



# Department of South Carolina *SENTINEL*



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

A COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION  
AND WINTER/SPRING 2021

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**The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.**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

**COMMANDER’S CALL:** Comrades and Auxiliary members,

This year is flying by and we are now more than halfway through and working on the downward slope.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each of you for your commitment, dedication, and selfless service during this challenging time we are facing. We are currently involved in an extremely difficult health crisis which has caused stress and uncertainty with our posts and members. This has been an extremely tough year for the Department with many of our Comrades and Auxiliary members losing their lives. But we will prevail. Now is the time for us to double down and look forward to a new and safe future. We are all in this together and together we will come out ahead.

Congratulations to our state Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teachers award winners. Good luck to the candidates competing for all the additional state awards.

Congratulations to our post Early Bird award winners who achieved 100% membership before December 31st. This is a great accomplishment made even more difficult during this time of the pandemic. Lastly, congratulations to our membership winners for the first half of the year. Again, this is a great accomplishment.

It was unfortunate I had to cancel the Midwinter Conference, but I felt it was necessary due to the current virus situation. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, but I felt it was more important to protect the health and safety of our members and guests. We held the CofA at headquarters both in person and Zoom and it was a great success. It was a pleasure to have our National Sr. Vice C-n-C Matthew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic join us on Zoom.

Congratulations to Quartermaster William R. Banister Post 1845 District 4 and Adjutant Joseph L. Houdek Post 3137 District 1. These Comrades were selected from a random drawing for the January Commanders Membership Challenge of 95% or above. Each Comrade will receive a \$200 give certificate for the VFW Store. February's challenge is 98% or greater and it is looking like there will be many Quartermasters and Adjutants competing. Thanks for all you do as we strive to make the Department the best in the Nation.

Comrades, thank you for being a member of the greatest Veterans Service Organization in the World, for putting service before self.

Remember to check in on your members often. Let them know they have not been forgotten and you are there to assist however possible. Let us all remember to get out there and Talk it UP!

Ted Tufts  
Commander

**A brief message from your Auxiliary President, Cathey Farley –**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING THE #1 AUXILIARY IN THE NATION!!!, at this time. We can stay there, it's all up to you!**

**AND ----If you have anything (Auxiliary) that is due to the state headquarters, it must be at HQ no-later-than April 21<sup>st</sup>.**

***Meet the engine that makes the State Headquarters run – KATE BROCK***



Hi, it's Kate from Headquarters. I've been asked to share some information about myself and what I do at State Headquarters.

I am from Illinois and came to South Carolina via the U.S. Navy and my Mom. I was in the service for over 16 years as a Mess Management Specialist. I earned the Navy Battle E, Good Conduct and a couple other medals. My last duty station was the USS L.Y. Spear (AS-36) out of Norfolk, VA.

I met and married my husband Roger at my 1<sup>st</sup> duty station, Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. We were married for 31 years.

Unfortunately, I lost him to cancer.

I am a Charter and now Life Member of Robert R. Larson VFW Post 11079 in Elgin, SC. I serve as the secretary for that Auxiliary and also for District 2 and Department HQ. I have served as the District & Post President. I currently serve as your Department Auxiliary Senior Vice President.

At State Headquarters, I serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> contact for phone calls, email, and now that we have moved the offices around, walk-in visitors. I process all US Mail, incoming phone calls and all other required secretarial responsibilities for the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster. I am available to assist all

members of the VFW family. Ask me anything, if I don't have the answer, I will get it or refer you to someone that does. I also assist with the day to day operation and maintenance of the office.

I am happy to say "I get to help veterans every day"! As a veteran, Navy brat military spouse and widow, I understand the perspective of almost everyone I come into contact with no matter where I may be in representing the South Carolina VFW. Please let me be of assistance to all of you.

Stop by the Headquarters and say hi!

**Kate**

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**\*\*From the desk of your Sr. Vice Commander – Dwight Hora** - Hello to the Department of South Carolina,

I hope this finds you all doing well and continuing to survive the Covid-19 virus. I ask that you continue to mask up and keep your social distancing. I am glad to hear that most of those who have had the virus are recovering well and my prayers continue to go out to all who are still recovering.

