



Department of South Carolina ***SENTINEL***



Commander – JIM FOX



Auxiliary President – LAURA "JO" SWEETSIR

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SECOND QUARTER (Apr - Jun) 2024
Convention Edition

"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"

EDITOR - EDITORIAL

HAPPY NEW VFW YEAR!!! The elections are over, the new state leadership selected, appointments to some leadership positions made, committee chairmanship positions filled. Now it is time to get down to the business of “BEING the VFW”. And showing South Carolina and the rest of the country just how much the VFW does for its fellow veterans and the civilian communities where our posts have a home.

The more we are out in our communities. The more visibility we have. The more there is a chance that the reluctant VFW eligible veteran sees us in action and decides he/she wants to be part of that action.

Recruiting is important, especially since America’s worldwide involvement in conflicts (that make a person VFW eligible) has decreased immensely over the last few years. This makes every new VFW recruit that much more valuable and important.

Most VFW leadership will say that Recruiting is the most important objective in the VFW. I say it is Retention through mentoring. The US is filled with “one-hit-wonders”. We need to do everything possible to keep the new recruit engaged in what the VFW is all about and not be that one-year-wonder. He/she needs someone to show them the ropes. Take them to a meeting and explain what is going on. Try to get them involved in one of the many committees. Show them the good things your Post & District are doing in the community. As the elder statesman (even if you have been only for a year, or two, or three). You have the opportunity to help groom that new member into a possible future leader in your post, district, or state.

***The country is soon to lose a fraternal organization dedicated to us Vietnam Veterans. The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was started because back in the 1960’s and early 1970’s, many VFW Posts were not allowing Vietnam veterans in. So the Vietnam Veterans went and started their own organization.

Fast forward to today. A scant 50 years after their inception, and with a current membership of just over 90,000. Their 2025 Convention’s (there is no 2024 convention) main topic item will be the dissolving/disbanding of the VVA. They will allow Chapters to continue to operate under their name, but there will be no National organization.

P.S. These veterans want to belong to some sort of military/veteran organization. Why don’t you recruit a VVA member you know into the VFW????

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COMMITMENT – American Legion Post 79 in Illinois recently honored a 99 year old post member (Mr. Harlan Bottles) who celebrated his 79th year at the Post. He joined after being discharged from the Army in 1945. He wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. A person who joined the Legion sometime after serving in WW I. For 78 of his 79 years Mr. Bottles was a member of the Post Honor-Guard.

THIS IS WHAT I CALL A "LIFE MEMBER"!
Thank You American Legion Magazine!

PRESENTED BY PAST SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE MOC



DWIGHT HORA, past Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie (MOC), desired to give a special gift to the VFW National Home to mark his recent tenure and signify the importance the VFW National Home has always had in the hearts of the VFW and MOC who founded it 100 years ago.

"I became aware of the "Heading Home" painting over ten years ago, and when I thought about what I wanted to give, I knew it was this painting," explained Hora.

On March 28, Hora delivered the painting in person from his home in South Carolina, presenting it to Executive Director Mike Wilson and other National Home staffers.

"I hope this painting encourages the veterans and their families to understand that we want to help them get to their own homes, and we are providing them a place to recover from whatever challenges they are facing," said Hora.

"Dwight has been a dedicated ally to the VFW National Home and speaks highly of our program wherever he goes. I have grown a sincere admiration and respect for Dwight as he is always searching for ways to assist and better his fellow veterans. From the day we met in December of 2021 to today, he has been approachable and focused on solutions, traits that make him respected by many. I am thankful for his thoughtful gift," said Executive Director Mike Wilson.

The painting will be placed in the Veteran & Family Resource Center, where it will serve as a moving portrait of beauty and meaning to those who defended our nation.

A fabulous gesture PSC/MOC DWIGHT HORA!

