

3rd Quarter 2021



Department of South Carolina *SENTINEL*



An official publication of the Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars
THIRD QUARTER 2021

*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” 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 will connect with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. HOWEVER, it will not become effective until sometime in 2022

VA WOMEN VETERAN HELP LINES...1-855-829-6636 or 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The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.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 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.

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?

*****The South Carolina VFW (YOUR VFW) was honored to have TWO National Commander’s-in-Chief visit within a couple of months of each other. Back in June, outgoing NCIC Hal Roesch visited the Department, the post that started his VFW career in (Post 3034) (see article below) and one other post (4262). In September, the new NCIC Fritz Mihelcic came into town to attend the NASCAR race at Darlington and help with recruiting and visit with VFW members in the area. This is a first for SC VFW. Both commander’s left SC knowing that SC VFW is growing, is strong and is doing all those things necessary to help the veteran and civilian population of South Carolina!**

COMMANDER’S COMMENTS -

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As I sit in a small town in Ohio on my way to my sister’s place to watch my nephew play a football game as a senior in High School, I wonder how wonderful it is to be working with such a great group of people. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary are some of the greatest people and one of the best organizations I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Over the last 3 months I have traveled to about 20 or so posts and a few districts. I have discovered that we aren’t the most organized group in the world, we aren’t the best at speaking, we aren’t the best at presentation, but what we do have more than most organizations is heart. Our Hearts do not allow us to just focus on ourselves. I

have seen posts give their Sundays to the National Guard. I have seen parents put aside their kids to support events going on at posts. I have seen so many sacrifices from our members that it just fills my heart with joy. I cannot thank all of you enough for your sacrifices for our Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary and the support we give to veterans in so many ways every day. As I repeat myself. I thank you all so much for what you do every day.

In the past few weeks, we have had the Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander and Chief Fritz Mihelcic in our state for the Sport Clips/VFW 200 race in Darlington, SC. His presence was a boost to all who met him and was able to spend a few minutes with him.

We also had our first Department Patriots Day event in Elgin, SC. Edward Stefanak, State Sr. Vice-Commander and Christine Rogers, Post Commander for Post 11079 organized and executed a fabulous event on the 20th Anniversary of 9/11/01. They raised over \$1700.00 for the Department Commanders Special project for the Fisher House that will be built at VA Dorn Hospital complex to support veterans' families.

As I continue to travel around the state, I find that there is more and more interest in serving veterans. We love our veterans and want to continue to support them, and it shows.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Council of Administration meeting on 9 October and I wish you all safety and happiness. Remember to live, love, and laugh and enjoy what life has given us so we can pass that on to others.

We Are Family

Dwight Hora
State Commander
2021-2022

From the Desk of YOUR Auxiliary President – KATE BROCK

Hello South Carolina, wow, I can hardly believe how fast the year is going or how much we have accomplished.

Your Auxiliary is working hard to assist Our Veterans and the Families they love so much. We are working in our Communities, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Schools. We are working very hard for our Posts.

The Southern Conference is just around the bend, and we are all looking forward to Great Fun and a successful Event.

Comrades, please let your Auxiliary know what they can do for you and your programs. We are here to help. If your Post does not have an Auxiliary, I encourage you to talk to those who do and to really think about starting one. My Chief of Staff and I are standing by to help you get going. Just give HQ a call.

Thank you all for what you have and continue to do for this Great Organization.

Kate Brock

VFWSC Department President

Want to leave something to the VFW in your will for after you departed for that big post in the sky? It is easy. All you have to do is add this to your will: I give, devise and bequeath to Veterans of Foreign Wars (list National HQ, Department or Post info here), their Tax ID #, ____% of my estate, or the sum of \$_____, or the following described property_____, or _____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.

NOTE: Most of the VFW does not have the resources to handle the bequeath of property (a house/land) personal property (car, furnishings, boat, etc). It might be a good idea to discuss with someone at the level you wish to bequeath to, your plans on what you plan on leaving something to the VFW and see if this is practical for the recipient. The BEST thing you can do is leave a monetary donation with an exact specified amount.

Need an idea for a Post money-maker? Here's an idea! Hold a Post Yard Sale. Get people/members to donate items to the sale, pick a Saturday, and have a go-at-it. I know a Post that made \$8,000 for a one day sale and an Auxiliary that made over \$3,000 for a one day sale. The sale is by the Post/Auxiliary only for Post/Auxiliary donated and sold items. You don't need to have outside vendors/sales if you get enough items donated. You should plan at least 2 months in advance for getting donations. On sale day, price them so they sell. You don't want them having to be stored somewhere. Everything is sold AS IS and NO REFUNDS. Make sure you put the word out to all your members and list the sale in your local newspaper as a community fund raiser to help area veterans. Most newspapers won't charge you for the AD. If you have the space and want to rent tables or spaces. Tables go for \$20 and spaces for \$15. Make sure, that if you allow outside people to sell, that you have an end time of no-later-than 1PM and they must take with them everything they did not sell. You are NOT their junk eliminator!

How was your 4th of July?



