

# Department of South Carolina

# *SENTINEL*

## Department Modified Convention June 2020



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

**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. Communications carriers have 18 months to implement the system. It is NOT operational right now! The Senate has passed the bill and it is moving forward.**

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

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

**COMMANDER’S CALL -**

First I would like to thank everyone that has helped support the Dept. of SC over the past two years. It has been an honor serving, as first your Acting Commander, then as your Commander. We all pulled together as a team and without everyone’s support we could not have done so. I hope the new Commander Ted Tufts and his staff has a fantastic year. As Immediate Past State commander I will always be around if needed.

Robert Holsclaw, Immediate Past State Commander, SC



**Meet YOUR Department Commander for 2020-2021 – Edwin A. “Ted” Tufts:**

Edwin A. "Ted" Tufts II enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1975 and served 21 years as an aircraft loadmaster on the C-141A/B Starlifter assigned to Charleston AFB.

During his service, he deployed in support of several campaigns to include Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Southwest Asia. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. He retired in 1996 with over 6000 hours of flight time.

After his military retirement, Ted was employed at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in technical support and is currently retired after 23 years working at the Medical University of South Carolina as a Systems Analyst.

Ted joined VFW Post 3433 in 2007 and has served in numerous positions at the Post and District level. He is a 2013-2014, 2014-2015 All State Team Commander and a 2016-2017 All State Captain / All American District Commander. He has served in numerous positions in the Department of South Carolina and District 1 such as Buddy Poppy Chairman, 3 years as Department Teachers' Award Chairman, 5 years as District 1 Patriot Pen Chairman and National-Aide-De-camp – 2015-2016, 2016-2017.

His VFW awards include the Samuel U. Roach (Outstanding District Commander) Award winner 2017, Post 3433 Communications Award winner 6 years and District 1 Communications Award winner 2017.

Ted is a Gold Legacy Life member of the VFW, and is a life member of the VFW National Home for Children, Military Order of the Cootie and member of the American Legion Post 166. He and his wife Beth, who is past Auxiliary president of Post 3433 and three time District 1 President, and currently the Department VFWA Jr. Vice President reside in North Charleston, SC.

### **From the desk of Commander Tufts**

Comrades,

First and foremost, let me say I am humbled beyond belief to be elected your Department Commander for the upcoming year. Thank You!

We have a terrific organization and I will try to lead to the best of my ability, but I can't do it alone. Whether you are an old hand or a newly elected officer I need everybody on the team helping the Department reach our goals and objectives.

My theme for this year is "Talk it UP!" The elected officers are the leaders, but the members are the backbone of the organization. We must keep everyone informed of our goals.

Communication is the key and poor communication leads to failure. I ask each member of Council of Administration to take the lead communicating information to their fellow comrades. I ask each District Commander to ensure the Post leadership in your district has the most up to date information available. I ask each Post Commander to brief and post information received to their membership at each meeting. I ask all Commanders at every level to communicate their needs to the Department officers so they can help you achieve your goals.

We must sometimes be reminded that this is an organization of volunteers. We must also never forget to thank them — a simple handshake and/or acknowledgement during a Post meeting is worth its weight in gold.

By communicating our values and core programs every chance we get we are increasing the public's awareness of the VFW mission and what we stand for.

Working together, we will make this year a "Great Year" so let us all get out there and "Talk it UP!"

Yours in Comradeship - Ted



**Past National Commander-In-Chief John Gwizdak swearing in the 2020-2021 team!**

### **The 2020-2021 Team:**

Commander – **TED TUFTS**, Sr. Vice-Commander – **DWIGHT HORA**, Jr. Vice Commander – **ED STEFANAK Jr.**, Quartermaster – **JAMES FOX**, Chaplain – **WILTON FOWLER**, Judge Advocate – **PAUL LYLES**, Surgeon – **KURT DOUGLASS**, Chief of Staff – **BETTY HILLIARD**, Administration – **KATE BROCK**

**NOTE:** District Commanders, National Representatives and Committee Chairpersons can be found in the “Commander’s Handbook”

To the Comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Carolina.

