



# Department of South Carolina *SENTINEL*



An official publication of the Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars

February to April 2021  
& April 2021 CofA

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The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.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

**The elections are almost over. 2022 leadership will soon be selected at the District & Post levels. Department elections at the June Convention. There’s lots to be done! So where do you start? Hopefully with training for your elected officers. Then, it’s what do we need to do to meet VFW standards? A good place to start is to review the Dashboard/Report Card and find those items that need to be tackled first. Another good guide is the Post/District yearly Inspection Form. Last, but not least, is the Commander’s Handbook or Guide. Most things pertinent to posts in SC success is in this book.**

**Remember; It is you, the members of the VFW, that make the VFW the outstanding veteran support organization that it is. Go out there and make 2022 a banner year for your State, District & Post!**

### **COMMANDER’S CALL – Ted Tufts II**

Comrades,

The year is almost to the end, and we are flying along with awards and membership.

In the last newsletter I put out a challenge to District and Post QM/ADJ making the membership goal for State each month.

I am further challenging each District and Post who are not yet 100% +2. Each District and Post are competing in categories based on their membership.

10-150 Members  
151-400 Members  
400+ Members

District and Posts reaching 100%+2 in their category by June 1<sup>st</sup> will be entered into a drawing for \$325. Winners will be drawn on June 1<sup>st</sup> and announced at the CofA on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Post 9509 for reaching the goal of 15 Legacy Life Members and receiving the Legacy Life membership award. Great work to the post and all members.

Thank you to all the members of the Department of South Carolina for all you done this year. COVID has put a stop to many things we do this year. Most importantly it has stopped us from gathering and spending social time with one another. This has been hard, but we have weathered the storm and made it through. The bad times are almost behind us, and the way ahead is getting brighter. Now is the time to start pressing for the end of our year and looking forward to next year. We will be able to brag about something new members coming up behind us cannot – We made it through the worst year ever and came out on TOP. Working together we all will be winners and continue to show South Carolina is a department to be reckoned with.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention June 3-6 in Columbia and those going at the National Convention in July.

The year's not over yet so lets all continue to "Talk it UP!"

#### **From the Desk of the Department Quartermaster – Jim Fox**

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January I have been training the Assistant Department Quartermaster for the position as I will be moving on to the Department Jr. Vice-Commander, if I am elected. We have been very busy in keeping the financials in order and strong for the Department.

The posts overall have been very cooperative with turning their Trustee reports and all other required documents. QM and Trustee training will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. You may come in person or via ZOOM link. The ZOOM link will be sent out approximately 2 weeks before the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

I would like to thank all the Department Comrades for their cooperation during my two years as QM.

**I would appreciate your vote as I seek the Department Jr. Vice Commander position. THANKS!**

#### **QUILTS of VALOR FOUNDATION and YOUR POST**

Quilts of Valor is an organization that provides a healing-quilt (free of charge) to any veteran who served during a conflict. Notice, I did NOT say you had to serve in the conflict. Any veteran, honorably discharged, or still active, can receive a quilt. A veteran can be nominated by anyone, including him or herself. **To be nominated, go to QOVF.org**

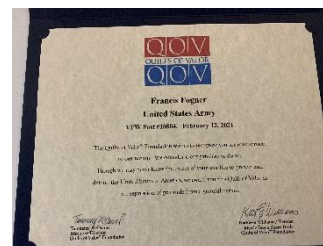
Quilts are made by volunteers and take upwards of 100 hours to make at a cost of about \$200. If you want to help in any way? Make quilts ([qovvf.org/whos-in-my-area](http://qovvf.org/whos-in-my-area)), donate quilting material, donate funds, ([qovvf.org/donate/](http://qovvf.org/donate/)) become a member of QofVF ([qovvf.org/membership](http://qovvf.org/membership)). One of our post members is a volunteer event coordinator for our local QofVF.