This is how two of VFW Post 10804 and Auxiliary members started off their 4th of July, with a leisurely stroll along the beach in North Myrtle Beach. Bill La Monte is on left & Bunny La Monte on far right. Five other Post members participated at different locations along the route. They include Al Stahl, Mike Mallory, Nick Camera, Lon Pike, Bobby O'Shea

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$418 million in grants to more than [260 non-profit organizations](#) in June, allowing low-income Veteran families around the nation to access services under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

SSVF grantees are authorized to use the funds to rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless or to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless.

“As a result of VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families program and other housing assistance efforts, Veteran homelessness has been cut in half since the launch of 2010’s [Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#),” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Since then, hundreds of thousands of Veterans and their families have been placed into permanent housing or prevented from falling into homelessness by VA’s homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

SSVF grantees are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through partnerships with VA and community programs, SSVF provides eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management and assistance obtaining VA and other benefits, which can include health care, financial planning, childcare, legal and fiduciary payee assistance, transportation, housing counseling and other services.

Helping Veterans in need of permanent housing remains a critical [priority](#) for VA. In fiscal year 2020, VA served 112,070 participants, including 77,590 Veterans and 19,919 children through the SSVF program. This year’s grant recipients successfully competed under a Notice of Fund Availability published November 19, 2020. The funding will support SSVF services from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

To get more information on, or to apply for help in regards to veteran homelessness, call The National Call Center for the Homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless at: 877-424-3838

MEMBERSHIP — Back at the June State Convention. Lynn Rolf, National Director of VFW Plans, talked about the absolute need to go out and recruit new members and to try and get expired memberships re-instated. He emphasized the number ONE MILLION. That is the number the VFW CANNOT go below if it expects to have any political influence on veteran issues in Washington. Right now, membership stands at about 1.2 million. BUT the VFW is losing about 70 thousand members a year who have died or failed to renew their annual membership. That means that in LESS THAN 3 YEARS, if we don’t do something now? The VFW will NO LONGER have any influence in veteran affairs in Washington.

With the draw-down in Afghanistan almost complete and the fact there are very few troops stationed today in a location that qualifies them for VFW membership. It is more imperative than ever that we work hard on getting those post- 911 eligible in the fold and work hard in re-instating those that have gone by the wayside.

Forget about the sign-up bennies that are offered. THINK ABOUT how your veteran rights WILL BE dissolved in Washington, IF we, the VFW, do not have a large enough voice to influence Washington politics. You all know that there are those in Washington who want to diminish/do away with veteran benefits. ONLY YOU can help stop this from happening!

A real-life veteran family from the Civil War to the War on Terrorism –

I am sure there are many current veterans who can trace-back some sort of lineage of a family history of being in the military. Most all will be hard pressed to come close to matching this:

Rich Slonim's great-grandfather Julius A. LePrince of Charleston enlisted as a Private in April 1861, as a 16 year old, and ended his service at war's end as an Artillery Sergeant with the Lafayette Light Artillery, part of the 1st Regiment, SC Artillery formed out of Charleston SC in 1861. It is believed (but not verified) that this group's first assignment was to shell Fort Sumter where they were part of the "first shots fired in the Civil War" during a three day period of 12-14 April 1861. During the four years of conflict, the Unit participated in more than 15 engagements from the Georgia-Florida border in the South to Columbia in the West and finally to Greensboro, NC in the North. After the war, Mr. LePrince went into the banking business.

During WW I Rich's grandfather joined the Navy, but his military exploits were documented at ending at Beaufort, SC, never making it out of the USA.



Picture 1 - Julius LePrince in his later years as a banker.



Picture 2 – Then Navy Captain Slonin (far right) on the USS Missouri at the entrance to Tokyo Bay, working with Japanese Navy Intelligence to find all the sea-mines prior to the US Navy Fleet sailing into Tokyo Bay. He also was Admiral Halsey's interpreter during the signing of the Japanese Surrender.

Also his intelligence group at Station Hypo presented the information that resulted in the shoot-down of Admiral Yamamoto in 1943. He also was with Admiral Halsey on the Enterprise when the Doolittle Raiders launched the first bombing attack on mainland Japan in 1942 and he advised Admiral Spruance at the Battle of Midway.

Picture 3 – Rich Slonin , Senior Vice Commander Post 445 Charleston



Continuing the tradition, Rich's dad, Captain Gilven M. Slonim had quite the amazing Navy career that started after graduating from Annapolis in 1936. After pre-WWII tours on the USS Maryland and USS Barry, Rich's dad became a Japanese Language Officer in TOKYO from 1939 to just before the start of WWII. He was at Pearl Harbor on December 7th and went on to sail with Admiral's Halsey and Spruance and sailed to the end of the war with Japan into Tokyo Bay for the treaty signing in 1945 where he served as the Chief Interpreter for Admiral Halsey during the surrender ceremony. The only major battle he missed in the Pacific was that of Iwo Jima and that was because Admiral Spruance personally made him go home on a much needed leave.

Captain Slonim spent his post WWII years serving on various Navy ships, with an in-between tour or two to the Pentagon. He was Commander, Destroyer Squadron 28 at the Bay of Pigs. He died in 2000 and in

June of 2001, Rich accompanied his dad's remains to Pearl Harbor where Captain Slonim was buried at sea with full military honors rendered by the USS Hopper!