The VFW National Programs Director has recently sent out some information for posts to coordinate with Walgreens to utilize their facilities for testing or disbursement of the Covid-19 shots. I ask that all Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and Adjutants look at your messages on the Online Membership System, OMS, for the message of how to coordinate this with Walgreens. The entries are being looked at every Friday by national to coordinate with Walgreens. Ensure that you are sending your information through this message to sign up for the program. Do not go to your local Walgreens to look for this because it will come down from their National Headquarters.

As we continue with this year, I ask that posts continue to work to coordinate events with their communities to build relationships and establish connections. This will be helpful as we continue to build our service to veterans and their families.

The department will also ask for all to help with membership. We all should be interested in making our department grow. The way to do this is to find veterans who are interested in comradery, supporting each other, and working towards something greater than themselves. Help encourage them with what your post does locally and what the Department does at the State and National level for legislative action and veteran support through the Veteran Service Officer programs.

A few dates to remember are the C of A at Department Headquarters on 10 April, and the Department Convention 4-6 June at the Embassy Suites in Columbia. I look forward to seeing all who attend those events.

I want to Congratulate the Department Auxiliary for making over 100% in membership and say thank you to all the Auxiliary members for your support the posts and Districts throughout our Department. Keep up the great work.

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**\*\*Notes from the front seat of his car (never stays around long enough to use a desk). Your Jr. Vice Commander Ed Stefanak, Jr.** - First off, I would like to wish all Comrades and Auxiliary members a Happy Valentine's Day. So far, I think the 2020-2021 VFW year has gone extremely well. Many years

have their ups and downs. but we seem to overcome them. With the COVID-19 epidemic the Department, Districts and Posts have had to find a way to hold meetings, operate at limited capacities and generate income. Now with the vaccine being available hopefully things will steadily go back to normal, until then we need to keep pushing as hard as we can to accomplish the VFW mission while keeping safety protocols in place.

It is disappointing that we did not have our winter conference as planned, but I give major kudos to our Department Commander Ted Tufts, who had to make a hard decision on either to have it or not have it. As much as we all would have loved to have seen each other, it is better that we wait until another time when it is safer to see each other. We cannot put our susceptible members in contact with this virus, we have already lost a good amount of our membership to this pandemic.

I would love to give our State Teachers Chairman Ginger Graham, the State Voice of Democracy Chairman Charles Holloway and the State Patriots Pen Chairman Kenneth Dennings a big, huge shout out for how well they handled the Department's grading of our Youth Awards and Teacher of the Year. It was a pleasure to work with you all on all these programs, thank you so much for your hard work and dedication. Like every year all our chairman are working hard to make sure information gets recorded for community service, legislative reports are turned in and that we are taking the steps necessary to help our veterans in need, I'd like to thank all the chairman this year for everything they are doing. Keep up the good work.

The year is winding down and nominations and elections are on the horizon for the 2021-2022 VFW year. If you are running for a post position, or moving up to post commander/district commander, or are thinking about running for a Department position, now is the time to get some questions you may not be clear on answered by the truly knowledgeable Past Commanders that we have in this Department, your district or post. If you are going to hold a post/district/Department position, you must put the time into it to be successful. Some of these positions are intimidating, but by asking questions now and putting together a team you can immediately get a quick start on the new year. Any post that would like for me to install your newly elected officers for the new year, I'd be more than happy to be there, please give me a month advance notice and I'll try to make it happen.

We have a few more months left to go some of us are wrapping up most of the work and some of us need to do a little extra, but either way we must do the work, let's keep pushing. Again, if you need any help, I'm just a phone call away, if I can't answer your question, I'll definitely point you in the right direction. Please stay safe, wear your mask and may your health be strong. I hope to see all of you at the State Convention in June.

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**RECRUITING – Did you know, that as of January 11<sup>th</sup>, there are ONLY 66 members in the state that have recruited one or more new member's. This is out of 4,080 members worldwide that have recruited at least one new member. To say YOUR state is lacking in this endeavor, is an understatement. The top recruiter in SC has 45 new members with second place being 19 new members. The Department (YOU) can do better!!**

**\*\*For all you displaced Western New York folks:-** Who want their final resting place to be a National Cemetery back home. The VA has just opened a National Cemetery in western New York. It is

in CORFU and about 20 miles East of Buffalo. It has space for 77,100 veterans/family's, so there's no rush in getting there. To get info on this cemetery you can go to the VA National Cemetery Administration or call 800-535-1117.