I want to thank you for your support and confidence in me to be your Sr. Vice Commander this year. I am humbled that you have selected me to continue to help guide and build this department.

I ask that you focus this year on what the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is. With that idea I know there is always talk about canteen business and the challenges of having a canteen and running that business. We are blessed to have these canteens involved with our VFW Posts and these canteens give us many opportunities to build camaraderie and assist with our events that we hold to promote our programs and support to our communities. Please use these assets to promote and assist in building our programs by using the canteens to have all your functions involved at your canteens.

We are going to have another great year in South Carolina. With our Commander, Edwin Tufts leading us, we are going to go beyond what is expected with your help. Remember to “Talk it Up” about the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Commander and I have talked many times about his moto, and we need to work at getting the word out about what we do.

I wish you all a great year and I look forward to seeing you around South Carolina and at the events that we have planned. God Bless the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Dwight Hora  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of South Carolina

**Special Thanks to Greater Aiken Post 10601 (District 9) for the following:  
(It was in their Post Newsletter)**

South Carolina Veteran Demographics:

Veteran Population – 363,194 (9.2% of adult population)  
Vietnam War Veterans – 136,178 (37.5% of U.S., 18<sup>th</sup> highest population)  
Veterans with Disabilities – 102,233 (28.5% of U.S.)  
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate – 76% (19<sup>th</sup> lowest in country)  
Veterans Living in Poverty – 8.5% (4<sup>th</sup> highest in country)  
Estimated Number of Homeless veterans – 415

**VFW Auxiliary and You:** - As a member of the VFW, your relatives are eligible to join the 470,000+ members of the Auxiliary. Post Auxiliary membership dues vary according Post Auxiliary membership requirements. If your Post does not have an Auxiliary, your family can join as a Member at Large. That is a national membership and the dues are \$50 per year. Most Post Auxiliary membership is \$40.00 per year.

There are a few different rules that apply in regards to whether you join as a Post member or National Member at Large. You can find the difference at the VFW Auxiliary web sites I have listed below.

**Family members eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary:**

Husband, father, brother, son, grandfather, grandson, wife, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter.

Also; Step and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as if they were all biologically related.

Even if the VFW member has passed-on. All of these people are still eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary in his/her name. All you need is their DD 214.

To find out more about the auxiliary, you can contact your local VFW Post Auxiliary, or the VFW at email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org), or you can call 816-561-8655, or visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).

**Here's a thought** – Are you stuck trying to find a birthday, anniversary, graduation, special celebration item for a member of your family? Buy them a VFW Auxiliary membership! Minimum age for Auxiliary membership is 16.

**Meet YOUR Auxiliary President - Cathey Farley**



**Cathey Farley** - Life Member, since 2003, of VFW Auxiliary 10804, N Myrtle Beach, SC was installed on Sunday, June 7, 2020 as the President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary for the Department of South Carolina. Cathey's eligibility is through her husband, Major Daniel J Farley, an artillery officer during the Vietnam War. The Farley's have 3 sons and one daughter. Her oldest son, Colonel Greg Farley is currently the commander of the National Guard McCrady Training Center at Fort Jackson, SC and also is a life member of VFW Post 1845, Simpsonville, SC, eligible from his service in Afghanistan. Her sons, Daniel and Brendan, and daughter Katherine are all life members of VFW Auxiliary 10804, N Myrtle Beach, SC.

Cathey taught children with disabilities prior to retiring to Little River, SC and becoming active in the VFW Auxiliary. Cathey served Auxiliary 10804 as Senior Vice President 2013-14, Auxiliary President 2014-15, and Auxiliary Treasurer 2017-18. District 7 Secretary 201-12, District 7 President 2013-14 before making a commitment to the Department of SC. For the past 6 years she has held the position of: Department Guard 2015-16,  
Department Conductress 2016-17,  
Department Chaplain 2017-18,  
Department Junior Vice President 2018-19  
Senior Vice President 2019-20.