BUDDY CHECKS – As we advance to our late 70's and 80's, it is inevitable that some of us will wind up living alone, or in some sort of assisted living facility. It is during this time in our life that when the phone rings, you get an email, or a text, or a card or letter in the mail and it is from an old military buddy just checking in to say HI!, that you appreciate that time long ago when you wore a uniform and maybe, eventually became a member of that fraternal organization called the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VFW and the VA actively support a program called "BUDDY CHECK". It is a simple process where you contact an old veteran friend just to chat with them and see how they are doing. I do at least 10 Buddy Checks a month to veteran friends all over the country. The oldest person I make regular contact with is 98! Many are not members of the VFW. For me, its just a matter of staying in contact with some of the many veteran friends (and/or their spouses) I have made along the way during our many assignments while being in the military, by being members of the VFW, the DAV, the VVA, the AFA and an active supporter of our local VA Clinic.

For me, this is not a one-way street. I occasionally receive contact from friends checking on me and my wife and just wanting to know how we are doing? We appreciate every contact we receive.

Who have you BUDDY CHECKED today?

DONATE - Do you have some sort of operational transportation that you no longer use or want? There are organizations out there that will gladly take your donation, pick it up from you and give you a tax receipt for your tax records.

The VFW will take your usable car, truck or boat. Contact them at: vfw.careasy.org or 844-839-4438

The DAV will take your usable car, truck, boat, motorcycle or airplane. Contact them at 855-510-5437

The American Legion will take your usable car. Contact them at legion.org/donatemycar or 844-453-4466

WHO IS THE COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION & WHAT DO THEY DO?

Composition: The Council of Administration of the Department shall consist of the Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Surgeon, Chaplain, District Commanders and the Immediate Past Department Commander. In the absence of a District Commander the District Senior Vice Commander and in the absence of the District Senior Vice Commander, the District Junior Vice Commander may function as a voting member of the Council of Administration. In the event that the Immediate Past Department Commander is unwilling or unable to serve on the Department Council of Administration, that position shall be filled by the last Past Department Commander

who is ready, willing and able to serve in that capacity. (Article V-Section 522-Council of Administration (Composition, Powers & Duties).

From one State Convention to the next State Convention, the Council of Administration is responsible for administering to the affairs of the State. That means the CofA is responsible for the transaction of almost all state business. The Commander is just like a King or Queen, just a figurehead with one vote out of 19.

NOTE: The SC VFW By Laws, ARTICLE IX, Section 1 defines the composition of our State Council of Administration

ALERT: In case you Chaplains out there (especially you newly elected ones) have not gotten the word, The VFW National Home for Children – Has changed its name to the “NATIONAL HOME” (since it is not restricted to mostly children anymore). The prayer remains the same, except for removing two words ‘for children’ in the first paragraph.

Page 19 of the Rituals Section of the 2024 Manul of Procedures has the correct prayer.

Do you need your DD214 or other military service records? Learn how to request records: <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

DOES YOUR POST SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL JROTC PROGRAMS?



Picture 1: Dallas Landrem, Post 10420 presenting the VFW Award Medal, certificate and \$25 to Socastee High School Air Force JROTC Staff Sergeant Bryson W. Dowd



Picture 2: Bill La Monte, Post 10804, representing the SC Air Force Association, presenting the AFA Award to Socastee High School's Cadet Captain Victor Thiphavong. The AFA Award is the highest award a AFJROTC Cadet can earn.

BY THE NUMBERS

According to the VA's National Center for Analysis & Statistics. The following numbers apply:

*As of 2022 there were 16.2 million U.S. veterans alive worldwide

*In South Carolina there are an estimated 390,000 veterans

*45 % of all veterans are over the age of 65

* As of 2020, the largest number of veterans were Gulf War era. (no stats on SC veteran populations)

NOTE: The last official VA veteran statistics survey happened in 2020. The next survey is set for sometime in 2025.

