



Department of South Carolina  
***SENTINEL***



Commander – JIM FOX



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

South Carolina



Auxiliary President – LAURA "JO" SWEETSIR

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FOURTH QUARTER (Oct - Dec) 2023

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

***"Moving Forward"***



# VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS South Carolina

October

HEADQUARTERS NEWSLETTER

December 2023

**YOUR Department Mid-Winter Conference is coming to Myrtle Beach January 25 to 28, at the Hilton. Its NOT too late to sign-up and join your fellow SC veterans at the Hilton. For more info, go to [vwsc.org](http://vwsc.org) and scroll over to Mid-Winter Conference. Hope to see you there!**

Want to attend the Conference, but don't want to attend the banquet. A \$20 Registration Fee gets you into everything, but the banquet. And, you can register as late as the weekend of the conference. Come out and be part of YOUR State VFW in action!!!



## A word from your State Commander – JIM FOX

First of all I would like to thank all of the members from this dept and its auxiliary for all of the support you have shown me and my staff for the 2023-2024 yr.

We started off with attending the National convention in Phoenix AZ. Watched the Dept commander of 2022-2023 being awarded All American honors along with the Auxiliary President being awarded the Circle of Excellence for 2022-2023. Duane Sarmiento and his new staff was sworn in as the national CIC for 2023-2024.

The school of instruction that was led by our Dept Jr Vice-Commander Todd Haviland was very informative with excellent officers and chairman information and going over the programs for department and national requirements.



The POW/MIA event that was held on Sept 15th at the Citadel in Charleston SC was beyond all expectations. Honoring 6 POW'S

and two families of POW/MIA KIA was a very rewarding and emotional experience that those who attended will never forget. Our guest speaker that evening was our CIC Duane Sarmiento. As Duane said to me "this is why the VFW and its Auxiliary exist". The committee that put this event together i cannot Thank them enough. The attention to detail was beyond outstanding. The Department also raised thousands of dollars for my special project this year which is the enhancement and expansion of the Department Service Office. I want to personally thank all of the posts and auxiliaries along with the many companies and individuals that contributed their hard earned dollars to make this event the huge success that it was.

Membership is moving upward and the Dept goal is to be at 95% by Feb 1st. Hitting that gate will put us in position to easily reach 102% before June 30th.

Our Midwinter Conference as I write this is right around the corner. I am very excited to announce that Carol Whitmore, our National Jr vice commander will be our national representative for this conference. She will be the very first female national CIC. The event will be held at the Hilton Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach Jan 25-28 2024. This will be a very informative and fun event. Hotel and Dept. registration is now available online.

Please take the time this holiday season to be with your family and friends as I always say "family first". I look forward to a very successful second half of my administrative year.  
God Bless

**Jim Fox Department Commander**

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**Next year is election time.** It is the one time where every American SHOULD exercise their 'right' and VOTE: Here's a couple of interesting voting tidbits:

\*According to US Elections Project; 159,738,337 voted in the 2020 election. That is only 37% of the eligible voting force.

\***ONLY 46%** of active duty forces voted in 2020 election.

\***65%** of the Active Duty military who voted in 2020 did so by mail.

**SUICIDE IN THE MILITARY – The Government 2022 report indicated that the suicide rate for active duty is just under 14 members per day.** This is a 3% increase over 2021. The Reserve rate dropped by 12% and The Guard rate by 18% during the same time period. Firearms were the primary weapon of choice with an average of 69% usage. The numbers for all veterans have not yet been released.



**Arlington National Cemetery** – Has suspended horse-drawn Caisson use for military honors at Arlington. This suspension will last through mid-2024 due to various injuries amongst 27 of the 48 horses used for this honor.



**Know anyone transitioning out of the military? Or, are you, a veteran, looking for a good paying job?**

Last year the White House launched an initiative called “The Task Force Movement”. This is a project to connect transitioning service members and veterans to understaffed fields of employment. There is a drastic vacancy in the CYBERSECURITY industry. Once qualified, the minimum pay is

estimated at \$112,000 a year. Cybersecurity jobs in high demand include:

\*Cybersecurity Analyst, Computer System Analyst, Cybersecurity Support Technician, Application Developer, IT Project Manager, Network Support Technician and Cloud Operations Specialist.