While serving as a Department Officer, Cathey also served as:

Department Chief of Staff 2012-13, receiving the National award for Outstanding Chief of Staff in Gr 3;

Department Program Chairman for Cancer Aid & Research 2013-14, winning National recognition as Outstanding Cancer Aid & Research Program Chairman for Gr 3;

Department Program Chairman for Veterans & Family Support 2014-15, receiving National recognition for the Outstanding Program Chairman for Veterans and Family Support Gr 3;

Department Membership Chairman 2015-16, receiving National recognition as Outstanding Membership Chairman for Gr 3;

Department Scholarship Chairman 2016-17, receiving National recognition as outstanding Scholarship Chairman Gr 3;

Department Youth Activities Chairman 2017-18, receiving National recognition as outstanding Youth Chairman Gr 3, and Outstanding Program Promotion for Youth Activities;

Department Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman 2018-19, receiving recognition as Outstanding Program Chairman for Buddy Poppy/National Home Gr 3 and Outstanding Program Promotion for Buddy Poppy/National Home;

And a National award for Outstanding Community Outreach 2018-19.

Cathey believes in our military and our veterans. She has worked diligently to help them and their families through various VFW and Auxiliary Programs. She is now prepared to commit to serve the VFW Auxiliary for the Department of SC to the best of her ability; honoring our Nation's veterans by serving those who served us.

## **My thoughts on YOUR Auxiliary for 2020-2021 - Cathey**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

June 2020

We are united *In Service to Veterans!* This is what bonds us together!



As I begin my year as your Department President and a new year that will bring changes, I ask for your support and patience.

Maya Angelou said, "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." Simply put, Angelou said that over time as you learn more, inevitably, you will become more skilled at your tasks. Life is a learning process; we never stand still. This year I want to add new programs and combine some existing programs; make communication between Chairmen, Auxiliary Presidents, District Presidents and the Department more accessible; make our meetings educational, interactive, entertaining and rewarding; and grow the Department of South Carolina.

My goal for the year is to do everything I can to ensure **your** success. Success is never an accident. It is always the result of being the very best you can be! I believe by working together and sharing information, success for everyone is attainable. Bouncing thoughts off each other is a great way to turn a good idea into a great idea! Keeping an open mind is key because the best ideas are born out of collaboration.

SWAP (**S**haring **W**ith **A** Purpose) will be essential.

Take as an example the benefits of previous years and apply them to this coming year. Take advantage of all opportunities available to you. Work together as a team, share information and support each other.

And always remember to ***"Never underestimate the difference YOU can make in the lives of others"***

I am excited to get started. I am committed to success. I will always only be a phone call away to serve you, 843-447-0340.

Sincerely,

**Cathey Farley, SC Department President 20-21**  
**In Service to Veterans**



**YOUR 2020 – 2021 Auxiliary Team**

**VA SUSPENDS SOME COLLEGES FROM NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT** - On March 9, 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) notified the University of Phoenix, Colorado

Technical University, American InterContinental University, Bellevue University, and Temple University of VA's intent to suspend benefits for the enrollment of new students. VA has concluded there is sufficient evidence to support a finding that these schools have utilized advertising, sales, or enrollment practices which are erroneous, deceptive, or misleading either by actual statement, omission, or intimation in violation of the law.

This decision only applies to new GI Bill students, and to the extent allowable under current law, the department will afford current students at these institutions the opportunity to continue their programs of study, provided they have maintained continuous enrollment. See [VA's News Release](#) for more information.

Please give us a call at our call center - 888-442-4551, or [submit a question](#), if you need further information.

**Elected Officers and Current Dues Issues** – If the Department, District or Post has an elected officer whose membership dues become due before the end of their elected term. That person is supposed to be removed from office (after their dues expire) and a notice of a 'special election' made to the membership to fill the vacant position. Once that person becomes a member in good standing again (dues paid). That person is still not allowed to hold an elected office for the remainder of that VFW year. Sounds like a bad way to lose a good worker, and a lot of work and time consumption in doing the 'special election' notification and process.

*COMMENT: If this person is a good worker, good for the VFW and good for the elected position they hold, but they are having financial issues where they cannot keep their dues current. WHY NOT pay for that person's membership (at the Department, District or Post level) for the next year (before it expires) and keep that valuable (ALL VFW members are valuable) member in that position that they are doing good things for your VFW organization.*

**Veteran Nursing Homes in S.C.** – There are currently three 'veteran homes' in S.C. and two more are being built (one in Florence and one in Horry County). Once all five homes are in operation. They will have 738 beds. The cost of residing at one of these locations will be about \$1,200 per month (compared to the average \$3,300 per month in private facilities). The two new facilities are expected to be receiving residents around July of 2021.