NOTE: The VA has six other National Cemetery's in New York State, but the one in Cypress Hills (Brooklyn) is closed to new membership.

**\*\*What's with all the hats ???** As a new or relatively new member, you attend a VFW meeting and you see all these members with different VFW hats and you say to yourself, what am I looking at? Well. Amongst all that variety and color. There is order to what hat you can wear. Let's try to simplify things;

**\*\*A hat with GOLD piping (the trim around the top of the hat) is for members at the POST level. There is also a 'suntan' (a light BROWN) hat for any member.**

**\*\*A hat with GREEN piping, or all green is for officers at the DISTRICT level (bottom left below).**

**\*\*A hat with RED piping is for a DISTRICT or DEPARTMENT Commander only.**

**\*\*A hat with BLACK piping is an all-purpose hat.**

**\*\*A hat with WHITE piping or the hat all WHITE is for elected or appointed officers at the NATIONAL level.**

If you are a LIFE MEMBER, you can wear the special Life Member hat (top left of the group below)

**NAMETAGS** – Your VFW nametag should be the same color of the braid (piping) on the hat you are wearing.



***IMPORTANT:*** Once a Post, District, Department or National meeting starts. The only hat you can wear is one of the authorized VFW caps. No other type head cover is allowed.

#### **WOMEN VETERANS & the VA Healthcare System:**

\*Still have concerns about when they go to a VA appointment. They are initially treated as a spouse of a veteran, a healthcare provider or they are continually challenged about their being a female veteran.

\*Want VA treatment by a same-gender care provider. This is something the VA has been slow to come around too.

**NOTE: The VFW is interested in your story as a female veteran in the VA care system. If you would like to tell your story? You can email the VFW or call 1-800-839-1899**

#### **VFW Podcast**

The VFW Podcast is a new show for veterans, by veterans. The VFW is in the midst of a paradigm shift and it's an exciting time to be a part of this transformational change within our organization.

The VFW Podcast is our newest communication platform that will highlight critical issues, challenges and legislation affecting veterans, service members and military families worldwide.

Join us as we chat with congressional leadership, Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs senior officials, and everyday veterans as we tackle tough issues affecting our military veteran community.

**NOTE:** To listen to a Podcast, just go to your search engine (EX Google) or any streaming device you use and type in VFW Podcast.

**\*\*Department elections are right around the corner** – Are you interested in taking on some sort of leadership position during the upcoming year? You know the elected positions, but did you know there are numerous 'Chairperson' positions that will need to be filled under YOUR next Commander, Dwight Hora (barring anything that might happen to prevent his ascension, by membership vote, from Sr. Vice). Below are all the 'appointed' positions that will need to be filled. If appointed? You will receive a "Special Order" affirming your Chairmanship. NOW is the time to let Dwight know you are ready for more responsibility.

NOTE: Several Chairpersons will elect to remain in their respective positions under the new leadership. If approved by the Department Commander.

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1 APPOINTMENT AS STATE CHAIRMEN FOR THE VFW DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO: PSC Betty J. Hilliard – State Adjutant/State Web Master/State Building Chairman PSC John D. Mellert – Chief of Staff/State Scouting & Youth Activities Chairman Dwight Hora – State Buddy Poppy & State Fundraiser Chairman PSC Dentist B. Harvin – National & State Legislative Chairman PSC Augustus Singleton – South Carolina National Council Member PSC Richard Bell – National Inspector General/SC 2021 Southern Conference Chairman PSC Margo Sheridan – State Budget & Finance Committee Chairman PSC Rodney Burne – State Grounds & State By Laws Chairman Allen R. Rundall – National & State Veterans & Military Support Chairman Janet Chisolm-Richard – State Awards Chairman Charles A. Holloway – State VOD Chairman Kenneth Dennings – State Patriots Pen Chairman Ginger Graham – State Teacher Chairman Nick Camera – State Community Service Chairman John S. Penman – Membership Chairman James Butler – State Safety/Life Saving Awards/Loyalty Day Chairman C.B. Anderson – State Veteran Homeless/Employment/Commanders Special Project Chairman Johnny Guest – State Student Veterans of America Chairman Edward J. "Jay" Irick – State Conference & Convention Chairman Jim McIlendon – State Color Guard Captain & SC Physically Handicap Society Parliamentarian William LaMonte – State Publication & Newsletter Award Chairman L.C. Mills – State Sergeant of Arms Ervin Johnson – State Guard Martin Snowden – SC VFW Service Officer Paul Slater – SC Certified National Recruiter Wilton Fowler – State Outreach Chairman Kathleen "Kate" Brock – State Headquarters Secretary Edward Stefanak – National Home for Children & State Education Chairman You will assume the duties of the Committee(s) indicated next your name. You will acquaint yourself with the duties of your assigned Committee(s). If your position require committee members, you will assign them accordingly, and furnish the State Headquarters with their names.

**COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT – The Veterans Resource Center of Florence has been busy helping veterans:**



Picture 1: Back in November The Veterans Resource Center of Florence was the recipient on NEWS Channel 13's "Three Degree Guarantee" that for every day Channel 13 got the temperature right (within the 3 degrees), the VRCF would receive \$100. The weather folks got the temperature right 16 times in November. That money, courtesy of Toyota of Florence, went to C.B. Anderson for Center use. Pictured is CB (front left) with members of NEWS Channel 13 and Florence Toyota. Thanks to all for the generous donation.

Pictures 2: The Florence Elks are a major contributor to the Resource Center's success. Here CB Anderson presents a plaque of appreciation to the Elks Exalted Ruler Eddie Harding

Picture 3: CB presents Wendy Schulman with her plaque for being the master behind acquiring the things necessary and assembling the Elks "Kitchen-Kits"

Picture 3: CB congratulates Jim Windham, the man who created the "Kitchen Kits" idea.

### **AROUND THE S.C. VFW WORLD**

#### **\*\*North Myrtle Beach Post 10804 Auxiliary –**

Within this Post's Auxiliary is Jacqui Williams. A few years ago her sister Bonnie started a 'Coats 4 Kids' campaign at Christmas-time. About two years ago Bonnie passed away. To honor her sister's memory, Jacqui continued the 'Coats 4 Kids' effort. She actually took it one step further by seeking donations of coats for veterans.

This past Christmas, Jacqui, with the help of the Post, Auxiliary and non-member donators, was able to provide veterans and kids needed coats. This included 24 coats for children of veterans at the Myrtle Beach VA Clinic, 15 coats to a nearby elementary school, 15 coats for



JACQUI WILLIAMS

veterans to the Charleston VA Hospital, 12 coats to children from a local church group (ASAP), 40 flannel blankets and 35 knit hats and gloves to a local church to support children's needs. Jacqui still plans on delivering more coats as they come in.

Additionally, Jacqui and Post 10804 and Auxiliary have held four food drives to support veterans in need during the 2020 'Year of the Pandemic'.

***Jacqui, you and your band of elves, have done your sister Bonnie proud!!***

**Dentist Harvin says** - The VFW Action Corps is our national grassroots advocacy network comprised of more than 300,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. This group stays up-to-date on

the issues facing our veterans, our military and their families, standing ready to email, write, call and visit our nation's lawmakers to make their voices heard. The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities.

[Join the VFW Action Corps today](#) and add your voice to the thousands of veterans' advocates making a difference every day, and if you're already a member of the VFW Action Corps, encourage your friends and neighbors to join the effort!

**Participants receive:**

- \*The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

- \*Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

- \*Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

- \*The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes.

Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service -- whose office is in eye-shot of the Capitol dome in Washington -- members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our nation's veterans.

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Pearl Harbor remembrance and 'Wreath-Laying' U.S.S. Yorktown, Charleston, SC, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Presenting a wreath is Auxiliary Conductress Donna King and Post Commander Bill King

FDR said this is a day that will go down in infamy. He was talking about the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. Post 10624 Mt Pleasant has been holding a Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony on the York town at Patriots Point for many years. This year was challenging due to Covid. I was determined to have the ceremony. We were able to do this with a limited number of participants, and following CDC guidelines. Thanks to State Commander Ted Tufts for his part as the MC, and State Chaplain Wilton Fowler for his inspirational prayers. Thanks to the staff at Patriots Point and to everyone who helped make this event happen. We will never forget.