Helpful information is available at; [taskforcemovement.org/cybersecurity](https://taskforcemovement.org/cybersecurity) and [apprenticeship.gov](https://apprenticeship.gov)

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**WOMEN VETERANS** – Especially you estimated 265,000 women veterans and civilians who served during the Vietnam Era. Back in November a major celebration was held to honor you and to honor the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial.

To learn more about the memorial, go to: [vietnamwomensmemorial.org](https://vietnamwomensmemorial.org)

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**Did you know?** – SC ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation with the number of veterans. There are 355,000+ known veterans. Texas is ranked #1 with over 1.5 million veterans in residence.



**HATS or CAPS?** The official VFW headgear is called a CAP. Just like everything else in the military world, VFW CAPS have an order about them. You just don't go out and buy any CAP that suits you. You have to comply with the following:

\*If you are buying a 'member' cap? It must have the GOLD piping/braid (trim along the top) and all lettering on the hat is GOLD.

\*If you are elected/appointed as a Post Officer, your CAP will have the gold braid and lettering.

\*If you are elected/appointed as a District Officer, your CAP will have a GREEN braid with GOLD lettering. Exception: District Commanders braid is RED

\*If you are elected/appointed a State Officer, your CAP will have RED braid with GOLD lettering. NOTE: If you purchase the VFW nametag. The nametag color should match the braid/piping of your CAP. If you just want a VFW nametag, but no CAP. The color of that nametag should be BLACK.

NOTE 2: You can purchase a CAP with just about any office you hold listed on the CAP (Post Adjutant, State Historian, District Chaplain, etc)

NOTE 3: The best place to see your CAP and nametag options is in the VFW Catalog (nametags and caps pages)

PS: The only hat allowed to be worn at any VFW meeting, is the VFW CAP!

## AROUND THE STATE

### North Myrtle Beach Post 10804



**Post Commander Mike Mallory introducing Mr. Ronnie Elvis**

On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, **Mr. Ronnie Elvis, of the Horry County Veterans Affairs Office**, gave an almost two hour presentation on veterans right and benefits and on how to apply for VA eligibility. This event was arranged by Post member **John Brough** and was open to all veterans, their spouses and families. Free coffee and donuts were available courtesy of the Post. There was an active question and answer period. Mr. Elvis also made time to answer some questions privately during one-on-one time with some attendees. Thank you John Brough and Mr. Elvis



## “THREE VOLLEY SALUTE” VS a “21 GUN SALUTE”-

Do you know the difference? Do you know the symbolism of each?

**\*\*Three Volley Salute – Conducted at funerals with military honors.** Performed with 3, 5 or 7 Honor Guard members. The Rifle Party fires three volleys (shots) to honor a veteran or service member who has passed away.

**\*\* 21 Gun Salute -** (according to the Army) are conducted to honor a National Flag, the Sovereign or Chief of State of a foreign nation, a member of a

reigning Royal Family, and the President, ex-Presidents and President elect of the United States. Also a 21 Gun Salute is fired at noon on George Washington’s Birthday, President’s Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day, as well as the day of a funeral for a President, ex-President or President elect.

COURTESY: VFW MAGAZINE & American Legion Post 186 Honor Guard

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**Some excellent words of wisdom from a past-post commander** - Comrades your post needs you now as they always have. Don't assume that the Post will always be there waiting for you to return. As you well know a Post is not a building but the assembly of comrades who gather there. Never assume that you don't have anything to offer. Your presence and ideas and voice could be the difference between a post closing/merging, barely surviving or thriving in our community.

Every person is an asset to the post. We need you to help ensure our Post grows and continues to do what we do to support the VFW, our Veterans and communities.



**Are you, your Post, your District doing good things to help veterans or your community?** – There is a place you can go to share these good deeds with the whole VFW world. That place is **#StillServing!**

Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), scroll over to COMMUNITY, you will see a variety of subjects appear. Scroll over to #StillServing, click on. You will see two columns. One titled **READ MORE** and the other **SHARE YOUR STORY**. Click on the Share Your Story

and fill out the requested information (always good to have a picture or two to show your event) and press SUBMIT.

Within a couple of weeks your project should appear in the **READ MORE**, or in the **In The News** part of #StillServing.

**AN ALARMING FACT:** There are over 1 million caregivers taking care of military veterans (loved ones) who served in the military AFTER 9 11.