Rich's story picks up when he enlisted in the Navy reserve in 1964 (while still in high school). Like his father, he too was stationed in Japan. Rich spent a year (68/69 in Vietnam serving in Northern I Corps at Phu Bai Combat Base. Six years later, he was serving on a frigate in the South China Sea in support of Operation Frequent Wind during the Fall of Saigon in April 1975.

During his later years Rich served on three more ships, including the US Trippe. During a sea trial/dependents cruise for pre-deployment in 1982, Rich was the Special Evolution Officer of the deck charged with getting the ship underway for sea. Little did he know his father, Admiral Ronin was observing the evolution behind the helmsman. Rich's 23 year military career ended with retirement in 1987.

Rich is the senior Vice Commander of Post 445 in Charleston

As related to me by Rich Slonim and supported by military historical documents and photographs.

Think about this! This family military history saw family members present at the date and location that started the Civil War, that started America's war with Japan and the beginning of the end of our war in Vietnam. AMAZING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ARE THERE ANY OTHER MEMBERS OUT THERE THAT HAVE A STORY TO TELL ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY IN THE MILITARY? IF SO, SEND YOUR INFO TO ME AND I WILL SEE IF WE CAN MAKE IT WORK IN A FUTURE EDITION OF THE SENTINEL. Bill

Do you know? – That YOUR VFW produces a series of 'PODCASTS' that are aired twice a month. These PODCASTS cover important veteran legislation along with discussions on education and financial assistance programs from the VA. Future PODCAST broadcast will include members of congress, officials from DoD and the VA.

The VFW PODCAST is available at www.vfw.org/podcast and on

Google Play Apple Podcast Pandora Spotify Stitcher Deezer

THINK ABOUT THIS YOU LIFE MEMBERS -

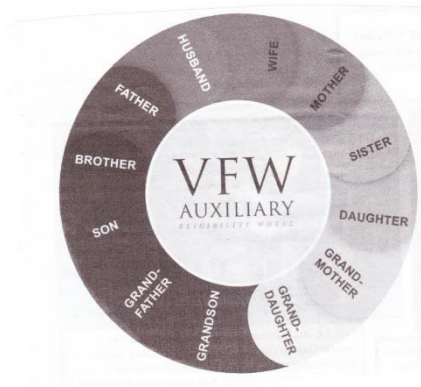
For a payment of \$400 (Bronze Membership), you can make an eternal space in the VFW for you to be remembered by. Along with the Plated, Engraved Life member Card, Lapel Pin, Hat Pin, Framed Certificate, Recognition on the Internet and the Convention Program, Recognition on the Kiosk in Washington & National Headquarters, a 5% Discount on Purchases at VFW Store, Free \$2,000 AD&D Life Insurance Policy, and \$6.00 a year, in your name, sent to your Post and Department as long as each continues to exist.

If you up your Legacy Life to Silver (an additional \$400) you can add: a Special Plaque, Increase your free Insurance to \$3,500, Increase your Annual endowment to Post & department to \$12.00 a Year. Naturally, you get a Silver Engraved ID Card

If you go all the way to Gold (\$1,200 total), you can add a Hat Patch, a Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza, Increase your free Insurance to \$5,000, and increase your Endowment to \$18.00 a year to your Post and State. Naturally, You get a Gold Engraved ID Card

For those of you still making yearly membership payments (just like buying a vehicle on credit). You're getting old enough now where the cost of a LIFE MEMBERSHIP is really cheap. You can pay it in quarterly installments for one year. AND THEN NEVER receive those harassing tele-marketing calls wanting you to extend your car warranty. OOPS, I mean renew your annual membership. EX: A member between 51 & 60 LIFE MEMBERSHIP would be \$335.00. On a payment plan that would only be \$30.45 a month, for 11 months after an initial payment of \$45.

WANT SOME HELP MAKING THE LEAP (NOT financially)? Contact me and I'll help you!
I am one of the earliest GOLD Legacy Life Members. I became a Life Member at 45, now 75!



Do you have a family members that fits this circle? If so, get them to join YOUR Post Auxiliary

During the last 18 months of this pandemic, y'all have had to adjust your eating habits to conform to the times. Many had to revert to eating from the NEW four major food groups that materialized during this time. CANNED, BOXED, FROZEN & TAKEOUT!





Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-In-Chief Hal Roesch made a visit to S.C. during the Department's School of Instruction in July. He wanted to return to the post where he first joined the VFW in 1991. That Post is 3034 of Sumter. There was a "Welcome Home" party for him. Commander-In-Chief Roesch was also taken to Columbia Post 4262 so he could meet some of the local members. Commander-In-Chief Roesch spent all of Saturday attending and helping out at day one of the Departments SOI.

Does YOUR Post or District have a recurring "Special Project"? – North Myrtle Beach Post 10804 has. For the last eight (8) straight months Post 10804 has hosted a Quilts of Valor presentation at their post. Each month, between ten and twenty veterans (most not members of the VFW) receive a Quilt of Valor from the Myrtle Beach Shorebirds, the local Q of V organization. This is not done alone by the Post. It is in cooperation with the local Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, the Post Auxiliary (the Auxiliary provides a free lunch to all attendees) and an occasional helping hand by the local Girl Scout Troop.



