued/held legally liable for business debts or legal missteps. It protects all personal assets (as long as they are not involved with/a party too, any illegal activities involving your Post or District).

**HOW DOES A POST/DISTRICT INCORPORATE?**

First you have to draw up ‘Articles of Incorporation’. The VFW has made this easy in that, if you go to VFW Forms and Documents, you will find a four page document called ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION. All you have to do is fill-in-the-blanks, get the appropriate signatures and requested information (Your Commander, Sr Vice and Quartermaster are the original Board-of-Directors, the Corporation leadership) and

Mail the properly completed package to the S.C. Secretary of State, with the filing fee and you will get back your EIN number which will certify you as a non-profit corporation.

Being INCORPORATED means you must have By-Laws to properly run the corporation.

Keep in mind, that your Articles of Incorporation & By Laws CANNOT conflict with the VFW National Charter or By-Laws. To do so, makes your incorporation NULL-In-Void! (See Section 708 of the Manual of Procedures for a full explanation).

---

### SC at NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023 (Phoenix)



All American Department Commander – **ED STEFANAK, JR**

All American District Commanders – **CURTIS PETERSON D 1, TODD HAVILAND D-7, TONY BROWN D 2**

All American Post Commanders – **JIM REED Post 8738 Lexington, REGGIE BELL, Post 4262 Columbia, CONNELL PARLEY Post 9539 Spartansburg**





**The Army & Air Force Exchanges and You, the Veteran**

**\*As an honorably discharged military veteran, you can shop at any of the military Exchanges online at [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com)**

**\*All veterans with service-connected disabilities, certain care-givers, Purple Heart recipients, and former Prisoners of War can shop at PX's and BX's or online.**

**\*DoD & Coast Guard civilians can shop in the stores or online**



**\*\*Want to know more or verify your eligibility? Go to: [ShopMyExchange.com/vets](https://ShopMyExchange.com/vets)**



**He just can't stay away from that Jr. Vice position. A scant few years ago, you, South Carolina, voted this comrade into the State Jr. Vice Commander position.**

**Well, he's at it again and seeking your help. DWIGHT HORA is running to be the 2026 - 2027 National Jr. Vice-Commander-in-Chief**

**If you can help him in any way? Please give Comrade Hora a call, email, text message, etc. I am sure he will appreciate it.**

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BETTER IN HIGHER EDUCATION THAN FREE TUITION!**

**South Carolina Free Tuition for Children of Certain War Veterans, Police Officers, Firemen, or Rescue Workers Application:** Children of deceased or 100% disabled Veterans, who were killed or disabled during military service, can attend any SC State-supported institutions *up until their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday* and pay no tuition. Fees still apply. **For further assistance, please contact the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs at 803-960-8327.**

- **Complete the Application:** Please visit the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs website via this link, <https://scdva.sc.gov/education> to complete the online application. *\*Please note: Both the student and veteran parent must be actual residents of the State of South Carolina to qualify for this benefit.*
  - If you are transferring to TCL and have previously used this benefit, you will need to contact the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs to request a transfer letter at 803.647.2434.
- **South Carolina Free Tuition Approval Letter:** If approved, you will get a letter mailed from the South Carolina's Governor Office. Please submit your South Carolina Free Tuition (SC Governor's) Letter to our Office of Veterans Affairs via email to [gibill@tcl.edu](mailto:gibill@tcl.edu) for processing purposes. Our Office of Financial Aid will post the award on your Self-Service account, once you are registered for classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*SC VFW SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION,  
August 12, 2023, State Headquarters\*\*\*:**

The State held its annual SOI for District Officers. The SOI is designed to provide training to the newly elected or appointed district leadership, especially for new officers who have not held an officer position before.

Along with a healthy serving of breakfast donuts. Attendees learned about various programs, including Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen student programs, Teacher awards program, the importance of Community Service. Quartermasters received training in this area and all received a briefing on how volunteering could effect your VA benefits and compensation.

Below are some pictures from this year's SOI.



Thank You! GINGER GRAHAM for the pictures and SOI information.