Need something to do in your post that is beneficial to the members of your post and area veterans. Might I suggest you partner with a Quilts of Valor chapter in your area and invite them to use your facility for a monthly quilt presentation ceremony to deserving veterans, who may or may not be members of the VFW or your post.

Our Post (10804) has partnered with the local Quilts of Valor organization for at least the first five months of 2021. In January & February our post held QofVF presentation ceremonies and at each ceremony eight (8) veterans received a quilt specifically made for them. In January, all the recipients were post members, but in February, only three of the eight were post members. The other five were area veterans not eligible to be a VFW member.



*Quilts of Valor*



Post 10804 QofV presentations take place immediately after our monthly business meeting. The post Auxiliary provides a free lunch to all attendees (a donation jar is made available for anyone so inclined). Even our local Girl Scout Troop (picture 3) gets involved with our QofVF events.

Post 10624 in Mount Pleasant also does QofV

Post 10624 hosted a beautiful Quilts of Valor ceremony March 26<sup>th</sup> where 11 veterans were presented with their very own hand-made quilt by the All-Saints Quilters of All Saints Lutheran Church. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with healing and comforting Quilts of Valor. Quilts of Valor says, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice" and "Welcome home!"





POST 10624 Quilts of Valor Ceremony

**\*\*\*For all you newly elected and pre-existing commanders, senior officers and committee chairpersons** – A committee chairperson, when asked to provide an input for the previous edition of the SENTINEL Newsletter, related to me that she often forgot that it was necessary for the VFW to ADVERTISE their good deeds!

I ask you all to tell me. Do you know of any product (food items, household furnishings, anything) or item that you own, or see that someone else owns, that is not ADVERTISED to the world in some shape or form (TV, news media, billboards, etc)? How many of you have purchased an item because you saw it ADVERTISED somewhere? The VFW' S #1 competitor for veteran membership, the DAV has advertising billboards along almost every Interstate in the country.

So, just how do you ADVERTISE for your post? EVERYTIME you do something out in the public, you are ADVERTISING. Every time you put on a post function that invites non-members, you are ADVERTISING. Every time you get a post sponsored/held event published in the media, you are ADVERTISING! And every time you recognize the accomplishments of a post member to the public, you are ADVERTISING. Every member that goes out and tries to recruit a new member, is ADVERTISING!

\*\*Next time you have a new member join. Ask them, what made them join? How did you hear about us?



Between in-house visits and meetings by ZOOM. Commander Tufts has been trying to get the word out and in-return, hear what post officers and post members have to say, or find out what their concerns are. He is doing this with District Roundtable get-togethers. Here he is discussing VFW issues with members of District 7 during a February meeting. Contributing to the Roundtable was Department Sr. Vice-Commander Hora and Deputy Quartermaster Calvert. This meeting was attended by 20 D-7 members.

*Want to leave something to the VFW after you leave 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.

**WOMEN IN THE MILITARY/VETERANS** – Did you know that women make up approximately 16% of today’s military. That they comprise about 10% of the nation’s 17 million veterans. However, the female attrition rate (departure prior to retirement eligibility) is 28% higher than their male counter-parts. Most leaving around the sixth (6) year of their service.

**NOTE:** According to the GAO. DoD has identified female recruitment and retention as important to diversity in the military. But, the services do not have plans that include goals, performance measures, and timeframes to guide and monitor current or future efforts to recruit and retain females.



Pictures 1 & 2 are of the new VA Clinic in N. Charleston (Rivers Rd) which will be open this July  
Picture 3 is of the new Myrtle Beach VA Clinic which opened on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER – ARLINGTON:** Did you know the Tomb representing Vietnam is empty? It previously housed a Vietnam veteran. In 1998, DoD identified those remains as of an Air Force pilot shot down over An Loc Vietnam in 1972. Those remains were turned over to the deceased veteran’s family. The Tomb remains empty today for all the missing troops of the Vietnam War.  
COURTESY: VFW Magazine

**How did those road center-lines get there?** – After almost being killed by a truck driving opposite direction on her side of the road. Dr. June McCarroll, in 1917, went to the Riverside, CA Board of Supervisors with an idea to paint a **CENTER-LINE STRIPE** down the center of the road so that vehicles traveling different directions stayed on “their side of the road”. The board rejected her idea. So she went out on her own and painted the stripe on what is now known in Riverside as Indio Blvd. In 1924, California became the first state to have mandatory center-lines. Part of Interstate-10 is now known as the Dr. June Mc Carroll Memorial Freeway.