A recent Quilts of Valor presentation at Post 10804

From the Pen of Ginger Graham – Post 6740
How we spent Purple Heart Day (August 7th)

While the weather was a challenge (high humidity coupled with extreme heat), Lake Murray VFW 6740 held an extremely popular Back to School Bash at its location in Leesville, SC. It was an amazing event, where over 60 veteran-themed bags, filled with a large assortment of school supplies, were handed out to happy students from our community. The event also included first responders from the local Fire Department and the Police Department, impressive military vehicles from the South Carolina Military Collectors, a representative from the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (promoting S.T.E.M. education and patriotism to our next generation) and a guest appearance by Jervay Galberth, founder of the nonprofit "We Care For You Inc. (providing new shoes to local students in need, creating pride and confidence for our deserving young students).



Picture 1: Post 6740 Sr. Vice Charles Holloway (left), Jervay Galbreth and Ginger Graham (right) help Ryan, grandson of Adj. Mary Jackson recite Pledge of Allegiance

Picture 2: Jonathan showing off his VFW Young American Award

Picture 3: Post 6740 Commander Don Watson holding a \$200 check donated by Jervay Galbreth, founder of "We Care for You, Inc." (center) and Sr. Vice Charles Holloway looks on

Under the leadership of Commander Don Watson and President Maxine Caughman, this event was proudly supported by the members of VFW 6740: Twenty volunteers from both the VFW and the Auxiliary worked diligently to entertain and educate everyone in attendance. The event was also supported and attended by many additional Comrades and Auxiliary, who showed up with students of all ages. The Back to School Bash was hugely popular, and the post was filled with youth and laughter as all children who attended were provided with a free lunch, and an afternoon activity provided to bond with friends, old and new, who spent quality time together in our post's Play Area, filled with toys, games, books, and child-sized furniture. Students left with many gifts and special memories, including a bounce house/slide and an historical experience with hands-on learning (military vehicles); most of the children and adults who attended proudly recited the Pledge of Allegiance; participants received VFW coloring books and Youth Awards, purchased from the VFW Store during the National Convention in Kansas City. It was a popular Youth Activity for children and adults; many of us recited the Pledge of Allegiance 30 or more times throughout the activity!



Picture 1: Ginger Graham helping Christian recite the Pledge of Allegiance

Picture 2: Post 6740 Auxiliary members Janice Bowers, Karen Zaledzieski and Becky Dula passed out 60 bags of school supplies to attending families.

The event was well-attended, and made the local newspaper. Post 6740 is already looking forward to next year, and another opportunity to share with our community! WELL DONE 6740!!

Do you have a local Boy Scout Troop nearby? – Within the Boy Scouts, their highest honor is to become an Eagle Scout. To complete this process, they must do a community project that is beneficial to the recipients. Do you have a need for an exterior project that a group of Boy Scouts (led by the Eagle Scout candidate) might be able to do? If so, someone in your post needs to contact the local troop and see if anyone is coming up on being an Eagle Scout. Propose a project for them to do. Help with project, promote it in local news. Maybe even make a donation towards the project. It is good for the local scouts, it is good for the post and it is good for the community to see YOUR post is involved in the community.



This is a Flag Retirement Ceremonial Pit and Reflection Area built at Post 10804 by the pictured Eagle Scout. He came to the post with the idea and plan and it was accepted. He got all necessary resources donated.

SCHOOL of INSTRUCTION – Required, of the DISTRICT by the National By-Laws to “provide training for POST officers”. SC is fortunate in that the Department also provides an annual School of Instruction, for District & Post Officers sometime shortly after the start of the new business year. Each District is still required to conduct their own SOI.

Is the School of Instruction providing you the basic knowledge for you to go forward in your elected or appointed position? This training is not etched-in-stone and if you see any area where it could be improved upon. You are encouraged to contact the Department Commander or Adjutant (for the state SOI) or your District Commander or Adjutant and present your ideas on how the SOI can be improved. The training is for YOU! If you see a better way of doing things? Tell the leadership!

HOW DO I KNOW I AM DOING THIS VFW STUFF RIGHT? – Throughout the state, only about 10-15% of the VFW membership owns a “current” PODIUM EDITION of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure & Ritual Book. As a leader or member of the VFW, you should always conduct EVERY VFW event properly and with the solemnity required of the event. From how to setup a meeting room to how to conduct the meeting, or how to properly induct a new member, or how to properly say goodbye to a departed member (funeral services). If it is anything VFW, it IS in this book.

PAGE 1 of the VFW RITUAL section says; AMERICANISM – is the unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity. Men and women returning from all quarters of the globe stand before our altars of comradeship, pledging loyalty to the nation and to one another. Through the generations we give life to our impressive ritual, for it solemnly binds young and old who have fought for America on land, sea and in the air.