NOTE 2: If you have a WW II veteran in your post or in your community. Do what you can to honor them. As of December 31st there were only 191,000 known WW II survivors.

*****In most instances, your Post has to be in the top 10% of all posts in your Division in order to qualify for any National Membership awards.**

Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division - Total Membership - Qualifying Percentage (for 2023-2024)

1 -	951+	102%
2 -	750 - 950	102%
3 -	356 - 749	102%
4 -	246 - 355	102%
5 -	185 - 245	102%
6 -	143 - 184	102%
7 -	112 - 142	102%
8 -	88 - 111	102%
9 -	68 - 87	102%
10 -	51 - 67	102%
11 -	10 - 50	102%

EXAMPLE

As a Division 1 Post with 1312 members, your post would need to increase by 22 members to qualify.

As a Division 11 Post, your post would need to increase by 1 member to qualify

2 District Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages Division Total Membership Qualifying Percentage

1 -	5,000 - 14,000	102%
2 -	3,282 - 4,999	102%
3 -	2,172 - 3,281	102%
4 -	1,447 - 2,171	102%
5 -	906 - 1,446	102%
6 -	1 - 905	102%

Important Notes • Awards are transferable inside the Post, Districts or Department. •
Post/District/Department: Membership must be at least 102 percent.

EXAMPLE

As a Division 1 District with 6,000 members, your district would need to increase by 120 members to qualify

As a Division 6 District with 900 members, your district would need to increase by 18 members to qualify

STAY TUNED FOR THE 2024-2025 REQUIREMENTS



Memorial Day has come and gone and we have paid our respects to our fellow veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Are you aware that in 2023, 27 US Troops died in far off locations. All in support of America's freedom. None related to any type of combat/conflict situations.

These 27 died in seven (7) different countries and two seas.

Eleven (11) were Air Force, ten (10) were Army, four (4) were Marine Corps and two (2) were Navy

Nationwide Post Activity – Since January 1st, thru the end of April, 18 posts have consolidated down to 9. That's nine (9) posts that have permanently closed their doors. During this same time-period VFW nationwide has approved Charters on three (3) new posts.

Posts nationwide need to do everything possible to keep their Charter's active. The VFW exists to help our fellow veterans. The VFW voice is shrinking, but there are still many opportunities out there to turn this decline around. The VFW needs an active voice in Washington. That means membership numbers that make it worthwhile for our political leaders to listen to.

YOU can do this, get out there and recruit!!!

As of this writing, There are 43 posts under suspension (three of them relatively new posts). Additionally, there are 17 administrative removal actions pending and 13 eligibility challenges pending at National HQ.

SOME SEVERE WEATHER TIPS YOU DON'T SEE:

1. If taking cover from a tornado and you have time, make sure you have;

- a. Some sort of head cover, even a pillow
- b. Some sort of body cover, like your bed quilt (you want to cover as much of your body as possible to avoid cuts from flying debris)
- c. Footwear that has a strong sole (not flip-flops, croc's, shower shoes, etc). Once the storm passes and you have to go outside, you want protection for your feet if having to walk in any debris.
- d. Heavy Duty Gloves – For protecting your hands if having to handle any debris.

IT IS NOW HURRICANE SEASON – Do you have your Hurricane Survival Kit ready (both in the home and for the car)? If you’re going to “ride-it-out”, do you have enough non-perishable food, drinking water and non-drinking water (like filling up a bathtub for personal cleaning and for toilet and sink use).

Is your vehicle full of gas/fully charged? **Do you know your Hurricane Evacuation Route (and alternates)?**

***Another thing you will need if your area has long-term power outages – CASH and mostly small bills (\$1, 5, 10's) because if a store/gas station is open, their computers are down and they will sell, it will be on a cash only basis and most will not make change.

GOT SOME FREE TIME/BORED???

Your local VA facility is always looking for volunteers who can work a few hours a month. They have a myriad of volunteer possibilities. From serving coffee and snacks from their daily “Coffee Cart” to being a volunteer phlebotomist.