**Do you veterans, especially women, know what the “Deborah Sampson Act” is (SB 514/H.R. 3224)? – In a nut-shell** - It is a Bill aimed at enhancing health care programs and services for women veterans and improving VA access. Specifically; the legislation mandates the creation of the Office of Women’s Health within the VA, requires the establishment of a comprehensive VA policy to end sexual harassment and assault in VA facilities. Dedicates \$20 million to retrofit VA medical facilities with appropriate spaces for women veterans. Additionally; the bill will expand treatment and counseling for sexual trauma, authorize child care and legal services for certain veterans, and require improvement to the VA’S Women Veterans Call Center.

**Info courtesy of DAV Magazine**

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**VA establishes “single-access” point for veterans to reach all VA contact centers** – *The consolidated phone number is 1-800-6982411. It is a 24/7/365 phone number to serve veterans, their families, care givers and survivors. The number provides information on:*

*\*COVID-19 updates*

*\*Health care eligibility and enrollment*

*\*VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home-loans, and burial and headstones and markers*

*\*The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to veterans; VA medical center operational updates, and connection to VA medical center operators.*

*\*Directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov*

*\*Debt and payment options.*

***Don’t want to listen to the options? You can push 0*** to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer your questions.

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### **Legacy Life Membership**

Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members. Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today’s veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

You may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member to help future generations know and remember their sacrifice and contributions

## VFW LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

### MEMBER INCENTIVES

	BRONZE \$400	SILVER \$800	GOLD \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card			
Lapel Pin			
Hat Pin			
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members			
Framed Legacy Certificate			
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program			
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters			
Special Legacy Life Plaque			
Hat Patch			
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza			
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

\* does not apply to Memorial Life Legacy Membership

**#StillServing** – Are you, or do you know of a military member/veteran, doing good things for the community? If so, the VFW wants to hear from you and what you are doing. Just go to VFW.org, scroll over to the COMMUNITY Column, use the drop-down and go to #stillserving and sign up and tell your story. If what you're doing is good enough. You will see you in a future edition of #stillserving. P.S. I was featured in a February edition for my work in collecting food for the VA Clinic's curbside-delivery program.

**Have you talked** – To someone recently who claims to be a veteran of the Vietnam War (in country)? Are you aware that there is a 66% chance that person you are talking too never served in Vietnam and possibly never served in the military. There are less than 3 million of us that actually served in country, but, to this day, there are over **THREE TIMES** as many that claim to be Vietnam vets, that are not!

**It is a new year and time for your post to start your working towards being All-American or All-State. Hopefully; this is one of the objectives of your post leadership and your post.** To be an **All American Post**, your post has to finish as one of the top 25 posts in it's **Division**.



Top 25, what is he talking about?

Along with Departments, The VFW is broken down into **11 DIVISIONS**. Each Division has a maximum number of members belonging to a **Post**. That **Post breakdown membership number** goes like this:

- \***Division 1** – Posts with more than **951** members – **35** posts
  - \***Division 2** - Posts with less than **950** members - **48** posts
  - \***Division 3** - Posts with less than **749** members - **402** posts
  - \***Division 4** - Posts with less than **355** members - **479** posts
  - \***Division 5** - Posts with less than **245** members - **542** posts
  - \***Division 6** - Posts with less than **185** members - **594** posts
  - \***Division 7** - Posts with less than **143** members - **633** posts
  - \***Division 8** - Posts with less than **112** members - **645** posts
  - \***Division 9** - Posts with less than **88** members - **658** posts
  - \***Division 10** - Posts with less than **68** members - **675** posts
  - \***Division 11** - Posts with less than **51** members - **1,309** posts
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#### **Myrtle Beach VA Clinic briefs Post 10804 & Auxiliary on new clinic opening April 13th**