## A few words from YOUR State Commander – JIM FOX

1.AUG 12TH we had the Department School-Of-Instruction (Sol). Had a great turnout with the council of administration and other comrades. Kept the meeting short and brought up new information to highlight the programs and my program to attain All State for 23-24.

2.Went to Columbia to the regional VA facility for the installation of our new regional VA director Sheila Jackson. The DSO my Chief Of Staff along with the claims consultant was there representing the Dept.

3.For the next 2 weeks the Dept. reps will be out to various the District SOI'S.

4.I was on a radio show this morning promoting the Dept and what we and the Auxiliary are doing to support veterans and their families. I brought up the POW event coming up on Sept 15th and how and why we are honoring 7 POW'S from across the state. Talking about how posts have contributed items and money in a very short amount of time for the homeless veterans in the Columbia area that had the shelter they were living in shut down unexpectedly. Thousands of dollars and items needed have already been donated from posts across the state. Many posts are sending relief funds to veterans and their families in Maui who have been wiped out. My post and auxiliary alone contributed \$5k to Maui and \$2k to the homeless 38. District 2 and their posts are contributing also.

5.Aug 27th the Department met up with 25 plus veterans that want to talk about the possibility of instituting a new post. Looks to be very promising. We shall see. This post will be located in District1 between North Mt Pleasant and up Hwy. 17 towards Georgetown.

6.The POW committee is putting the final touches on that event so it goes smoothly. The VFW Commander-In-Chief will be present and will speak at the event. The POW'S and their families will also be visiting the Vietnam display at Patriots Point on Sept 16th followed by a luncheon put on by post 10624.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jim Fox, Commander

## AROUND THE STATE

### **DISTRICT 2**

A shelter closed in Columbia, displacing 38 veterans. They were eventually moved to apartments, but they needed everything to live comfortably.

District 2 united to find supplies, including mattresses, furniture, bedding, pots and pans and personal hygiene bags. Additionally, to date D2 has donated over \$900.



Working in the rain. Volunteers included Comrades and Auxiliary from: Lake Murray VFW 6740, Lake Wateree VFW 8346 and Elgin VFW 11079.

**Article and photos courtesy of Ginger Graham**

### **A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A FORMER POW**



Vietnam veteran Samuel Richard "Dick" Vaughan was laid to rest 26 Aug 2023 at the Harleyville Cemetery.

He served in the US Air Force as a fighter pilot and was a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam after he was shot down on 18 Dec 1971. He survived captivity and was released on 28 Mar 1973.

Dick Vaughan was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star and the Prisoner of War Medals. After his retirement from the US Air Force in 1991, he was a schoolteacher at Woodland High School.

Thank you to VFWSC Chaplain Wilton Fowler for attending and presenting a lovely bible to his wife, Mrs. Gale Canaday Vaughan. And thank you to the Comrades and Auxiliary members from posts throughout the state who showed up to honor this deserving veteran.



Thank you Ginger Graham for the story & pictures.

#### POST 10804



Bill La Monte with Myrtle Beach VA Clinic's Volunteer Services Manager Mrs. Anderson on 9-8-23. In the background is part of the \$450 in food, hygiene items and clothes that Bill delivered to the clinic (in the name of Post 10804) in support of their various programs that help veterans and veterans in need. Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Steve Galchick for helping make this delivery possible. Special thanks to "Bonnie's Coats for Kids and Veterans for their support of what I do for the VA Clinic.

**NOTE: ALL VA Clinics and Hospitals always have a need for food, clothing, household goods, or anything else necessary to help a veteran in need. You post's that exist near a VA facility can do great things in helping fellow veterans. All you have to do is go to the Volunteer Services office at that facility and ask "What can our post do to help you?"**

**ARE YOU, YOUR POST DOING GOOD THINGS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?** The VFW has a national program called **#STILLSERVING**. It is looking for things that us veterans have done for our veterans and local community since we took off our uniforms. You can enroll in their program and then, once you have completed a project (individual or post) you send it to **#STILLSERVING** and they publish it on the VFW website.