## Membership/Recruitment:

\*Think you are good at recruiting? There is an American Legion Recruiter in Texas who belongs to the **Audie L. Murphy Post 336** in San Antonio. His name is **WALTER GERAGHTY Jr.** and he is credited with signing up over **4,900** new Legionnaire's during his lifetime. He singlehandedly revitalized one Legion Post with a declining membership of 12 members, to over 1,000 members in just 10 years.

**Mr. Geraghty is a Vietnam Veteran of the U.S. Air Force.**

## SPEAKING OF RECRUITING



**A special THANK YOU to HOLY CITY BREWING for hosting a District 1 recruiting event back in October. In picture 2, Commander Fox is signing up new member – Walter from Washington D.C.**



(old and

**A thought** – Are you 41/42 years old, jobless and wanting something to do? Well the Air Force and Space Force have a job waiting for you! They are now accepting recruits up to 42 years old (cut off age was 39). This allow you to do your 20 years (if you want to) retire at Social security minimum age of 62. **THINK ABOUT IT!!**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**



**ELECTIONS & YOU** – Its getting to that time of year where you need to think about how you want your future to continue in the SC VFW. Are you satisfied with being a member, or do you think you have something more to contribute and that you would like that contribution to be by way of being elected to a position at the Post, District or State level? EVERY electable position is open to any member in good standing (current dues paid through the election process and no civil or VFW legal processes pending or active).

Since October, there already have been comrades announcing for certain positions at the state level. You just need to decide where you want to fit-in and where you think your contributions will help the most.

**POST** level electable positions: Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, 3 Year Trustee and if your Post has a Canteen, House Committee members.

**DISTRICT** level electable positions: Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, 3 Year Trustee

**STATE** level electable positions: Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain Judge advocate, Surgeon

**NOTE:** At the Post level, the Chaplain is an appointed position, as is the Adjutant and Judge Advocate At the District level, the Chaplain and Adjutant are appointed positions.

**At every level:** Committee Chairpersons are appointed by their respective commanders.

So, at the Post and District levels, you have any options on how you might fit-in. For appointed positions, you need to let the current and prospective new commanders know that you are interested.

Keep in mind that you can hold an elected and appointed position at the same time, BUT you cannot hold two elected positions.

**NOTE:** One way I have served during my years with the SC VFW is that during Post and District level elections. If there is a position not being sought by anyone. I will nominate myself for that position (this helps ensure a full and complete election process). By doing this, I have held many positions within the state VFW. Still hold four appointed positions encompassing Post, District and State levels.

**I have held several elected positions at the Post & District levels.**

**I have held appointed positions at the Post, District, State and National levels.**

**A REMINDER – VFW Magazine goes electronic in January. There will be 6 printed editions and 4 digital editions in 2024. The plan is to be all digital in 2025. IF YOU WANT to continue to receive printed editions. You MUST CALL the VFW at 1-833-839-8387.**

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**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (VVA)** –This national organization, that some of you may be a member of, had their National Convention back in August

Their key item for the convention was their continued operation as a national veterans organization.

Back in 2021, they had voted to stay a “Vietnam Era” only organization and that they were planning for the dissolving of the VVA in February 2028 because of dwindling membership.

This August, they voted to rescind that part of the resolution that would dissolve the organization, and voted in a new resolution that does not set a termination date, but leaves it open with a “date to be determined” by the 2025 Convention.

The current VVA has about 90,000 members with a little over 600 Chapters. Chapters have the option to plan/start the dissolve process, or wait until a final date is set. Each Chapter has the option of continuing to operate as an individual entity (after the VVA ceases to exist), with the understanding they are a stand-alone entity.

If you want more information? You can contact [theveterans@vva.org](mailto:theveterans@vva.org)

**WHERE ARE THE #1's? – The VFW, AL, DAV, VVA all have/had a starting point. Now you know where it all began.**

**\*VFW** – Post #1 – Denver Colorado, still in operation

**\*American Legion** – Post #1 – Van Tassell, Wyoming, building gone, new #1 is in Washington, DC

**\*DAV** – Chapter #1, Sioux Falls, SD, still in operation

**\*VVA** – Chapter #1, Rutland Vermont, still in operation



All of these organizations held their national conventions over the summer months. Here is their membership number and convention attendance as reported by each agency:

\*VFW has around 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members. Around 10,000 attended the Convention

\*American Legion reports about 2 million members. Around 9,000 attended their Convention.