THIS IS THE VFW

Speaking of the Manual of Procedure – Did you know that English is THE ONLY language ever allowed for the conducting of meetings (National By-Laws Section 713)

Also speaking of the Manual of Procedure – ADJUTANT’S – Did you know it is your responsibility to make sure your Post or District has the most current copy of the Podium Edition of the M of P? (Section 518 a(5)f).

Realistically; every elected or appointed officer in a District or Post should have their own current edition of the M of P. I would think that each Post or District could buy these books for their officers at a cost of less than \$100.

HE KNOWS ITS EARLY, but Post 10624 Commander Bill King wants to remind everyone that they will be hosting the Pearl Harbor Memorial on the Yorktown with lunch to follow at the Post.

PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL CEREMONY

DECEMBER 7th at 11AM

USS YORKTOWN, PATRIOTS POINT

40 Patriots Point Road

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

VFW POST 10624 Mount Pleasant

1411 Stuart Engles Blvd

Commander King – Would like all Post 10624 members and any other VFW members to know, that they will be participating in (can’t say marching, you’re all too old to march) the Charleston, SC Veterans Day Parade on November 6th.

FROM THE DESKS OF

Sr. Vice-Commander – Ed Stefanak

There have been several positive things going on at the Department since the State Convention. It's easy to have a hangover after having such a good year like we did the year prior. That hasn't been the case, I have seen so many posts and districts doing great things so far this year. It's very inspiring as a leader to be able to wake up in the morning and drink coffee while scrolling through my Facebook feeds and seeing all the great work that you are all doing. It has also been great attending post events, thanks for all the invitations.

These next couple months is going to be a grind with everything that is coming up. POW/MIA Recognition Day, the State Commander's Visits in District 6,7,1, Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year deadlines, as well as audits, post and district inspections and Veterans Day. To add to the grind, we are also hosting the Southern Conference. Even with all of that coming up, I know that we are going to do great. All of the things we are able to accomplish and being able to add more speaks volumes of the strength and great leadership we have in our department.

I'd like to take this last part to thank all the comrades and auxiliary members who came out and supported MIA PFC Lois Crosby's funeral. It was a great showing of support to not only our veterans, but the Crosby family and the Orangeburg community. Also, our Darlington recruiting crew did an incredible job. Not only did they recruit well, they also distributed buddy poppies and raised over \$1000. Great job! Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who came out and supported our 9/11 Ceremony and Ride to Remember in Elgin this past weekend. I'd like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to making this event run mostly smooth, as well as thank my co-conspirator Christine Rogers Post Commander from 11079 for setting up the ride and getting various bike groups to participate. I'd also like to thank State Commander Dwight Hora, State President Kate Brock, and State Chaplain Wilton Fowler for their great speeches and guidance. This was not a one-horse production, many people helped make this happen. Keep doing all the great things that you are doing.

Jr. Vice-Commander –Jim Fox



First I would like to thank all of the comrades in showing confidence in me to be your State Jr Vice-Commander for 2021-2022.

The State Commander has allowed me to visit posts, with their respective District Commanders, that have been inactive in recent months due to the pandemic and other factors.

We are encouraging and letting the posts know that we are here to assist them to get back to doing the business and programs of the VFW.

The State Fair is coming October 13-21st. We are going to attend it every day and use it as a recruiting event. I am looking for posts and auxiliaries to volunteer for a day. Please contact me to volunteer or for further information. Jf7122@gmail.com

Quartermaster – Ella Calvert

Congratulations to all the 2021-22 Officers!

- **Trustees-** the preparation and completion of the Post Trustees' Report of Audit at the end of each quarter is the duty and responsibility of the Post Trustees. We had some major issues with April-June 2021 (2d Quarter) Trustees' Report of Audits, whether you have done it before, there is always something you can learn. If you are a new Trustee and need some additional assistance, I am just an email (qm@vfwsc.org) or phone call (803-808-0317) away. July- September's audit reports are due before October 31, 2021. Please complete the entire form, if you do not have a Canteen...simply put "N/A" in the space. The Commander and at least two Trustees **MUST** sign the form.

- The 2021-22 Quartermaster's Guide, under the Financial Reporting Tab, starting on page 26 is an example of the Trustees' Report of Audit. The following pages provide an explanation of each block. **Please get your July-September 2021 audit before October 31, 2021.**
- **Quartermasters-** officer bonds were due by 31 Aug 2021. All Posts are required by the Bylaws (Section 703) to have each officer accountable for funds or property bonded in a sum at least equal to the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, the Quartermaster may be accountable. Too many Posts took the risk of bonding one officer and that was the Quartermaster. **Best practices are to bond the Quartermaster AND the Commander.**
- The bond does not take the place of insurance in any way. It pays only for loss due to fraud or dishonest acts of the person bonded. If your Post has a Canteen, every manager and/or bartender should be bonded. Those Canteen employee bonds are due before September 30, 2021.
- Donations for the Commander's Special Project, Veterans Service Officer (VSO), and Buddy Poppy are being accepted now. Mail your check to 210 Glassmaster Rd, Lexington SC 29072.
- Red polo shirts (Large, XL and 2XL) are in for \$30.00 each.
- Tax Exemption Status (Form1024) MUST be filed by 31 October 2021. Our State CPA, Mr. John Brown, 803-755-3384, created a template to assist Quartermasters' and/or Commanders. The filing fee will be reimbursed to the Post upon showing proof of filing and paying the \$600.00. So far, only two Posts have been submitted for reimbursement.