To check for eligibility to reside at one of the current facilities or those under construction. You need to check with your servicing VA facility.

**Well** – I had planned for the next several pages to be the coverage of the Department Convention, presenting your officers for 2020-2021, and lots of pictures of most of the award winners (there's always some that don't show, for whatever reason, even though they are being recognized). COVID – 19 put a damper on that plan.



**Your current and immediate-past commander came up with a PLAN B which moved the Department Convention to June 28<sup>th</sup> (Auxiliary's June 27<sup>th</sup>) at Department Headquarters. With an emphasis on elections. Obviously, space was limited. So they had to look at how the state could get maximum state post participation with the limited space available.**

STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON STATE VFW OPERATIONS AND PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO ALL EMAILS/CORRESPONDENCE COMING OUT OF STATE HEADQUARTERS OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS (P.S. Everyone should ALWAYS act accordingly in regards to state emails/correspondence addressed to/concerning the membership.)

**VA Alternative Health Care** – In an effort to decrease opioid dependence within the VA patient's world. Back in 2018 the VA started a "Whole Health Flagship" program in 18 VA facilities around the country. Their purpose, to shift away from a health care system focused mainly on disease and injury treatment, to one that addresses veteran's physical, mental, spiritual and environmental needs. The program includes things like yoga, tai-chi, massage therapy, clinical hypnosis and bio-feedback. These are designed to help a veteran create a personalized health plan.

To date, the program shows a threefold reduction in opioid use among veterans with chronic pain who are using the Whole Health program. Participating patients who completed eight (8) or more whole health visits showed a 38% DECREASE in opioid dependence VS an 11% increase in opioid use from patients not on the whole health program.

Whole Health has shown significant success in helping to reduce outpatient pharmacy costs by 9% annually with those with mental health issues and 11.5% annually for those patients with chronic pain. The VA expects that by the end of 2020, veteran patients with chronic pain will be on the Whole Health program.

(Article taken from May/June issue of DAV Magazine)

**NOTE:** There are no VA facilities in S.C. certified as a "Whole Health" facility. The nearest to S.C. is in Salisbury N.C. and Atlanta GA.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DEPARTMENT?**

### **Department Quartermaster – Jim Fox**

First, I would like to thank everyone that helped me get through my rookie year as Department Quartermaster. Most forms, such as bonds, trustee reports etc can be found at VFWSC.ORG. Please submit all VMSP donations directly to the National Headquarters thru VFW.ORG. Please start renewing bonds in July for your officers and employees. There will be NO Podium Book for 2020-2021, so don't throw your current Podium Book away. Please submit your Buddy Poppy order after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember, All American requirements say you must purchase 5 poppies per post member. Always feel free to contact me anytime @ 803-201-5799 or QM@VFWSC.ORG

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT?**

**First Off; I would like to congratulate Post's 445 James Island, 3433 Summerville and 10601 Greater Aiken, along with 10804 N. Myrtle Beach for their outstanding Post Newsletters. You are doing a great job in getting the word out to your membership. Keep it up!!**

**To those District's and Post's that sent me newsletter inputs. Thank You!**

**District 4 – Jeffrey Hunter, Commander**

District 4 will continue to be committed to excellence. The district will make the necessary changes and still strive to be stronger together. We will do some events that will collectively involve the district. Also we will continue to do the things to keep the members we have and get them involved, and recruit for the future.

#### POST 6734

1. Lately, Post 6734 planned and successfully conducted a drive by Easter event distributing donations totaling \$1000.00 to community youths and parents.
2. Loyalty day we were not able to do a traditional sit in, but Post 6734 provided a \$50.00 donation to local church.

#### POST 8131

1. Commander Michael Sudik met with South Carolina State Senator Floyd Nicholson to advocate removing the income tax on military retiree pay.
2. Comrade John Penman attended the VFW 2020 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.
3. VFW Post 8131 provided over \$200.00 in cash and supplies to help the Seneca community after it was hit with a tornado.