All you have to do is contact your local VA facility Volunteer Services Office and let them know what volunteer work you would like to do and how often you can work.

There are two ways to volunteer:

1. You can be a volunteer for most services at a VA facility. This requires an orientation, TB test, background check and assignment specific training.
2. You can be a “Coffee Cart” server or do a couple of other jobs that don’t require you to go through the full volunteer registration process.

For those of you in the Charleston and surrounding communities. All you have to do is go to www.charleston.va.gov/giving for other locations, just follow the same format replacing the city name for the one with the VA nearest you.



**For WOMEN SPECIFIC issues call
855-829-6636**

AROUND THE STATE

*****Congratulations to Post 10804** for having a finalist in the 2023 Voice of Democracy National competition and to **Post 6500** for having a finalist in the National Patriots Pen competition



FRANCIS MARION POST 10980 recently created and installed a “Flag Retirement Collection Box” that is worthy of receiving any flags entrusted to them for proper retirement. The flag retirement box is available to anyone 24 hours a day. All you have to do is drop by their post and place the flags inside the box. Post 10980 will retire flags as the numbers dictate.

Congratulations to Quartermaster Jim Moore and the rest of Post 10980. This is a great community action project.

THANK YOU to their local newspaper **The Times & Democrat** for publishing this event.

NOT STOPPING THERE – Post 10980 recently donated \$1,000 to their Eutawville Fire Department. The fire department used that money to purchase four (4) fully-outfitted medical bags. Post 10980 also donated \$1,000 to their Eutawville Police Department. That money was used to buy a color printer and fix their portable radar speed detector. Two important needs that were not in the current police budget.

WAY TO GO 10980!!

HEY BEAUFORT POST 8760!! – Did you know the Beaufort area has just been named as one of the TOP 10 PLACES to RETIRE to in AMERICA? I smell recruitment potential with all those old retired veterans heading your way!! 😊

CONGRATULATIONS TO – Isle of Palms Post 3137 for making the April edition of CHECKPOINT for their Flag Retirement program.

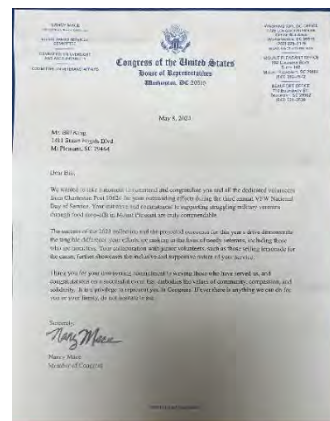
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH POST 10804 to the RESCUE



The Myrtle Beach VA Clinic was in need of some food items for their United to Combat Hunger Food Pantry. Responding to a request from the VA Clinic Volunteer Services & Food Distribution Manager, Mrs. Anderson, Bill La Monte, North Myrtle Beach Post 10804, secured some post approved funds from the Post Relief Fund and went out shopping. Here he is delivering \$491 worth of requested food items to Mrs. Anderson.

The VA Clinic also needed a couple of coffee dispensars (to replace their recently broken ones) for their Daily “Coffee Cart” where the Clinic gives free cups of coffee and snacks to anyone asking (Mrs. Anderson is holding one of the dispensars). Another \$149 (for 2 dispensars) donated by his post.

Your local VA Hospital/Clinic is ALWAYS in need of food/things they can’t buy. You can help them!



CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION – Came to VFW POST 10624 for their Day of Service Food Collection Drive for their needy veterans programs.



POST 10624, family members and their local High School JROTC all, came together at Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens to place flags on every veterans grave site.