District 1 Commander – Curtis Peterson

Library of Congress - Veterans History Project

In conjunction with The Library of Congress, VFW District One is teaming up with other Charleston area veteran organization volunteers, including The American Legion and The Disabled American Veterans (DAV), to help make the Veterans History Project available to all of our fellow veterans that would like to participate.

"The Veterans History Project (VHP) is congressionally mandated to collect, preserve, and make accessible the first hand remembrances of U.S. military veterans from World War I through the more recent conflicts". Veteran memorabilia is also accepted as a part of the VHP.

Ralph H Johnson VA Medical center has also agreed to be our partner in the Veterans History Project. They will be providing space in their facilities for conducting veteran interviews and a valuable source for recruiting veterans that would like to participate. Also, a network of District One VFW Posts are on board, helping to secure the strategic locations that are necessary to give our veterans easy access in their area to this valuable program and the opportunity to have their military service history recorded and placed on permanent file at The Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Our group is presently working to build the local organization and staff it with the trained volunteers that are essential to insure the VHP's long term success in our area and beyond. If all continues to go as planned, we will be prepared to begin our veteran interviews on or about October 1st.

If you are interested in learning more about the Veterans History Project or how you can help by contributing your time and talent, please don't hesitate to give us a call, or send us an email. We would love to have you join our team of volunteers or consider being personally interviewed!

In honor of our nation's veterans,

Henry C. (Buddy) Gillam
Veterans History Project Coordinator
VFW District One
hcgillamjr@gmail.com 843-708-1190

WWW.MYHEALTH.VA.GOV

Did you know – The VA has a “Healthy Teaching Kitchen” where you can go and watch videos on how to make various healthy food menu's tailored to your older life-style. Currently, there are 97 videos and they change all the time. These are step-by-step videos that even the worst cooks can't mess up.

VA spotlights special benefits for elderly wartime Veteran population

WASHINGTON — As a follow up to National Financial Awareness Day, Aug. 14, the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching an awareness campaign to inform elderly wartime Veterans and their families of their lesser-known pension, funeral, burial and survivor benefits.

“VA's pension benefit helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income,” said Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. “Currently, only 189,800 wartime Veterans and 139,800 surviving spouses are using their needs-based pension benefits that are meant to ease the burden on them, their families and caregivers. We need to ensure all of our wartime Veterans and their survivors are aware of their benefits.”

The following benefits are available through VA's [Pension and Fiduciary Service](#) for use in planning and preparing for the future.

*VA [pension](#) is payable to wartime Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non-service connected disability, or who are age 65 years old or older, and who meet certain income and net worth limits.

*[Special monthly pension](#) is an additional benefit for Veterans in receipt of pension who are housebound, require the aid and attendance of another person to help them with daily activities (such as eating, bathing and dressing), have very limited eyesight or require nursing home care.

*[For surviving spouses](#), there are two types of benefits P&F Service offers. [Survivors Pension](#) provides monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits. Special monthly pension is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.

*[Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) is available to dependents and parents and generally is not based on income and assets (except the income limits apply to parents). DIC is a monthly monetary benefit paid to a surviving spouse, child or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, or when an active-duty service member dies in the line of duty. Special monthly DIC is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.

*A surviving spouse of a Veteran who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, may be eligible for DIC benefits — [even if they were previously denied](#).

*VA's [funeral and burial benefits](#) are available for both service-related and non-service-related deaths. New regulations allow a flat-rate burial and plot or interment allowance with decreased paperwork and maximum payment permitted by law.

*For those interested in burial benefits such as a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone or marker, the [National Cemetery Administration](#) has information about pre-need eligibility. Many vulnerable senior wartime Veterans are targeted with misinformation. In many cases, this is because they are not fully aware of their benefits, which increases the chances of them being taken advantage of and/or defrauded.

VA encourages elderly wartime Veterans and their family members to consult a [VA-accredited representative](#) if they want or need help filing a claim. They are reminded to beware of individuals or companies that promise benefits or ask for money upfront, as only VA can make final determinations on [eligibility](#).

[Factsheets](#) are available to assist Veterans with limited resources. [Pension eligibility information](#) has details on how Veterans and their families can get help filing their claim for free.

FROM THE VA WEBSITE

POST/DISTRICT COMMANDERS – How involved is your Sr. or Jr. Vice? Are they getting trained?



**Mike Mallory, Sr. Vice-Commander of Post 10804, conducting the monthly business meeting
Mike and Quartermaster Dan Farley hanging a 100% membership streamer on guide-on**

KOREAN WAR MIA RETURNS HOME

South Carolina VFW/Auxiliary honors Korean War MIA - PFC LOUIS N. CROSBY



In December of 1950, PFC Crosby went missing during a campaign near the Chosin Reservoir of North Korea. On April 21st of 2020, thanks to DNA provided by his older brother, Henry Crosby Sr., PFC Crosby's remains were positively identified and on August 18, 2021 (this would have been his 89th birthday) PFC Crosby was laid to rest at Crestlawn Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg, SC with his brother in attendance. Honoring PFC Crosby were SC VFW members from across the state, the American Legion, and the Patriot Guard Riders.