Picture 1: Some of the 52 Post & Auxiliary members who participated in the VA Clinic briefing by Candy Anderson (Candy top right in red)



Picture 2: VFW Post 10804 Commander Kevin Rorer, VFW Post 10804 Auxiliary President Debbie Hartleroad, SCVFW VAVS representative to the VA Clinic Bill La Monte, Myrtle Beach VA Clinic Volunteer Services Coordinator Candy Anderson, SC VFW Auxiliary State President Cathey Farley



Picture 3: More of the Post & Auxiliary members attending the briefing

**NOTE:** Since the new MB VA Clinic was opening on April 13<sup>th</sup> and the Clinic was unable to hold a grand-opening due to COVID restrictions. Bill & Candy coordinated a VA Clinic briefing at the post so the post could get first-hand information on what services would be provided by the new clinic.

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**Veteran owned/operated small businesses** – Small businesses are the life-blood of the American retail sales industry. Across the country there are thousands of ‘veteran owned’ small businesses. Have you ever thought of starting your own business? The Chamber of Commerce has **six recommendations** for things you need to start a small business. They are:

\***You need an idea and a market.** Is your idea marketable in your planned sales area? Selling snowmobiles in Myrtle Beach might not be a good fit.

\***Have a Business Plan.** Most small businesses that fail within in the first year do so because of a poor business plan or incompetence.

**\*Financing.** Most (77%) small business start-ups are independently funded by the business owner. It might be a good idea to look at investors or small business loans.

**\*Social Media Presence.** In today's business world it is essential to make use of every type social media available. It is also the least expensive way to get your word out.

**\*An email list.** Start immediately to create an email list of individuals and businesses that might be able to help you. Create an email mailing list to promote your product.

**\*Support.** Build a support base that understands your need to commit to your business and that you won't be as free and accessible as in the past. Start associating with like-minded individuals and owners.

**NOTE: Thinking about doing this? Start with your local Chamber of Commerce.**

**Are you aware –** That of the 2.7 million of us that actually served on the ground in Vietnam? That as of February, there are only 610,000 of us left. There are other numbers for those that served in the Navy (patrolling off shore or delivering supplies), in the Air Force at other bases (where they flew to Vietnam to deliver ordinance on a target, or fly in everything possible to support the mission). Oldest being 83/84, youngest about 63/64 years old. (based on being a minimum of 18 at time of service in Vietnam).

*Compare this to the fact that it is estimated that there are less than 300,000 WWII veterans left out of 16 million that served during that war. The youngest age today being 93.*

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**It is a fact -** That at the start of this pandemic. When people were losing jobs or having their work-hours reduced. **FOUR** of every 10 households could not afford to handle an unexpected expense as little as \$400! The repercussions of this pandemic are going to be around for the foreseeable future. Have you taken steps to not be one of those 4 out of 10 in the immediate future?

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**Did you know there is now a National Museum for the U.S. Army? –** It opened this past November 11<sup>th</sup> and is located in Fort Belvoir, VA. It honors the **30 million** men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775. The \$200 million venue was funded by private groups, businesses and organization and the public. It houses artifacts, documents and weapons never before seen by the public.

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**Do you know where the majority of your 'generic' drugs comes from? –** 10% (and rapidly growing) of all Generic Drugs sold in America comes from China – That country that gave us COVID! Those drugs include antidepressants, chemotherapies for cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's and epilepsy.

China is aiming to become the world's pharmacy and unless the U.S. does something to stop it, things like **July 2018 where 31,000 Active Duty U.S. military personnel, veterans and their families** were among millions of Americans notified that they bought Chinese made blood pressure medicine containing a carcinogen once used to make rocket fuel.

Sounds like a good subject for a letter to your Congressman, urging U.S. production only, is a good start.