LAKE MURRAY POST 6740 Held its Memorial Day event with some serious leadership in attendance. Joining in the activities was South Carolina's Adjutant General, **Major General Van McCarty**

INCARCERATED VETERANS – It may surprise you to know that there are over **181,000** veterans in prisons and jails in the U.S. They make up about 8% of the federal prisons and state jails population. About 65% of them saw combat and of that 65%, about 55% of them are diagnosed with some level of PTSD (identified as the root cause of many of these veterans running into problems with the law).

Many of the veterans have a documented level of a VA disability and many receive some level of VA benefits. Those receiving VA disability compensation only receive about 10% of their authorized amount due to the government already taking care of almost all their needs.

#StillServing – Is a VFW national program that highlights the work that you, the individual, are doing in your post or community since you left the military. It also features posts that have taken the opportunity to do good things in their communities.

If you are doing good things, VFW National wants to know about it. They want to give you some credit for what you are doing and they want to use your accomplishments, by way of their national #StillServing web site to encourage more VFW members to get involved.

Do you do food drives for your local VA Hospital or Clinic food bank? Do you donate food/clothing to a local housing shelter? Do you do volunteer work in hospitals, nursing homes, for shut-in veterans or elderly? Do you get actively involved in your community in any way that it brings credit to yourself, or your VFW Post?

If your answer is yes. The VFW wants to hear from you. Just go to the VFW web site, scroll over to COMMUNITY, click on, scroll over to #StillServing and you are ready to get started. Just fill out the requested information. Try and have a picture of you involved with what you are doing. That's all there is to it.

Personally; My work with my community veterans has been on the front page of #StillServing for almost the last two years. I have had several of my VA Clinic support activities published in #StillServing and twice, VFW Magazine, thru #StillServing, has contacted me about some of my community activity and they have arranged for me to appear on local television, highlighting my community activity as a veteran.

#StillServing is a great program that recognizes the good deeds **YOU** do for the VFW, your post and your community.

NEW BURIAL INFORMATION FROM THE VA

Beginning June 10, families of deceased and cremated Veterans can apply to receive commemorative plaques or urns from VA if they do not want to inter their loved ones in a VA National Cemetery or receive a government-furnished headstone, marker or medallion for placement in any cemetery.



Commemorative urns (seen above) are used to hold the remains of a deceased, cremated Veteran, and commemorative plaques (below, left) are designed to hang on a

wall. Both the urns and the plaques honor a Veteran's service and serves as a lasting tribute to the individual's status as a Veteran. Eligible family members can request one or the other, but not both.

It's important to note that, if a family chooses a plaque or an urn to commemorate a Veteran, VA is prohibited by law from interring that Veteran's remains in a VA national cemetery or from providing a headstone, marker or medallion for placement in any cemetery. Families should be certain of their choice. If the family chooses to receive a plaque or an urn to commemorate their Veteran, their decision cannot be undone. The law does not provide a method to restore these benefits.

To be eligible, the Veteran (or service member who died on active duty) must have served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917; the Veteran must be eligible for a headstone or marker under 38 U.S.C. § 2306(d), and the Veteran's remains must have been cremated—with no portion of the remains interred at any location.



More information about NCA memorial options can be found [on the VA website](#). More details, including an application for commemorative plaques and urns, will be available on June 10. Information about VA burial and memorial benefits is available [online](#), at [VA national cemeteries](#), or by calling toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117. VA also encourages Veterans to apply for [Pre-Need Eligibility](#) to establish eligibility for VA burial and memorial benefits in advance of need.

COURTESY: VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

SOME SC VETERAN BENEFITS

1. **Veterans Homes:** South Carolina has five veterans homes in Anderson, Columbia, Walterboro, Florence, and Gaffney. [Honorably discharged resident veterans in need of skilled or intermediate nursing home care are eligible for admission¹](#).
2. **Income Tax:** Military retirement is **tax-free** in South Carolina, effective from 2022. Reserve and National Guard drill pay is also tax-free. [Active-duty pay remains taxable²](#).
3. **Property Tax Exemptions:** Permanently and totally disabled veterans receive a homestead tax deduction and total property tax exemption on their homes. [This exemption can transfer to surviving spouses and new homes²](#).