THIS IS PART OF WHAT THE VFW IS ALL ABOUT!

ARE YOU A NON-CITIZEN VETERAN

Many non-US citizens join the U.S. Military as a pathway to American Citizenship. Being a veteran, with an honorable record, greatly increases their chance to become a citizen. There is a group that helps with this transition to becoming a U.S. Citizen.

Its called the **Veterans Naturalization Assistance Program (VNAP)** They will tell you if you qualify for citizenship, provide you with FREE legal counsel. You need to provide a military discharge that is Honorable, or General Under Honorable Conditions and a DD-214.

Attorneys will be available on Friday October 22nd from 9AM to 5PM. Call 202-733-3337

NOTE: I had a friend, who I met in Vietnam in 1970, who spent 21 years in the Air Force, retired and then applied for and he received his U.S. Citizenship. I was proud to stand with him that day. Bill

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHECK ON THOSE YOU KNOW OR LOVE

BUDDY CHECKS – Do you know of a relative, neighbor or fellow veteran that you have not seen in a while? Unfortunately, the COVID problem has not been resolved to the level that was

hoped for. Take it upon yourself to give them a call, or drop by their house and see how they are doing. I am quite certain they will be greatly appreciative of your concern.

HERE'S A THOUGHT – Do you know of a fellow veteran who's annual membership is about to expire, or has expired within the last two years? Give them a BUDDY CHECK to see how they are doing and in the process, bring up their membership status and how you and the post would like to see them continue/renew their membership. If their membership is past two years expired, you get credit for signing a new member. A win-win situation for both of you!!

HAVE YOU FILED AN APPEAL WITH THE VA?

From the desk of YOUR State VSO – John S. (JJ) Johnson)

The Board of Veterans' Appeals has learned that a limited number of Veterans may have had their Board Appeal forms (VA Form 10182, Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)) mistakenly rejected for being untimely. Out of an abundance of caution, the Board is sending out a wide notice to help ensure no other Veterans were impacted by this. If you filed a **VA Form 102 with the Board between February 19, 2019, and March 23, 2021**, and believe it may have been improperly rejected as untimely, please send a letter to the **"Clerk of the Board"** at **P.O. Box 27063, Washington, DC 20038** or via fax to **1-844-678-8979** no later than March 1, 2022. In your letter, state you are asking the Board to "RECALCULATE TIMELINESS" and be careful to include the Veteran's full name, claim number or SSN, the date of the rating decision you appealed to the Board, and the date of your original VA Form 10182 appeal form that the Board told you was untimely."

P.S: JJ is currently booked thru the end of December, currently handling 15-20 veteran claims per month.

NASCAR AND RECRUITING

KUDOS – To the members of the Department and the National Commander-in-Chief who conducted a membership drive at Darlington Raceway during Labor Day weekend. Their efforts netted **32 new members** and over \$1,100 in Poppy donations. WELL DONE!!

This was the SPORTS CLIPS DFW 200 race. THANK YOU!! Sports Clips for all you do for the VFW!!



Some of the Darlington workforce, heavy hitters, arriving at Myrtle Beach Airport



NOTE: The next state recruiting drive will be during the S.C. State Fair in October. Jr. Vice Jim Fox is looking for volunteers at the District, Post and Member levels. Contact Jim if you can help !! District 7 will have a Gun-Show recruiting drive also in October. Details to come

HOW DOES YOUR POST OR DISTRICT QUALIFY FOR All State or All American status?

District and Post Commanders are responsible for ensuring the information on all report cards is up-to-date.

The information on the State Report Card and All American Dashboard will be used for District and Post recognition.

Department Dashboard is broken down into two sections.

Left side (**Good Standing**) is completed by the Department Chairperson or Department Officers. See Program Dashboard Errors for contact information.

- Right side (**Program Reporting**) is updated by the Post Community Service Chairperson or Commanders designated chairperson.
- **Green – Completed.**
- **Red – Not Done.**
- **Red with white "L" – Completed but late.**

- **Black - Not required.**

You can find a REPORT CARD GUIDE by going to VFWSC.org on your web-site. On right side click LOGIN in dropdown click MEMBERS ONLY enter your last name and VFW number to log-in, on left side of page click on REPORT CARD GUIDE. The info in the guide is self-explanatory.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- *OCT 1-3 – COOTIES Grand Scratch**
- *Oct 9 – Council of Administration at Department Headquarters**
- *OCT 30 – Trunk or Treat at Department Headquarters**
- *Nov 19-21 – Southern Conference Hilton Head. All events now on Saturday 20th**

PATROITS DAY 9-11 2021

By Ginger Graham

On the 20th Anniversary of the tragedy that occurred on 9-11, now recognized nationally as Patriot Day, a group gathered in Potter Community Park, Elgin, SC, to remember. The VFW State of SC's Sr Vice Cdr Ed Stefanak and Elgin VFW 11079's Post Cdr. Christine Rogers put together an amazing program, to honor those who perished on Sept. 11th. The heartfelt memorial was also a unique opportunity to honor the soldiers who sacrificed all, with a Wall of Remembrance and a special flag ceremony to remember the 13 lives recently lost in Afghanistan.