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**The invasion of Japan in 1945** – Included a battle plan that would have involved as many as 42 aircraft carriers.

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**Hello Marines** – Are you aware that the Marines have opened their first new Marine Base since 1952. It is called **Camp Blaz** and is located on the island of **Guam**. It will be home to 1,300 Marines with another 3,500 rotating through for various weapons training.

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**Afghanistan War Veterans** – Are you a veteran of the in-country Afghanistan War? If so, VFW Magazine would like to hear from you. They are looking for veterans who served in Afghanistan since October 2001. They want to hear your story.

They are really interested in **Your initial thoughts upon arrival in Afghanistan and your most vivid memory from there**. Send your name, VFW Post, unit in the war zone, location in the war zone and dates in the war zone to: [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)

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**Need a haircut? Get it at SPORT CLIPS!** – This year Sport Clips donated over \$1 million to their “Help a Hero” scholarship program in which they help the VFW provide scholarships to veterans. During their seven year affiliation with the VFW, Sport Clips has donated over \$8.7 million worth of scholarships to more than 1,900 veterans and active duty troops. This past Veterans Day, Sport Clips donated \$60,000 by way of a \$1.00 donation from every veteran who got a haircut that day. **THANK YOU SPORT CLIPS!!!** To find out more you can go to [www.SportClips.com/hero](http://www.SportClips.com/hero), or [www.fvw.org/scholarship](http://www.fvw.org/scholarship)

**\*\*\*\*Hall of Fame Recruiters** – Did you know the VFW had such a thing? It wasn't until 2003 that the VFW started keeping track of members recruiting new members. As of right now, there are 36 VFW members who have recruited **MORE THAN 1,000 new members each!** The top three recruiters have each recruited **OVER 3,000 members each**, with #1 having recruited **3,927!**

Want to know their not so secret, secrets? Check out the April 2021 VFW Magazine.

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**Important upcoming dates:**

- \***April 23** – Cutoff date for Post Community Service Award nominations
- \***April 24** – District Conventions and election for Districts 2, 6, 7
- \***May 8** – Department Quartermaster/Trustee Workshop and District 5 Convention & elections
- \***May 22** – District 1 Convention & elections
- \***June 3-6** – **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION with ELECTIONS on the 6<sup>th</sup>.**
- \***July 17/18** – Department School of Instruction, Columbia
- \***November 17/21** – Southern Conference

**Along with the above dates. There are three dates for great “Americanism” projects. What is YOUR Post/Auxiliary doing? They are:**

**May 1** – Loyalty Day

**May 15** – Armed Forces Day

**MAY 31** – Memorial Day

**Comrades and Auxiliary. Please make every effort to attend these upcoming District & Department Conventions. While you're there, think about throwing your hat in the ring and run for an office and help lead YOUR VFW in 2022.**

Can't be there in person, but still want to serve. All you need to do is send a signed letter to your District or Department Adjutant stating your interest in running for an office. The Adjutant will place your name in nomination when that position you are seeking comes up for nominees. If you will accept any position nominated for, so state that in your letter. It's that simple.

**GRAND OPENING – New Myrtle Beach VA Clinic – Effective April 13<sup>th</sup>,**  
*the new MB VA Clinic was opened to accommodate the many veterans in the area. The old Clinic & Annex are now permanently closed!*

The new clinic is expanded to handle a greater number of Physical Therapy patients, MRI's (by way of a regularly scheduled mobile unit), Cardiology, Pulmonary and all the clinics previously housed in the other two buildings. They have hired one more Primary Care doctor with plans to hire up to 7 more.