4. **Employment Benefits:** Honorably discharged veterans receive preference for state and public jobs. [State employees called to active duty can continue with the state's retirement program².](#)
5. **Education:** Tuition is free at state institutions for children of South Carolina veterans who died in service, are permanently disabled, or were awarded the Purple Heart or Medal of Honor².
6. **Recreation Benefits:** Disabled veterans can get free hunting and fishing licenses. Active-duty residents on leave can hunt and fish for free, and non-residents stationed in South Carolina can get licenses at the resident rate. [Permanently and totally disabled veterans can enter state parks at a reduced rate².](#)
7. **Veterans Cemetery:** The M.J. "Dolly" Cooper veterans cemetery in Anderson offers burial for honorably discharged resident veterans and their spouses².

FOLDS of HONOR – QUILTS of VALOR – Do you know the difference??



FOLDS of HONOR – Is an organization created to provide educational scholarships to the children and spouses of fallen/disabled VETERANS and FIRST RESPONDERS.

The have awarded over 52,000 scholarships since 2007 and boast a 91% of all donations goes towards scholarships.

For more information, or to get an application, go to : [**\[scholarships@foldsofhonor.org\]\(mailto:scholarships@foldsofhonor.org\)**](mailto:scholarships@foldsofhonor.org) or call **918-274-4700**



QUILTS of VALOR – Is an organization created to provide a free quilt for every veteran touched by war. Since its inception in 2003, QofV has presented over 200,000 quilts nationwide. 8,000+ in South Carolina.

For more information, or to get an application go to: **Quilts of Valor PO Box 191 Winterset, IA 50273 or call 515-619-6556**

NOTE: Post 10804 has been working with Quilts of Valor for the last few years. Ten months a year (QofV takes off May & December to make quilts) we do quilt presentations right after our monthly business meetings. Last year, at our post, QofV presented 125 quilts to deserving veterans.

Our Post Auxiliary prepares and serves a free lunch to every attendee of the QofV ceremony. THIS IS A GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT FOR ANY POST.

AROUND YOUR STATE CONVENTION (June 21-23 2024)

Meet Your National Representatives for the Convention



Picture 1: Past National Commander-in-Chief (1988-1989) **LARRY RIVERS**



Picture 2: Past National President (2016-2017) **COLETTE BISHOP**

My Tidbits from the Saturday Business meeting and the weekend:

*There were slightly over 300 registered for the Convention (Comrades and Auxiliary)

***YOUR State finished 2nd in the Nation in Membership.** It finished the year with **593 more** members than it started with.

***District 1 & District 2 are still fighting for first** in the state in membership. Numbers don't end until June 30th.

*There were **26 First Timers** at the Convention

*Nick Camera reported that there were 3228 Community Service reports submitted for the year with a manhour value of 39,375 and a economic value of \$1,828,600+

*The Quartermaster reported that at the POW/MIA event at the Citadel raised \$32,813 for the Commanders Special Project (Veterans Service Officers)

*The Auxiliary donated \$5445, and Walgreens donated \$28,000 to the Commanders Project

***YOUR State** donated **\$20,000** to the National Home

*One post closed and the sale of their property is expected make at least \$85,000 for the state.

*District 8 (2 posts) was dissolved. One post had closed and the other absorbed into District 4.

*There is some initial research going into selling the State HQ property with the state going virtual. There are estimates out there saying the state could make as much as \$1.1 million for the property.

*There were four State By Laws changes voted on. Three were rejected, one passed

***COOTIES Reported:** There are 206 COOTIES in the State, there are 155 COOTIE Auxiliary and there are 6 Pup-Tents in the state. YOUR COOTIES put in 252,000+ volunteer hours this past year.