#### **District 7 – Margo Sheridan, Commander**

##### POST 10804

In early April the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center Director contacted the Post with a need for non-perishable food items and some household cleaning items. The Post Golf League decided to do a food drive to help the center with their needs . For one (1) hour on a Saturday, they collected over \$400 in food and household items for the center. The food was delivered to the center that same day. The center then made “emergency food baskets” for distribution to those veterans in need.

The Resource Center Director came back to the Post with a follow-up request as he now had 36 veteran families requesting food assistance because of the unemployment caused by the Covid 19 Virus. The Post Auxiliary jumped on this need and held a two (2) hour food drive in which they received over \$700 in non-perishable food items and household cleaning items (including TOILET PAPER!). These items were also taken to the resource center where more food baskets were assembled and distributed. There was enough food available that the center would have a few extra food baskets for new requests.

All in all, almost 1,500 pounds of food was collected by Post 10804. Both food drives were conducted outside the post, with volunteer personnel waiting to receive the drive-up, drop-off donations. All the while complying with the Governor’s and VFW State Commander’s mask-up and ‘social-distancing’ policies.



VFW Post 10804 Food Drive

(Left to right – Ron Wilson Director Little River Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center, Post 10804 Auxiliary member Jacqui Williams, Mr. everything in SC VFW Frank Fogner, soon to be SC VFW Auxiliary President Cathey Farley, (not pictured Dana Fogner, Bill La Monte)

### **District 8- Ed Stefanak Jr.- Commander**

District 8 has had some very successful few months, even during the Covid-19 epidemic.

Since the Mid-Winter Conference District 8 has regained 1<sup>st</sup> place in membership in the state, with a great effort by Post 9539 in Spartanburg and Post 6938 in Whitmire reaching 100+% membership. I'd like to congratulate those posts and Wildcat Post 3447 in Gaffney as well as Post 9349 in Spartanburg for achieving 100+% Membership in December and the beginning of January.

I'm pleased to have served as District 8 Commander for the past 2 years. I think we have worked well as a team, adapted to many changes, fixed our weakness, and got stronger as a unit. I'd like to thank all my officers who served under me as well as many past District 8 Commanders for working hard, guiding and providing excellent leadership. I'm also happy to announce on June 28<sup>th</sup> I will be sworn in as Department Jr. Vice Commander. Thank you all for your support during my campaign. It means a lot to me to represent the Upstate and I want to be beneficial to all posts in the department as well as learning and working with all the department officers, the COA, and providing as much assistance to Ted our incoming Department Commander that I can.

Many posts in District 8 provided help to their communities as much as they could. All posts did a Memorial Day Remembrance for their local fallen comrades. I'd like to give a big shout out to Commander Caldwell from Post 9539. He led a great ceremony, got great speakers and had a wonderful post Memorial Day function while following social distancing procedures. All the other posts performed flag laying ceremonies at their local cemeteries. It was a great effort by all to have to preform ceremonies and dedications to America's fallen, especially in these times of the COVID-19 epidemic.

I'd like to congratulate all the District Officers that were elected for the 2020-2021 VFW year. Charlie Sheppard from Post 9539 will be District 8 Commander for the 2020-2021 VFW year. Congratulations Charlie, you did a wonderful job as my District QM for the last 2 years and you are going to be a very successful District Commander. His other elect officers are D8 Sr. Vice-Chad Caldwell (9539), Jr. Vice-Rick Hicks (3447), QM- Bill Calderon (9539), Chaplain- Davita Simon (9539), 3 year trustee-George Clark (6938), 2 year trustee-Ulysses Griffen (9439). I was appointed adjutant.