**NOTE:** For those veterans under the VA's Community Care system. The VA has NO immediate plans to require you to start using in-house (the new VA Clinic) VA medical treatment. Those receiving care through civilian medical/dental offices, can continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

If you have any questions, you can call the VA Patient Advocate office at 843-232-2406

**For those in the North Charleston VA system. Their new clinic should be opening in July!**

**Post Commanders** – Are you aware that you are REQUIRED to have a 'public' memorial service for your post's departed comrades at least once a year? This can be done in-conjunction-with a 'public meeting' or 'special ceremony' (like a Memorial Day service event). *Manual of Procedure, Page 2, General Rule 8.*

**Saluting** – For all you newer members – When attending a post meeting or special meeting and you wish to address the commander or presiding officer. You stand and render a military salute to that person.  
*Manual of Procedure, Page 2, General Rule 11.*

**New Member Obligation** – When your post accepts a new member, that new member takes on an obligation to him/herself, their post and the VFW. They do this in the form of taking an oath called – **Member's Obligation!**

In the presence of Almighty God – and the members of this order here assembled—I (person's name) do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance - to the Constitution of the United States of America – and I will always be loyal thereto.

I do further solemnly promise and declare- that I will comply with the Congressional Charter-ByLaws and Ritual of this order – and I will always be loyal thereto – that I will never wrong or defraud this organization – nor a member thereof – nor permit any wrong to be done to either – if in my power to prevent it.

I will never propose for membership – any person not eligible- nor one I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone – not authorized to receive it – any of the work of this order.

Should my affiliation – with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States – cease in any way – I will consider this pledge – as binding outside the order – as though I had remained a member of same.

All this I promise and pledge – upon the honor of a true comrade – and a citizen or natural of our great republic

**Speaking of Membership** – The “Member at Large” membership application has no place to require validation of a veterans eligibility to join the VFW (no DD 214 requirement). When a ‘member-at-large’ wants to join your post. It is the ADJUTANT’S responsibility to validate the proof of eligibility of that person. NOT just accept their VFW ‘at large’ membership card as proof of eligibility.

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**Holding Office at the Department, District or Post level** – When a person is elected or appointed to an office. That person is required to provide proof of VFW eligibility (DD 214 or other acceptable document) to the respective Adjutant. Should that person not have provided immediate proof. That person has 30 days, from date of being elected/appointed, to provide required proof. Should that person not provide required proof. That person’s right to hold office SHALL be forfeited and that person’s VFW eligibility shall be called into question.

*Manual of Procedure, ARTICLE VI, National, Section 616*

### **Council of Administration Highlights**

On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Department held a Council of Administration meeting at Department headquarters. The Auxiliary also held their meeting at the same time. There were 56 members present, with another nine (9) participating by way of ZOOM.

There was a special guest in attendance. Al Lippart, Past Commander of Georgia and his Aide Jeff Carroll. Besides attending the meeting, Comrade Lippart requested the Department’s support for his candidacy for National Jr Vice-Commander in Chief.

The day started off with a joint-meeting. The purpose being the Auxiliary, specifically the Auxiliary of Post 2889 and their SC Rider’s, presenting to Commander Tufts a check for over \$2,900 that will be used to support the SCVFW sponsored Home at the National Home for Children.

Prior to the start of the CofA. Sr. Vice Dwight Hora gave a presentation on “Delegates”. How/when they are elected, their responsibilities and Post & District responsibilities and costs.

Keeping up with this year’s COVID issues and guidelines. This meeting was abbreviated (to reduce exposures) like the past state meetings to briefings by certain CofA members only. District Commander’s and Committee Chairpersons submitted written reports to the Department Commander.

### **Highlights of CofA**

**\*\*\*Along with the Department CofA presenters, National Inspector General - Richard Bell, National Council – Augustus Singleton and National Legislative Chairman – Dentist Harvin reported on national issues of interest**



**NOTE:** If you want to keep up with what is happening in politics that concerns the VFW, you should sign-up to receive **VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY**.

\*\*\*There will be a School of Instruction for newly elected/appointed officers at all levels, on July 17/18 in Columbia. This will be a joint school including the Auxiliary.

**NOTE:** You do not have to be an elected/appointed officer to attend this training. If you are interested in just learning more about how leadership works. You can sign up for this training.

\*The new Department Veteran Service Officer has been hired and he will start his duties in May.