*The Commnder and Sr Vice hosted a newcomer welcome. There were 23 in attendance (not all newcomers)

*Bill King and Charles Holloway hosted a Commander Training Session. There were 28 in attendance (not all commanders).

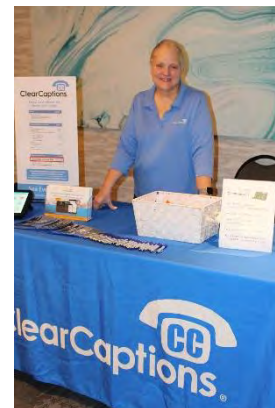
*PSC DWIGHT HORA announced that he was suspending his run for the 2025-26 Jr Vice Commander-in-Chief position.

*The Surgeon reported 26 units of blood were collected during Friday's Blood Drive

Registration & Check-In



Some of the Vendors who supported our Convention





NEWCOMERS & COMMANDERS BRIEFINGS



**Commander Fox, Sr Vice Havilland welcoming newcomers
D2 Commander Holloway and Bill King providing a New Commander briefing
Commander Holloway presenting gifts to all women veterans at the briefing**



PAYING RESPECT



STEPHEN LEACH & JOSIAH RODGERS from White Noll High School performed 'Echoing TAPS' and it was so solemnly fantastic!!

ALL STATE POSTS & OFFICERS

DISTRICT 1 ALL-STATE OFFICERS INCLUDE:

CDR: CURTIS PETERSON

QM: DENNIS HAMILTON

DISTRICT 1 ALL-STATE POST OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW POST 3137
CDR: CHARLES STALLINGS
QM: CLAYTON JOHNSON

POST 8760
CDR. DWIGHT HORA
QM: FERNANDO ROLAND

VFW 9509
CDR: HERSHEL JENSEN
QM: CHRISOPHTER HODGDON

VFW 10624
CDR: BILL KING
QM: DEBANJAN DATTA

VFW 12102
CDR: MARK JACOB
QM: DAVID LIES

DISTRICT 2 ALL-STATE OFFICERS INCLUDE:

CDR: CHARLES HOLLOWAY
QM: ANTHONY BEATTY

DISTRICT 2 ALL-STATE POST OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW 4262
CDR: REGGIE BELL
QM: ARTHUR JAMISON

VFW 6740
CDR: CHARLES HOLLOWAY
QM: JOE DUNKIN

VFW 8346
CDR: JEFF HENRY
QM: JAY VANGLIDER

VFW8738
CDR: JIM REED
QM: ROY WILLIAMS

VFW 11079
CDR: CHRISTINE ROGERS
QM: LENNY HYLAND

DISTRICT 4 ALL-STATE OFFICERS INCLUDE:

CDR: JOHN BURRIS
QM: BOB HADLEY

DISTRICT 4 ALL-STATE POST OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW 1845
CDR: STEPHEN WATERSON
QM: MICHAEL GAVAGHAN, JR

VFW 6734
CDR: DAVID GRIFFIN
QM: JEFFREY HUNTER

VFW 6830
CDR: SCOTT SULLINGER
QM: ROBERT FARMER

VFW 9273
CDR: CHARLES ODOM
QM: KEVIN BARRY

VFW 10058
CDR: DWAYNE DONALD
QM: JOHN RICE

DISTRICT 5 & 6 ALL-STATE POSTS OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW 12136
CDR: ROBERT SUZANSKY
QM: JOSHUA WILSON

DIST 6: VFW 3181
CDR: DANIEL PARKS
QM: ALDRIC HUNTER

DISTRICT 7 ALL-STATE POST OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW 6091
CDR: JOHN HARLOW
QM: JOEY WILLIAMS

VFW 6444
CRD: PETER KLIMEK
QM: MARTIN HARPER

VFW 6500
CDR: VINCENT STAGGERS
QM: DENTIST HARVIN

VFW 10804: CDR: MIKE MALLORY QM: BOB FAZEN

DISTRICT 9 ALL-STATE POST OFFICERS INCLUDE:

VFW 6932
CDR: BENNIE CULBREATH
QM: JIMMY BATES

VFW 10980
CDR: LARRY BRIDWELL
QM: JAMES MOORE



SHOWN BELOW

- *Most Outstanding Post Chaplain: ARTHUR ALLUM, Post 12207
- *Most Outstanding Community Service Award: LAKE MURRAY POST 6740
- *Most Outstanding VFW Veteran: KENNETH BROADHURST, Post 10804
- *Most Outstanding Post Commander: CHARLES HOLLOWAY, Lake Murray Post 6740
- *Most Outstanding VFW Post: LAKE MURRAY Post 6740
- *Most Outstanding District Quartermaster: DENNIS HAMILTON, District 1
- *Most Outstanding District Commander: CHARLES HOLLOWAY, District 2



COMMANDER RECOGNITION & OTHER AWARD WINNERS



**Commander Fox receiving a token of appreciation from the state
President Sweetsir receiving her Commander's "Thank You" flowers**

THE BROWN BAG AUCTION



JODY and LAURA get a kick out of J.J saying his wife gave him no money for the auction, while JAN , JODY and DANA admire the bag of tissue paper they bought 😊

GUEST SPEAKERS





It was a 'full-house' banquet with the guest of honor being a WWII veteran (picture 2)

HERE ARE YOUR 2024-2025 STATE LEADERS



Picture 1: State of South Carolina VFW Commander **JANET CHISOLM-RICHARD**

Picture 2: Department of South Carolina Auxiliary President **DONNA MARIE KING**





Receiving their Past Commander/Past President pins

Here is your Department of South Carolina Leadership Teams

COMRADES

Commander: JANET CHISOLM RICHARD
 Sr. Vice Commander: TODD HAVILLAND
 Jr. Vice Commander: TONY BROWN
 Quartermaster: DENNIS HAMILTON
 Judge Advocate: BETTY HILLIARD
 Chaplain: WILTON FOWLER
 Surgeon: CURTIS PETERSON

AUXILIARY

President: DONNA MARIE KING
 Sr Vice President: MARIETTA HILL
 Jr Vice President: BARBARA SHULER
 Secretary: LISA LEVANGIE-COLON
 Treasurer: JANE FOX
 Chaplain: PATRICE LAMB
 Conductor: CHAMARLYN CANZATER
 Chief of Staff: CATHEY FARLEY
 Guard: ANDREW MACHEMER
 Patriotic Instructor: SALLY MACHEMER
 Historian: SARABETH EARNEST
 Junior Past Department President: LAURA JO SWEETSIR

NOTE: You can find the list of other Appointed Officers, District Commanders, Committee Chairpersons for each respected commander/president in their Handbook.



WOW!! What a Year!!!

IT HAS BEEN A TRIP

Six plus years ago, PSC Rodney Burne and PSC Harry McFadden offered me the opportunity to take over as writer/editor of the SENTINEL Newsletter (Rodney Burne had been in this position for the previous few years). During the following years, the new State Commander's asked me to continue (Newsletter Editor is a State Commander appointed position).

With the close of the Apr-Jun & State Convention SENTINEL Newsletter, my time at the helm has come to an end. It has been a wonderful experience for me and along the way I have gotten to meet and know many of you. I have learned a lot about many of your posts and districts and the good things you do for veterans on a regular basis. I have gotten to shadow national leadership and chronicle their visits to our GREAT VFW State.

During my time. I have taken well over 1,000 pictures, which I have shared with many of you. I am proud of the fact that, if I was at a Conference or Convention, and you earned some sort of recognition, and I took your picture. That recognition/your picture was published in the next edition of the SENTINEL. Many of you received pictures from me in regard to your activities and recognition.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!

Bill La Monte

Writer/Editor 2018-June 2024

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855-829-6636**