Bill King

Commander VFW Post10624



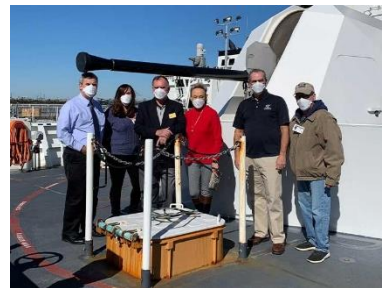
**RECRUITING & BUDDY POPPY'S** – Many Posts are not taking advantage of activities and events around their area in order to make some money for their Post or to do a Poppy Drive. Thanks to Mike Mishoe of Post 10804 and District 7. Three D-7 Posts signed up to participate in a Gun & Knife Show in Myrtle Beach (each taking ½ day slots over the two day show). This event was attended by thousands. Post 10804 did not get any new members (got a couple of leads) but did make over \$400 in Poppy donations in less than four hours. Back in October District 7 participated in another gun show and one Post & Auxiliary made over \$1,000 in Poppy donations during the course of the show.

**PICTURED** Far left, Mike & Carolyn Mishoe, right side of table holding bucket is Mike Mallory and bottom right (holding up a Poppy) is Mike & Carolyn's grandson Ziggy who was a money-making Poppy hand'r-out'r. Not pictured was the picture taker, yours truly Bill La Monte.

There are gun, flower, building, RV, home shows, etc. happening all the time in the state. By "safe" participation, your post could help replenish some deleted funds and maybe get a new Post or Auxiliary member as a bonus. There are opportunities out there!! JUST BE SAFE!!

### **VFW Post 3137 Adopt-A-Unit program – USCGC James (WMSL-754)**

On Wednesday, February 3rd, a VFW Post 3137 contingency of Comrades and Auxiliary boarded the USCGC James in Charleston to award the officers and crew the Adopt-A-Unit program certificate. At full muster of the Helo-Deck, Commander Rex Brown addressed the crew and presented the certificate to Commanding Officer, Captain Todd Vance and OSCS, Senior Chief Michael McCandless. Also present to escort VFW members and provide a lunch and tour of the James was the Executive Officer, Commander Jacob Cass and Lt. Robert Sherwood.



Picture 1: Commanding Officer-Captain Todd Vance, Commander Rex Brown, OSCS-Senior Chief Michael McCandless

Picture 2: USCGC James (WMSL-754)

Picture 3: Sr. Vice Commander Al Lowry, Auxiliary President Lynn Holgate, Commander Rex Brown, Auxiliary Trustee Martha Brown, Quartermaster Dennis Hamilton, Auxiliary Historian Ed Balasia.



For the first five (5) months of 2021, VFW POST 10804 is hosting a “Quilts of Valor” presentation right after the monthly business meeting. This picture represents the February presentations to eight (8) veterans, only 3 of which are VFW members. I am quite certain most everyone recognizes that guy in the front-left.

NOTE: In the next Sentinel, I will provide a detail article on Quilts of Valor and how your post can support this honorable organization.

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### **SCVFW, DISTRICT 4 HONORS A VETERAN**

The motto of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is “*No One Does More For Veterans*” and on Tuesday, February 10, 2021, VFW South Carolina District 4 partnered with local VFW Post 6734 did so by honoring Comrade Johnny Mansell on his much-revered, at his milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Johnny’s sister Delmar contacted the Post earlier requesting a drive-by bash for him to help her celebrate the Big 80. We were more than delighted to do so, notified District 4 and they wanted to participate as well. Giving respect to the NO CONTACT health and safety restrictions of the ongoing COVID pandemic, it was arranged as a drive-by, all outside celebration.

SC District 4 representative along with several members of VFW Post 6734 and its Auxiliary caravanned to Comrade Mansell’s residence. Many could not help but exit vehicles to share words of fellowship and present cash-laden birthday cards to the beloved Comrade. Joining in on the celebration was Post 6734 Commander, Melvin Croft, Past Post Commander, Margaret Richardson, District 4 Commander, Jeff Hunter and Post members including Roy Miller, David Griffin and Harold Fowler along with Auxiliary President Mary Hailstock with members Carolyn Wright and a host of others. Several close friends and relatives of Johnny stopped in briefly or drove through as well.

The weather fully cooperated with an abundance of sunshine and mild temperatures into the lower 60s for the occasion. It was a grand day and celebration for the very deserving Comrade Mansell and he remarked of having a great day of celebration and appreciation. The same was said in reply to him.