**Just go to VFW.org, go over to the Community drop-down, click on, go over to #STILLSERVING drop-down, click on, go over to where it says “share your story”, click on and fill out the requested information and add your latest community/veteran help event. It is always great if you submit a photo with identifying information. Then look for your submission in a couple of weeks.**

### **ITS TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT RECRUITING**

Membership recruiting awards are based on a percentage above 100% membership and are based on the size of your Post or District. These awards are broken-down into Divisions with there being 11 Post Divisions and 6 District Divisions. As a rule, about 10% of the top recruiting Posts and Districts will earn some sort of National recognition.

Your All American status is based on where you stand within your Division. To see where your Post or District fares .This is the Division breakdown:

**POST**

**DISTRICT**

**Division            Total Membership**

1	951+
2	750    950
3	356    749
4	246    355
5	185    245
6	143    184
7	112    142
8	88     111
9	68     87
10	51     67
11	10     50 members.

1	5000	14000
2	3282	4999
3	2172	3281
4	1447	2171
5	906	1446
6	1	905

**A little more on recruiting and membership. Three years ago, YOUR State had 72 Posts. Today it has 66. Last year YOUR State had 14,642 members (913 new members in 2022-2023). As of now, there are 12,091. YOUR State has 632 Continuous (annual) members. EVERYONE needs to work hard to get these veterans converted to Life Members.**

**Of that 931 new members. Over 325 were recruited by 3 members and another 250+ were multiple recruitments, recruited by individuals. This leaves less than 400 individual member recruitments. 400 out of 14,600. Just think where the state would be if even one-half of that 14,000 recruited just one member each!**

**So far this year, there have been 213 new members recruited in the state.**



**Nicole Johnson (right), State VSO Claims Consultant, Welcomes JERRI WILLIAMS (left) to the State VSO Team as the new VSO Assistant Service Officer. Jerri is looking forward to helping the veterans of South Carolina**

THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY, or how do you keep your Post membership informed? With less than 10% of your Post membership attending a monthly business meeting. How do they get the word to the other 90%+ in what is happening at the Post, District, State or National levels?

Things you could try:

\*MEETING MINUTES: Post a copy in your post within 1 week of meeting date, and/or add to Post Newsletter, and/or Post on your post Website or Facebook page, and/or email a copy to your membership

\*A Post calendar is fine, but does it identify important upcoming VFW events outside the post?

**CONSOLIDATION OF POSTS** – This is a legal process authorized by the Commander-in-Chief. Most times it is because one post gets too small, but they do not want to surrender their charter. The consolidation process is conducted according to SECTION 209 of the Manual of Procedure.. To date (for FY 2023-2024), the VFW has allowed the consolidation of 10 posts down to five posts. \*\*This includes two in our own District 1. Post 10811 has consolidated with Post 445 to become Post 445.

## SC VFW HONORING POW'S





The weekend of September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16 saw YOUR SC VFW recognizing and honoring SC POW'S from the Vietnam War. Six former POW'S and their families/friends, along with the families of two SC POW'S that died in captivity were the honored guests. Those honored were **BILL BAILEY, WILLIAM AUSTIN, TOM HANTON, RICK McDOW, TOM SIMPSON, VERNON SHEPARD, MONICA LOVELL** daughter of LTC RONALD STORZ and **JAMES ALLEN III** son of MSG JAMES SALLEY Jr. VFW Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento was the guest speaker. Along with the dinner, there were speeches by the former POW'S, seminars, tours and great camaraderie. SC VFW, you did yourself proud this weekend!  
THANK YOU Ginger Graham for the pictures and information.

### Want a Digital VFW Membership Card?

For your convenience, a digital membership card can be obtained by completing the following steps:

- Download the VFW app to your mobile device.
  - Login to the VFW app from your mobile device.
  - If you have Apple Wallet, click on the "Add to Apple Wallet" button and your card should appear on your smartphone screen.
  - If you are an Android user, you will need to click on "My VFW" at the bottom of the screen. Next, click on "Add to WalletPasses." If you do not have the app, you will need to download WalletPasses in the Google Play Store first, then go back to your online account and click on "Add to WalletPasses."
- \*\*\*THANKS to Mike Mishoe Post 10804 for the how-to information







**A Presidential Visit – During September, VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez visited the SC VFW Auxiliary.**



Triple Crown Commander  
IMPSC Ed Stefanak Jr.