Guest speakers included State Sr. Vice Cdr. Ed Stefanak, the mayor of Elgin, Melissa Brazell Emmons, Dept. of SC Auxiliary President Kate Brock, VFW 11079 Post Cdr. Christine Rogers and VFW State Cdr. Dwight Hora. Special guests included the Military Vehicle Collectors of SC (who brought eight impressive vehicles); Bobby Cash from Columbia's Vet Center; State Quartermaster Ella Calvert (who played Taps during the memorial); VFW Veterans Service Officer John Johnson; Membership Team leader John Penman; the Blainey Fire Department (who brought a fire truck to pay tribute to the firefighting heroes on Sep. 11th); cadets from the Lugoff-Elgin JROTC; and active duty Soldiers from 3-13th Command from Ft Jackson.

Two very special additions to the program were added, including The Wall of Heroes, a monument made to honor the men and woman from SC who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Many military, veterans and community members were observed viewing the faces and messages that are haunting reminders of those who never returned home. Additionally, Post Cdr. Christine Rogers and Elgin VFW 11079 donated three memorials to honor all of the first responders, firefighters, police officers and EMTs, who sacrifice and keep our community safe.

The emotional program was followed up with a motorcycle ride, The Ride to Remember, with proceeds to benefit the Fisher House of Columbia. Riders visited Gorgets Distillery, East

Camden Social Club, Gadgets of Lugoff, Elgin VFW 11079, and Lake Wateree VFW 8346 in Ridgeway; the final destination was located at the Thunder Tower Harley Davidson. Live entertainment was provided by One More Round, and a surprise visit was made by a dedicated veteran, Congressman Joe Wilson. A huge thank you to Chuck Leo from Lugoff Ford (for donating the use of his stage for our 9/11 memorial), and Thunder Tower Harley Davidson and marketing rep Zach Brennan (for hosting the final stop of our benefit ride); another big thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated in the ride, purchased tickets, and/or supported this amazing day in so many ways.



ALWAYS REMEMBER.



1. A father and daughter moment of Patriotism during the National Anthem
2. 13 flags: active duty soldiers, JROTC and members of VFW 11079 honor the 13 lives lost at the Kabul Airport
3. Veteran views the Wall of Heroes Memorial, remembering and honoring those lost during OIF/OEF
4. Veteran and Congressman Joe Wilson, Auxiliary 6740 Treasurer Carol Long, VFW 11079 Post Cdr. Christine Rogers, State Sr. Vice Ed Stefanak and VFW 6740 Past Post Cdr. Ginger Graham
5. State Sr. Vice Cdr. Ed Stefanak, State Chaplain Wilton Fowler and State Cdr. Dwight Hora with two active duty LTs
6. Comrades and Auxiliary members from across the state of SC united to support the 9-11 Memorial in Elgin.
7. Members of the Military Vehicles Collectors of SC



8. VFW 11079 Cdr Christine Rogers presents three memorials dedicated to First Responders, to Elgin Mayor Melissa Emmons

9. Saluting cadets from the Lugoff-Elgin High School JROTC

10. Riders in the Ride to Remember, benefit for Fisher House of Columbia

September 26th is GOLD STAR MOTHERS (and other family members) DAY. These are the survivors of military family members who paid the “ultimate price” for the freedoms we enjoy today. If you know a GOLD STAR family? Try and do something nice for them on the most painful remembrance day in their lives.

NATIONAL HOMES

The new National Home has opened in Florence. Are you interested in moving, or maybe, just curious. Here's some facts about National Home eligibility:

There are three lanes of eligibility through which a family can apply to live at the National Home.

Eligibility stems from the child(ren) in the family. They are:

- 1) a veteran family (at least one parent that has served and been honorably discharged).
- 2) an active duty military family (a parent is currently serving in the armed forces or reserves).
- 3) a family that is related to a VFW or Auxiliary member (this include step-parents/grandparents).

This third lane is the most wide-reaching, as many people living in the United States have a parent or grandparent who has served. Sometimes, the child's parent or grandparent is not a VFW or Auxiliary member, but are eligible to become one. If they become a member, then the family is eligible to apply to live at the National Home.

The first step to living at the National Home is always through our Helpline at **800.313.4200**. Helpline staff will help callers to determine eligibility.

NEWSLETTER ANNUAL AWARDS

NOTE: If your Post does a Newsletter and you want your Post to be considered for the annual “Most Outstanding Post Newsletter Award” (page 32 of the Commanders Guidebook). There is only three (3) months left for you to email me your Post Newsletter so it can be considered for judging. Cutoff is December 31st. The winning Post and newsletter editor/writer will be recognized at the Mid-Winter Conference. Two other Posts will receive “Honorable Mention” certificates.

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P.S. A Monthly Calendar is not considered a newsletter.

Bill La Monte

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America without her Soldier's would be like God without his Angels

Claudia Pemberton