Johnny is a Greenville native, local high school graduate and past South Carolina State Bulldog. He served his nation courageously in the U.S. Army as a warrior with the Big Red 1 in the Republic of South Vietnam back during the early stages of the War in 1964, while stationed in one of the most dangerous areas of the country, Bien Hoa. A very vital strategic and supply station, often conflicted and embattled locale, during the early stages of the war. Thank you for your valiant service Comrade Mansell!

Nicknamed “New York Johnny,” he is a valued member of VFW Post 6734 serving on the hospitality Post House Committee, Post Officer of the Day, and Corpsman of the highly awarded VFW Post 6734 Honor Guard. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you Johnny and we wish for you considerably more birthday celebrations for many, many years to come.



*Delmar Percival (sister), Johnny Mansell, Regina Percival (niece)*

Jeffrey Hunter  
District 4 Commander

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**\*\*From the desk of Ginger Graham, Commander Post 6740** - We've kept busy, in Dec we got heat restored to a disabled Navy vet who was limited to one room of his house and was heating with dangerous space heaters; that month we also passed out Christmas Stockings to older Aux members that hadn't been to the post in ages...that activity resulted in lots of appreciative thank you's, and the return of a treasured Auxiliary member!).

### **DISTRICT 6 CHECKING IN**

- \***POST 3096** over **100% in membership**. April 12<sup>th</sup> will be our **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- \***POST 3181** had a second place student winner at state level
- \***POST 3412** is at **100% in membership**
- \***POST 3609** will celebrate its **75 Anniversary** on April 5<sup>th</sup>
- \***POST 11251** will have the 'Freedom Riders Honor Guard' to start their next meeting

### **DISTRICT 7 IS “TALKING IT UP”**

Congratulations to Post 10420 Murrells Inlet and Post 6091 Dillon for achieving 100% membership for the 2020-2021 administrative year. The District stands at more than 95% membership overall and is on track to reach our 100% membership goal this year.

More than a dozen members of District 7 recently received Quilts of Valor to honor their military service and contributions to the community. Congratulations to all Quilts of Valor recipients—well deserved honors for a well-lived life.

District 7 has conducted two roundtable discussions for members. The first roundtable addressed the state awards program and programs for students and educators. The second roundtable

focused on membership. Our next roundtable will be March 17 to review All-State and All-American programs.

District 7 recently recognized top winners for Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year. Each winner received a cash award and a handmade wooden American flag plaque.

On the weekend of February 6-7, District members staffed a membership and information booth at the Myrtle Beach Gun Show. Visitors to the booth also generously donated to post relief funds.

District 7's annual convention will be April 24 at Post 10420 Murrells Inlet.

Margo Sheridan  
District 7 Commander

**\*\*Want to spend eternity in the warmth and sun of the Caribbean?** Puerto Rico has opened its first U.S. National Cemetery.

**\*\*The Planet MARS –** Do you know there are people who study Mars in an attempt to figure out what its going to take for humans to exist/survive on the planet. These brainacs are called AREOLOGIST !!

**Let's get back to living on earth –** There are some very harsh environments out there with people living in them year around. Some are:

\*Coldest place on earth: with an average daily winter-time temperature of -50 degrees – OYMYAKON Russia (record low -90 degrees).

\*Driest inhabited place – is in Chile's Atacama Desert and with one town only receiving 0.05mm of rain a year.

\*Most 'naturally' radioactive place – is Ramsar Iran where residents live atop a slab of radioactive limestone and are exposed to 260 mSv of radiation each year (that's 13 times higher than the public dose limit).

FACTS – thanks to Popular Mechanics Magazine

**\*\*S.C. Jury Duty –** Ever been summoned to be a juror? I just recently was! To find out your rights and responsibilities once you are notified, go to <http://www.scd.uscourts.gov/juryduty.asp> or call 803-253-3997. There is a questionnaire you have to fill-out for the state to determine if you will be selected for jury duty.

**Example:** As veterans, if you are classified disabled by the VA? You don't have to serve on a jury. If you are 70 or older, you do not have to serve on a jury.