Welcome to the 2023-2024 VFW year #MeetTheChallenge. I'd like to congratulate all the newly elected officers this year. As Immediate Past State Commander my role is to mentor those who need help or advice solving problems within their post, district or even at the department level if need be. I'm always just an email or a phone call away if you need me.

This year at all levels, the membership mission is to achieve 102% membership and complete all the tasks to be All-American. Last year we had 38 posts that were 102%+ and 3 districts who were over 102%+. Our department reached 102% by the end of April. This is very achievable, don't get frustrated if you feel like you are behind. Retain comrades on your roster, don't let them slip away and get out into your community and recruit new members.

I'm settling in nicely up at National Headquarters, even though I miss South Carolina greatly. It was hard to move away, but an honor to be hired in the membership department at National. I am, however, looking forward to seeing our Dept. JVC and QM training in October, as well as seeing everyone who goes to the Southern Conference in Oklahoma in November.

Lastly, today as I type this letter, it is our 124 th Birthday and next year we will be celebrating our 125 th Birthday. We are the largest combat veterans' organization in all the land. How will the next 125 years go for our organization? That's up to all of us, right now. If we continue to let petty jealousies and trivial personalities govern our posts, districts, and departments we may not make it to our 250 th Birthday. Bottom line, the VFW is here to advocate on behalf of all veterans who have served our great nation, that is what we are here for and in the VFW, everyday is Veterans Day and No One Does More.

In Comradeship,  
IMPSC Ed Stefanak Jr.

**A brief look at upcoming SCVFW events:**

**\*Oct 7** – Council of Administration at State Headquarters. The CofA is responsible for running the state VFW in-between State Conventions. This is a State VFW business meeting. As with most any VFW meetings. It is open to any member, but business is conducted only by the CofA and Commander invited guests.

**\*Oct 21** – “Trunk-or-Treat” . Halloween held in the Department parking lot. Contact the State Auxiliary President for more information

**\*Nov 2-5** – Southern Conference, Tulsa OK. There is still time for you to sign-up if interested. Go to State web page for info.

**Nov 13** – Happy Birthday US Navy

**Dec 7** – Pearl Harbor Day at Patriots Point followed by lunch at Post 10624. You have to November 1<sup>st</sup> to order a wreath. Go to VFWSC.org, on home page scroll over to PEARL HARBOR, click on Pearl Harbor Info., click on, scroll down to Wreath Order Info.

**Dec 20** – Happy Birthday SpaceForce

**Jan 25-28 – Mid Winter Conference in Myrtle Beach. Everyone needs to try and make this event. It is YOUR State VFW in Action.**

**\*\*\*Some of you may have noticed there is no Communication Award, for the Best Post/District Newsletter, in the Commander’s Handbook this year.**

**That is because there are only five posts and one district within the state that are providing newsletters to me on any sort of regular basis during the calendar year. With only five posts out of 66 posts submitting newsletters. It was decided that there was not enough post participation to warrant a singular, annual winner.**

**With the approval of the Commander. I have created a “Communicator Award” certificate that will be presented to every post/district that submits newsletters to the state Editor Chairman (currently me) during the course of a calendar year. The certificates will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference during the Saturday morning business meeting.**

**Attached is a sample of the proposed wording/format that will go on a VFW Award certificate. Commander Fox has final say-so on what the certificate will look like.**

**Bill La Monte  
Writer/Editor  
[4william6@gmail.com](mailto:4william6@gmail.com)**

# ***VFW S.C. COMMUNICATOR AWARD***

***Fostering the Information Highway***

**Presented To**

**(Post or District)**

**For taking the time and making the effort to get-the-word-out to your membership in a timely manner. Keeping your veterans informed of Post, District, State and National VFW activities and initiatives by way of your effective use of electronic media; such as a Web-Site, Email, Facebook, or a Post Newsletter/Bulletin, Post Meeting Minutes, or Post Calendar.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commander, Department of South Carolina

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adjutant