\*DAV has around 1 million members. About 2,500 attended their Convention

\*VVA has around 90,000 members. About 703 attended their Convention

**NOTE: Except for the VVA, no official attendance was reported by any other of the above**



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**MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITING** – Curiosity question – Does anyone know where or what **POST 15042 is in S.C.?** I do, it is where YOUR State bundles all of its **MEMBERS AT LARGE** documenting. If you look up member statistics you will find Post 15042 listed under **DISTRICT 99** (how most states list their members at large), in **Columbia** (If you recall your VFW Geography? Every District must have a “Geographic Location”). In District 99 there are 1,700+ listed “Members at large” (no Post affiliation).

The prime reason a member joins “At Large” is because there is no post in the immediate area where they live. Secondly, some people just don’t want to be tied to a particular post or they just don’t like the post near them.

\*PS: That 1,700 members at large is down 450+ from last year. Most failed to renew, some joined a post.

\*Since I’m talking membership. The state started the year with 66 Posts. Latest numbers show 65?

\*There are currently 12,537 members listed. This is down from 14,642 last year

\*There are 910 “Continuous” members. These members have to pay dues annually and are the source of almost all membership losses. You need to show them the advantage of becoming a “Life” member or a “Legacy Life” member.

## VA Happenings



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**\*\*The VA** recently announced that all of its police officers will be equipped with body cameras and all patrol cars will be equipped with dash cameras. The purpose being to provide transparency in interactions and build trust and promote de-escalation while avoiding the use of force on VA grounds.

Officers must manually turn on their body-cams when conducting an investigation and during enforcement encounters. Dash-cams will come on automatically when emergency lights are activated and transporting

those in custody

**\*\*Additionally,** the VA and the National Institute of Health are collaborating in their investigation of Gulf War Illness (GWI). Even though this is an over two-decade problem. The source of the GWI illnesses (joint pain, fatigue, rashes, memory loss and digestive issues) have not been officially identified. It is estimated that over 235,000 troops that served in the Gulf, have reported these illnesses.

One thing the study will do is outline more precise guidelines for filing GWI claims and for seeking medical treatment for same.

COURTESY: DAV Magazine

VA individual unemployability is a special benefit that allows veterans who are unable to work due to a service-connected disability to receive compensation at the 100% rate, even if their disability rating is lower than 100%. This means that veterans who qualify for this benefit can receive the same amount of monthly payment as veterans who have a 100% disability rating, which is currently \$3,146.42 for a single veteran with no dependents.

To be eligible for VA individual unemployability, veterans must meet the following criteria:

- They must have at least one service-connected disability rated at 60% or more, or two or more service-connected disabilities with a combined rating of 70% or more, with at least one disability rated at 40% or more.
- They must be unable to secure or follow substantially gainful employment because of their service-connected disability. Substantially gainful employment is defined as earning more than the federal poverty level for a single person, which is currently \$12,880 per year.
- They must provide evidence of their work and education history, as well as medical records and statements from their doctors and employers, to support their claim.

VA individual unemployability can provide significant financial relief and support for veterans who are unable to work due to their service-connected disability. However, applying for and obtaining this benefit can be a complex and lengthy process. Therefore, it is advisable for veterans to seek professional assistance from a qualified VA disability attorney or a veterans service organization when filing a claim for this benefit. These experts can help veterans gather the necessary evidence, fill out the required forms, and navigate the VA system effectively.

**CAUTION:** Veterans who receive unemployability benefits may still earn some income from marginal employment, such as odd jobs or self-employment, as long as it does not exceed the poverty level<sup>1</sup> (listed above). However, if they earn more than that, or if they engage in substantially gainful employment, they may lose their eligibility for unemployability benefits<sup>3</sup>. Veterans who receive unemployability benefits may also be subject to periodic reviews by VA to verify their continued eligibility<sup>4</sup>.

**MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITING – Editor Note:** If you look at the VFW Web-Page. When it comes to recruiting, The Web Page shows (in two different areas), two slightly different application sheets. One form states that you are applying as a MEMBER AT LARGE. This form is almost the same as the regular membership form with 2 notable exceptions:

1. A Member-at-Large form has no place for recruiter information. Allows for the perspective member to mail the application directly to VFW HQ (Adjutant General) or Department Adjutant

and does not require supporting documentation (DD 214) to be mailed with application. A new Member-at-Large goes to the Department (state) listed on their application.

2. The standard membership application has a place for Recruiter information, but still does not require submittal of proof and allows the applicant the choice of mailing the application to VFW HQ, or taking it to Post.

NOTE 1: Any Post member can validate the eligibility of an applicant to their Post, but it is the responsibility of the Post Quartermaster, Adjutant, or Commander to validate the eligibility a member at Large wanting to transfer into a Post.

NOTE 2: If you are recruiting? Make sure your name and Member # make it on that electronic application. Unfortunately, there is no means of credit for you with a Member at Large sign-up because that person is not joining yours or any other Post.

**\*\*There are less than 3 million of us who served in Vietnam to earn VFW eligibility. Over 10 million have claimed to be Vietnam Veterans. The same is now happening for the GWOT, Afghanistan and Iraq. VALIDATE – VALIDATE - VALIDATE**

**The 2024 version of the PODIUM HANDBOOK/MANUAL OF PROCEDURE is available. If you can't find one in the state to purchase? They are available through the VFW Catalog**

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**YOUR State is halfway through the current year. Do you remember who YOUR elected /appointed state officers are?**

## **2023 YOUR ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS 2024**

### **VFW**

Commander - **Jim Fox**  
Sr Vice Cdr - **Janet Chisolm-Richard.**  
Jr Vice Cdr - **Todd Haviland**  
QM - **Dennis Hamilton**  
Adjutant – **Gene Bryant**  
State Chaplain - **Wilton Fowler**  
Chief of Staff - **Ginger Graham**  
State Surgeon - **Gene Bryant**  
State Inspector – **Jeff Henry**  
State Judge Advocate - **Betty Hilliard**

### **DISTRICT COMMANDERS**

D1 - **Curtis Peterson**  
D2 - **Charles Holloway**  
D4 - **Mike Sudik**  
D5 - **James Taylor**  
D6 – **Richard Parker**

### **AUXILIARY**

President – **Laura Jo Sweetsir**  
Sr Vice Pres – **DonnaMarie King**  
Jr Vice Pres – **Marietta Hill**  
Secretary – **Lisa Levangie-Colon**  
Treasurer – **Jane Fox**  
Chaplain – **Barbara Schuler**  
Conductress – **Sarahbeth Earnest**  
Guard – **Chamarlyn Canzater**  
Chief-of-Staff - **Joanne Sullivan**

D7 - Ed Valentin  
D8 – Connell Farley  
D9 - Kurt Knouse  
Natl Council of Admin Ted Tufts  
Natl and State Legislative Renee MacDonald  
Natl and State VMS Darren Wiseman

Committee Chairpersons can be found in the Commanders or President’s Handbook on the state web site. Want to be a Committee Chairperson next year. Talk to Janet Chisolm-Richard (YOUR next Commander or Donna Marie King the Auxiliary’s next President.)



This is the way you do “Adopt a Unit”. Recently Foothills Post 12207 Auxiliary was recognized by their adopted military unit with this certificate. Post 12207 Auxiliary planned, organized, partially funded their adopted unit’s Annual Family Day Celebration. Not only does this foster good relations with their adopted unit, but opens the door for some of those eligible military members to want to join the VFW. Great work 12207 Auxiliary!!

### CIC Report on Post Activity in December 2023

**\*Consolidation of Posts – Kentucky, West Virginia Iowa and Pennsylvania have each had one case of two posts consolidation to one post (a loss of 4 posts nationwide)**

**\*CIC Approved New Post Charters have occurred: One in the Philippines, two in Colorado and one in Kentucky  
(bottom line for December, the VFW lost four post and gained four new posts)**

**\*In November, 12 posts nationwide consolidated to six and one new post charter was authorized (Guantanamo Bay Cuba)**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Howard Barr of Leesville Post 6740 for being appointed a National Deputy Chief-of-Staff and Theonis Brown of Columbia Post 4262 for being appointed a National Assistant Inspector General**

**\*\*INSPECTORS – Section 518(a)(9) of the Manual of Procedures gives you an idea of your responsibility as an inspector. What it doesn’t specifically say, is that when you identify a problem/discrepancy at the Post or District level of inspection. You are responsible for helping that**

Post/District correct the problem, or help them find the necessary sources to help them fix the problem.