**P.S. As a 74 year old, disabled veteran, I am scheduled for Grand Jury Duty on March 9<sup>th</sup>. I'm doing my part!!**

### **Here's some good 2021 VFW New Year's Resolutions:**

**\*\*Recruit a new member**

**\*\*Reinstate a member who's dues have lapsed**

**\*\*Get a 'Continuous' member to sign up for a Life Membership**

**\*\*Get a 'Life Member' to sign up for a Legacy Life Membership**

**\*Attend a Post/District/State meeting**

- \*Participate in some post/district/state activities
- \*Volunteer to work on a post/district activity/event
- \*Run for/seek an elected/appointed position within the post/district, maybe even state

**VETERAN SUICIDES** – There is always something being said or posted about the need to do something to decrease the number of veteran suicides. The VA has just published their veteran suicide statistics for 2018 (the most current numbers) for those veterans under the VA Care system. Below are some of the findings published by the VA:

\*First off – the number of veteran suicides was 17.6 per day compared to the civilian population of 127.4 per day. This equates to 6,435 veteran suicides in 2018, with the total veteran population down to 20.1 million US veterans worldwide. There were 46,500 adult, non-veteran, suicides in 2018, an increase of 2.5% over 2017.

\*66.4 veterans per 100,000 were being treated for or suffered from DEPRESSION

\*67.4 veterans per 100,000 were being treated for or suffered from ANXIETY

\*57.2 veterans per 100,000 were being treated for or suffered from MENTAL HEALTH issues

\* These rates are the lowest in the last six (6) years

\* There were 291 WOMEN veteran suicides in 2018, with 81 being under the VA Care System

\*Veterans who identify with the LGBT community are at an elevated risk of suicide.

\*Veterans who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual are more likely to report suicidal tendencies and will screen positive for PTSD, Depression and Alcoholism

\*Blacks, Hispanics and Females had decreased suicide numbers in 2018.

\*To commit suicide 69.4% of males and 41.9% of females used firearms,

**\*\*\*It is important to note that veterans with service-connected disabilities show a lower risk of committing suicide**

\*\*\*Veterans between the ages of 18 and 34 have the highest suicide rate per 100,000

**DoD just completed their 2019 Suicide Study and found:**

\*That in 2019, there were 498 Active Duty service members committed suicide. The highest number being among younger enlisted personnel.

\*That suicide rates among National Guard and Reserve personnel is going down.

\*In 2018 there were 193 family members who committed suicide.

**In the last couple of years, both the VA & DoD have added over 2,000 more counselors to help anyone contemplating suicide. Along with the help-line contact information listed at the start of this newsletter. Personnel can contact a Suicide Hotline by texting 838255 or VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat**

**\*\*The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial** – Has finally received enough federal oversight blessings to start planning the actual construction of the memorial. They organizers say they still need \$20 million before they can begin construction, which will begin at a yet undetermined date in 2021. The site will be in close proximity to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and will be a 'landscape based' memorial. Back in 2015, when the memorial was first proposed. The VFW pledged \$500,000 to the project. VFW Post 7564 in Fargo, ND contributed \$19,000 to the memorial.

**AWARD WINNERS** – Back in December, the Department announced the winners of the **Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher**. The winners are:

**Voice of Democracy – Chairman Charles Holloway**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jane Batson Mason, District 1, Post 7723 (our state nominee to national)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jackson Seagle, District 7, Post 10420

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Layah Clinton, District 5, Post 12136

**Patriot's Pen – Chairman Kenneth Dennings**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Kayden Edwards, District 1, Post 10624

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Nelle Tipton, District 6, Post 1

**Teacher- Chairwoman Ginger Graham**

Elementary School – Amy Rodgers , District 4, Post 9273

Middle School – Downing H. Hudson, District 7, Post 6444

High School – Jenny Proctor, District 2, Post 11079

**YOUR VFW gets its operational funding by way Membership Dues, Fund Raising Projects, Donations and Corporate Sponsorships** – YOU can help by becoming a **Partner in Patriotism**. This allows you to support life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and at the same time reduce the number of mailings you receive requesting help. The Partners In Patriotism option allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as helping the VFW reduce expenses and eliminate the fund-raising mailings you receive. You choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card, or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join Partners In Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. You will also receive a Year End Tax Receipt mailed to you by the end of January.