I'd like to thank all the district commanders for their hard work and dedication this year. I think the department as a whole did a great job, but there were a lot of things that happened this year abnormally, devastating tornados and now the Covid-19 virus, which has been disastrous for all. We all competed well and even though membership isn't quite where it should be, we can still make it. My last shout out goes to 2 people. The first one is Robbie Holsclaw, who did a tremendous job stepping in for Sully. Robbie is on his second year and has pushed hard to have a great year. Let's work together to get 100% membership for him and the department. Lastly, I'd like to thank Post 6740 and Commander Ginger Graham for putting together such a great fundraiser for our PSC John Sullivan. They worked with so many different posts and sponsors and had a great turnout of volunteers to make the fundraiser a success and getting the van that Sully needed.

**\*\***With the cancellation of so many VFW events. There is a void in what's happening within the VFW. Sr. Vice-Commander Tufts sent some pictures of one event that did happen in 2020 and that was the Legislative Conference in D.C. He also sent a couple pictures of the 2019 National

Convention and the Southern Conference. He also participated in VFW Post 3096 Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony for the only South Carolinian to make Commander in Chief – James W. Cothran.



**Calling all “Coasties”** – Did you know your Coast Guard Museum is finally going to get built starting the later part of this year. It will be in New London, CT (home of US Coast Guard Academy), will take 4 years to build at an estimated cost of \$100 million, of which \$56 million has already been procured.

#### Updates on:

**National Desert Storm War Memorial** – The ‘final concept’ was unveiled in December and the memorial will be built within the National Mall in DC. The liberated country of Kuwait has donated \$10 million to this memorial.

If you want to know more, go to: [www.ndswm.org](http://www.ndswm.org)

**Global War on Terrorism Memorial** – Congress has not yet decided on a location for this memorial. But the three locations under consideration are: Constitution Gardens, West Potomac Park, or the JFK Hockey Fields. All within the National Mall, DC.

If you want to know more, go to: [www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org](http://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org)

**National Native American Veterans Memorial** – The dedication of the creation of this memorial will take place Veteran's Day. It will be located at the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC.

If you want to know more, go to: [www.americanindian.si.edu/nnavm](http://www.americanindian.si.edu/nnavm)

**Did You Know?** That there is now a second USS Arizona Memorial located in Salt River, AZ near Scottsdale, AZ. It is a combination memorial garden and an in the water (lake) outline of the Arizona. It honors the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on the ship that fateful day.

**Do You Also Know** – That now, ANY person who earned the Medal of Honor can be buried at Arlington with full military honors. These honors include; Body bearers or pallbearers, a firing party, bugler, presentation of the US Flag and a marching military element or band. Previously, only higher ranking (E-9, CW-4 or CW-5, or O-4 or above) MOH awardees were entitled to full military honors at Arlington.

**Sadly** – 44 US Military members died overseas in 2019!

\*\*\*If you are under the age of 65 and using the Tri-Care Select program. The Government will start charging a monthly fee of \$12.50 for a single and \$25.00 for a family, starting in January 2021.

**VA Resumes In-Person C&P Examinations in Some Locations:** VA has announced that it will resume in-person compensation and pension (C&P) examinations at [20 locations](#) across the U.S. VA will continue to conduct telehealth examinations at locations where in-person exams have not yet resumed. If you live in one of the locations where in-person appointments have resumed, but you are unable to make your appointment or do not feel comfortable with an in-person C&P exam, please contact your service officer to reschedule. [Find a VFW service officer](#) near you to file a claim for [disability benefits](#).

The only VA Facility doing this in S.C. is Charleston

**DID YOU KNOW** – That the Global Positioning System (**GPS**) just passed the 25<sup>th</sup> year of being fully functional. April 27<sup>th</sup> was its anniversary date.

**Did you serve on active duty between Nov 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975?** If so, you can receive a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Pin by requesting it at: [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com).





## South Carolina Emergency Management Division

Office of the Adjutant General  
2779 Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia, S.C. 29172

### EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

It is important to keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of your family for at least three days. Assemble a Family Emergency Kit with items you may need in an emergency or evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as suitcases, duffle bags or covered storage containers.