**\*\*TRICK QUESTION? – Who is responsible for administering the affairs of the State VFW? – The Department Commander! – WRONG ANSWER!** The National By Laws Section 522(b) states that “the Council of Administration” shall be responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the Department ‘between Department Conventions.’ The Council of Administration runs the state VFW until the start of the State Convention.

**Section 522** (in its entirety) and the state by-laws, tells you almost all you need to know about a CofA and its authority/power.

**Anyone out there running for state office? Send me your name, office seeking, why, and maybe a picture and I will a put your info in the next SENTINEL that will close-out the end of March.**

**DECEMBER 7, 1941 – “A Day That Will Live In Infamy”.** Thanks to the men and women of Mt. Pleasant Post 10624 and Auxiliary, and all the other volunteers, those words are not forgotten to this day. The USS Yorktown was again the center of attention as men and women from all branches of service and from all over SC came to pay their respects to all those who lost their lives on that day and throughout the duration of WW II.

**WW II FACT:** In the Pacific Theatre the US lost 52 submarines and over 3,500 sailors. According to Navy documentation, the 3,500 are all listed as Missing In Action (MIA) and presumed drowned.



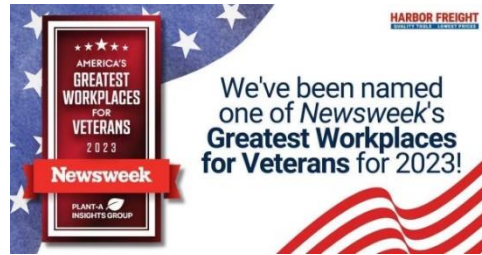


**THANK YOU GINGER GRAHAM for the pictures !**

**\*\*ELECTION REPORTS –** Just a reminder that if your Post or District had a change in an elected position (since the last election), you owe the State a new/updated election report.

**VFW MAGAZINE-** Just a reminder that 2024 starts with the electronic distribution of the VFW Magazine. You are running out of time to request the printed version of the magazine. In 2024 the magazine will have some editions printed and some sent to you electronically. In 2025 all editions will be electronic.

**Here is a great example of a Post partnering with a local “veteran friendly” business to do good things in their community.**



**DILLON HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER HELPS LOCAL VETERAN FAMILIES**

The Dillon Harbor Freight Tools Distribution Center partnered with **Dillon VFW Post 6091** to help 10 low-income Veteran families during the Christmas holiday. Post Commander John Harlow told the Dillon Herald, We at the Dillon VFW greatly appreciate Harbor Freight thinking about our local Veteran families in this special way at Christmastime. The \$100 gift cards and Gift Bags that Harbor Freight is giving these Veteran families helps to remind our Veterans that their service in the United States Military is appreciated and provides some added Christmas money for the holiday season.



**LET'S NOT FORGET DWIGHT! He is out there working hard to become your future Jr. Vice Commander-In-Chief.**

If there is anything you can do to help him? Please contact him.

**It has been 70 YEARS since SC had a member sit in a National leadership chair. You can help Dwight break that drought!**





Members of YOUR Headquarters staff, Post 6740 and Auxiliary participate in the Wreaths-Across-America Ceremony at Ft. Jackson National Cemetery  
I am quite certain that there were many posts across the state that participated in like events in their area.



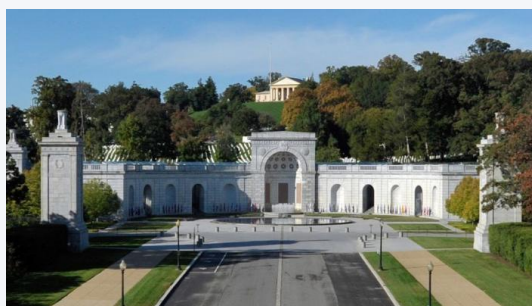
One thing Chapin American Legion Post 193 can be proud of, is their efforts to provide a fitting memorial service for previously unclaimed veterans. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, they saw to the proper internment, at Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, of seven previously unclaimed veterans. Members of YOUR Department HQ and Post 6740 and Auxiliary were there to support these veterans.