\*There was a proposal to raise the hourly salary of the Assistant VSO and the Department Secretary. This motion was DEFEATED.

\*Quartermaster Jim Fox advised of QM/Trustee training on May at Department HQ. It is recommended all in these positions, attend the training. This training is OPEN to anyone who wants to learn about Quartermaster or Trustee duties and responsibilities.

\*Because of an excess of funds in the General Fund, a motion to move \$20,000 to the Disaster Funds was made and ACCEPTED.

\*Districts have until April 23<sup>rd</sup> to submit one Post from their District for a Community Service Award consideration.

\*The Department Commander posted a membership challenge:

Posts up to 150 members, 151-400 members, 400+ members. The top post in each category that gets to 100% +2 members BEFORE JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, will receive \$325.

\*Department elections are right around the corner. Aside from the Commander & Sr Vice positions, the following persons announced for these positions:

Jr. Vice – Jim Fox and Erik Rothering

Quartermaster – Ella Calvert

Surgeon – Bailey Bryant

**AWARDS** - As with most meetings happening in Columbia. There are always members being recognized for their contributions to the VFW, and particularly SC VFW.

#### **Recruiting**

9 members – James M. Brooks, Rusty L. Clark, Jay G. Hart, Andrew L. Stenson

8 members – Todd A. Haviland, Christine K. Rogers,

7 members – Dwight Hora, Augustus Singleton, Reden C. Woodbury

6 members – William R. Banister, James R. Beaty, Charles A. Holloway II, Gary C. Landry, David L. Miller, Erik O. Rothering, Richard G. Slonim

5 members – Ira C. Adams, Erba L. Chavis, Michael P. Mishoe, Gerald T. Pothier

**Post Special Recognition Award-** Post with most active recruiters

Post 8760 Beaufort – 11 Recruiters

**District Special Recognition Award** – District with most active recruiters

District 1 – 33 Recruiters

**Most Members Recruited for a Post by a Member**

Dennis M. Hamilton – **62 MEMBERS** – Post 3137, Isle-of-Palms

**Recruited 50 to 74 Members**

Dennis M. Hamilton – 62 members

**Recruited 15 to 24 Members**

Gregory J. Miller, Jr. – 23 members

John Penman – 21 members

**Recruited 10 to 14 Members**

Edward A. Mura – 12 members

Hugh Gunter Jr. – 10 members

## **National Commander-In-Chief Award for Achieving 108% in Membership**

**++++++POST 10420, Murrells Inlet (District 7) ++++++**

Chaplain Fowler led a collection for a member who had serious house repair problems. At this writing the members donated over \$325

**Sights around the April 10 CofA –** Also, there were many who earned recognition/awards but were not present to receive their recognition. Pictured below are this events presenters and those accepting awards for themselves or others not in attendance.



Joint session with presentation of Post 2889 check to the Department



Sr. Vice Hora briefing "Delegates" and your Executive Leadership  
Commander Tufts introducing CofA presenters and membership award winners





**Department Convention – June 4-6:** Commander Tufts encourages all Posts to make a maximum effort in getting members to attend the convention. It is a great way to see YOUR state VFW in action and for you to connect with others with similar interests and make friends along the way.

**ONE LAST THING –** Under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 (NDAA)(HR 6395). Three new presumptive conditions for those veterans who have served in those areas exposed to herbicides. The specific conditions added to the list are; **Bladder Cancer**, **Hypothyroidism** and **Parkinsonian** type disorders.

If a veteran filed any of these conditions in the past and were denied, there is a possibility to take a new look at these denied claims from before. If a veteran is now diagnosed with any of these conditions and has not filed a claim. **You are encouraged to do so.**

**However;** The Department of Veterans Affairs is **NOT** actively working those claims just yet. There needs to be further guidance from the VA'S Office of Field Operations. Currently, if a claim is submitted for any of these three new conditions, the VA will simply defer it and then begin the work on it once they get the green light. As of this writing, the VA is not actively working these claims.

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**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

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South Carolina