#### Include at a minimum:

- ☐ **Water**, two gallons of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ☐ **Food**, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ **First aid kit**
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cell phone with chargers
- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ☐ Family emergency contact information
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks and change

#### Additional items to consider include:

- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Multipurpose tool
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- ☐ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

#### Water:

- ☐ Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles or plastic milk jugs. Avoid using containers that will break, such as glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more.
- ☐ Store two gallons of water per person per day (one gallon for drinking, one gallon for food preparation/sanitation)
- ☐ Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household.

scemd.org



## SUGGESTIONS & REMINDERS

- \*CASH – It is best if you have a supply of \$1 & \$5 bills, or \$10 or \$20 Traveler Checks. If power goes out, stores will not be able to take a credit card or travelers checks because electronics are out and they won't have a large supply of cash to make change. You'll need cash for gas, if available.
- \*Store your Emergency Kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Its always a good ide to keep a smaller version of the kit in your vehicle ALL the time.
- \*Keep items in air-tight plastic bags
- \*Change your stored water supply every 6 months
- \*Rotate your stored food every 6 months
- \*Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS? Go To: [scemd.org](http://scemd.org)**

## **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN A NUT-SHELL – The COVID Convention**

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the regularly scheduled convention was cancelled and a make-shift one-day convention took its place.

- \*Only 64 members attended the June 28<sup>th</sup> convention.
- \*SADLY – 39 Posts did not participate in the election to support a candidate for Jr. Vice-Commander-In-Chief, or participate in the election of Department Officers.
- \*Two of the four candidates for the National Office did attend our convention to promote their cause. They were Al Lippart & Carl Kaelin. Mr. Kaelin was chosen as the candidate supported by S.C. VFW.
- \*Richrd Bell officiated over the Department elections. This year the Surgeon position was added as an elected position.(2020-2021 Officers listed below)
- \*There were three proposed changes to the By-Laws that were approved.
- \*There were no awards given. They will be awarded at the August School of Instruction. Go to the VFWSC.org website for more information on the upcoming SOI.

The new Commanders Hand-Book was not provided. It is available electronically on the VFWSC.org website.

**YOUR Department did earn ALL-AMERICAN status for 2019-2020 thanks to the hard work of YOUR leadership and everyone of you who did your part in supporting the S.C. VFW.**

The biggest disappointment of the abbreviated convention was that the attendees did not get to hear the “Pearls of Wisdom” so eloquently dispensed by the world-wide VFW’S BEST Judge Advocate and Master-of-Ceremonies – **Paul “The Judge” Lyles!**



To: Comrades, and Sisters and Brothers of the Auxiliary  
From: President Farley and Commander Tufts

We thank you so much for your food and monetary donations received at the Department and Auxiliary Conventions in support of the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign sponsored by the VFW and Humana. The national goal is to provide 500,000 meals across America. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for all Americans. While food insecurity is a serious issue impacting one in nine Americans, it is particularly concerning for our nation's veterans. In fact, research shows that 25% of our nation's total active duty and reserve personnel seek aid from food pantries.

The SC Department UTCH food drive pinpointed the need at the VA Food Pantries in Columbia and Charleston. All food and money was divided between the two food pantries. Commander Tufts, with help from Past District 1 Commander Bill King, delivered approximately \$850 in food donations to the Ralph H. Johnson VA in Charleston; the same was delivered to the VA in Columbia. This week the Auxiliary (which collected money from Comrades and Auxiliary members) will be sending a donation to each in the amount of \$1,090.00.

The amount of donations received truly shows how much the members of the Department of South Carolina care and support Veterans and their families affected by COVID-19. Thank you for your generosity and support for our veterans and their families.

Sincerely with admiration for your dedication,

*Ted*

Edwin A. "Ted" Tufts  
Department Commander

*Cathey*

Cathey Farley  
Department Auxiliary President

Some parting shots:



Past CIC Gwizdak addressing audience



'Social-distancing' was the rule of the day



Outgoing President being pinned



Dana practicing 'social distancing'



You both did a great job for S.C. VFW

**DON'T FORGET** – and hopefully plan to attend the School of Instruction on 14/15 August in Lexington.

**If your Post/District is doing good things? Send the info to me and I'll see to it that it gets in the next newsletter.**

**For the CofA – I hope to be hearing from you soon!?**

**For those Post's doing a newsletter. Keep up the good work. For those who are not? How do you let your membership know what's happening in their Post? Calendars are ok, but they do NOT tell the Post story.**

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