## FOR ALL OUR WOMEN VETERANS PAST & PRESENT

The Military Women's Memorial is the nation's only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America, beginning with the American Revolution.



Visitors to the Memorial experience the collective history of women in the military along with the individual stories of registered servicewomen. The Memorial's world-class collection and research library are important resources for scholars, researchers and authors.



The Military Women Memorial is located inside Arlington National Cemetery

## Join Our National Registration Campaign

Today, the *Register* includes nearly **308,500 military women's stories**, but about **3 million women** have served in or with the Armed Forces since the American Revolution. We need your help to reach the **2.7 million women** whose stories will be lost to history if not recorded and preserved for generations to come at our Memorial. We need your help to preserve that history.

### Follow these 3 quick steps to help us spread the word:

1. [Download a graphic](#) to use in a Facebook or Instagram post.
2. Post the graphic you selected with this message:  
*Do you have a family member or friend who is a woman veteran? She deserves to take her rightful place in history. Without her story, our nation's history is incomplete. Register her service for free at [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org). #HerMemorial #HERstory*
3. Don't forget to tag us in your post: **@MilitaryWomensMemorial**

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**OLDER AGE DRIVING & YOU!** – Are you, or someone who cares about you, concerned with your “Post 65” driving ability/habits? If so, there is a AAA course you can take to self-asses your current driving ability. It is endorsed by and sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This is a self-paced, defensive, program called the RoadWise Driver. This program is available at [mg.acg.aaa.com/planner](http://mg.acg.aaa.com/planner).

NOTE: Here's something to think about with your vehicle. The newer the vehicle, the more likely it is equipped with all the driver safety items that would greatly help senior drivers. Things like braking assist, collision avoidance, lane departure, backup warning, etc.

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**I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW** – That during the later stages of the Vietnam War (late 1973), **the Army was discharging 1,000 volunteers (enlistees) a month**, who had less than six months time in the Army, with Honorable Discharges because the Army felt that those new recruits could not handle Army/military life.

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**SPEAKING of the ARMY:** For 2023 they are falling so short of their recruitment goals, that they are offering most of the 11,000 troops they discharged because they would not get the COVID shots, the opportunity to come back into the Army. This only goes for those who received honorable discharges.

### REMEMBERING SOME FORGOTTEN VETERANS AT CHRISTMAS



VFW Post 10804, its Auxiliary and District 7 collaborated on a project to provide 13 Veterans in an Assisted Living facility in Little River with a Christmas they were not going to have. Each Veteran received a 50X60 blanket with their branch of service, a hat with their branch of service, a pair of cotton socks, a 2024 calendar and a hygiene kit that contained two toothbrushes and 2 tubes of toothpaste, a stick of deodorant and a disposable razor. The facility (River Park Senior Living) was going to have a party with snacks and drinks.

This was supposed to happen on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, but COVID reared its ugly head and some veterans and other residents and staff got sick. Christmas Party OFF! And it was estimated that it would be late January before outsiders were allowed in the facility.

Bill La Monte, VFW event coordinator, worked with the facility manager and they coordinated that Bill would deliver the packages (dropping them off at the front desk) on Saturday Dec 30th and the staff would distribute them to the Veterans on New Year's Eve. A party for Post 10804, the Auxiliary, anyone from District 7 that wants to show and the State Jr Vice Commander (he volunteered to be part of the action as soon as he initially heard what Bill was doing) will happen once the facility is COVID free.



River Park Marketing Director Javona Stanley accepting the 13 Veteran gift bags

**A WARNING – COVID & FLU are not gone. As of Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, SC is the #2 state in the country with reported flu cases!!!**

**Don't forget – to check the State WebSite and calendar for upcoming events/activities in the state and the latest news from YOUR State Commander.**

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**Writer/Editor**

Along with being a Gold Legacy Life Member, I am a Life Member of the DAV, a member of the Air Force Association. I subscribe to the VA mailing list for important things happening in the VA, and I subscribe to the American Legion Magazine and the Vietnam Veterans (VVA Magazine) newsletter. I also research other VFW State Newsletters looking for good things for SC veterans. All in an effort to bring you, the SC VFW member, the most current, accurate veteran information possible.

**Don't know who your County VA Claims Officer is? Well, here you go -**

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