***If you are interested in joining? Contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-839-4483, or email them at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) and put Partners In Patriotism as your subject line.***

**AS ALWAYS – check the monthly calendar for what's happening in YOUR Post ☺, or the Department**

**Some Department level important dates:**

**\*March** – Department Budget & Finance meeting – Mar 17

**\*April** – Department Council of Administration – Apr 10

**\*May** - Quartermaster & Trustee training at Dept. Hq – May 8

**\*June** – Department Convention – Jun 4-6

**If your post produced a Post Newsletter in 2020? VFW National has a National Publications Award you may be interested in? You have until April 1<sup>st</sup> to submit a package.**

**GUESTS AT YOUR MONTHLY POST MEETING** – Do you know someone who is VFW eligible, but not a VFW member? Why not try and bring them to one of your post monthly meetings as a guest and let them see what the VFW and your post is all about? Who knows, you might get them to join and in-turn, they may know someone who might want to join also.

**Article II, Section 3, paragraph "Guests"** allows guest to attend, with the approval of the Post Commander.

Just a thought!!

**\*\*STATE project/program Chairperson responsibility** – A new VFW year will be upon us faster than you think. For those taking on the responsibility of being a Chairperson. You need to get acquainted with

the duties and responsibilities of that chair you are taking on (EX: PP/VOD/Teacher Programs and Awards). The Commander's Handbook outlines Chairperson duties for many of the state programs. Pages 25-29 of the current handbook covers many of the state programs.

Some Chairperson responsibilities are not in the book. If you look at the current Chairperson listings on pages 7 -11. You will see who currently chairs what program. If you are replacing one of them? Make sure you pick their brains and get copies of some of their work to help guide you in your new endeavor (Chairperson).

A program only works as well as the person leading it. Make sure you are ready to make your next state commander and SC VFW proud of what you will have done at the end of the year.

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**\*\*Student Veterans: From Vietnam to the current ongoing conflict in the Middle East –** Student veteran education has been on the rise. So too, has been the increase in the VFW in the 'student-veteran'. The VFW Student Veterans of America Legislative fellowship program gives student veterans the opportunity to advocate with the VFW on issues facing veterans. Fellow's get to meet the nation's lawmakers and administrators responsible for implementing veteran policy in Washington. Student veterans interested in this program can visit <https://www.studentveterans.org/programs/vfw-sva-legislative-fellowship> for more information or [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org)

### **Council of Administration – 30 January 2021 (some happenings)**



The State CofA held on January 30<sup>th</sup> shows the continuing need to incorporate electronic communications not only at state level but all levels of VFW operations. There were 28 members present at the meeting and another 25 (more or less) present by way of ZOOM. ZOOM participants included National Sr. Vice-Commander in Chief Matthew (Fritz) Mihelcic and he congratulated the state for getting more members involved by way of electronic communications.

To comply with the Commander's interest in brevity. There were no District reports from the District Commanders and no reports from the various Committee Chairperson's. The following is **MY** summary of the CofA along with some award pictures.

\*Before the CofA started, past State Commander Rodney Burne gave a training session on the Post/District Inspection Form. His emphasis was on Item 2 (Post Incorporation) and compliance with National By-Laws Section 708 and the fact many posts are not in compliance. He also emphasized that

all Post's **MUST** be incorporated with the state and that they should be incorporated as a 501c(19), NOT a 501c(3) or (4).



PSC Rodney Burne

\*\*\*Past Commander Burne also cautioned that if a post dissolves. All of the assets of the post REVERT TO THE STATE VFW. Post leadership CANNOT divide (among the membership) or sell post assets. Along with all post assets, the state also assumes all dissolved post liabilities.

\*The CofA determines the salary of paid state VFW employees. Given that fact, the CofA voted to raise the salary of the Department Service Officer to \$50,000 a year to be more consistent with DSO salaries across the country.

\*\*\*\***NOTE – Our state Veterans Service Officer has resigned and the Department is looking for a DEDICATED replacement. If you may be interested in this full-time position? Contact State Adjutant Hilliard before February 25<sup>th</sup> for additional information.**

\*If you want to be a Delegate at District, State or National VFW events. You must be elected as a delegate at your post's April (election) meeting.

\*There is a new FISHER HOUSE being constructed in Columbia.

\*State finances are in good shape.

\*There were 129 MIA identified and returned to families in 2020.

\*National now has Poppy's. If you are in need, you should place your orders. Remember, the people making the Poppy's are disabled veterans employed to give them a better chance in life.

\*In 2020, SCVFW gave \$3,853 to the National Home for Children. Today's meeting generated \$113 for the National Home.

\*As of right now, **the State Convention is still on** for June 22-23 at Embassy Suites for \$112 a night. ALSO the **National Convention in Baltimore** is still a go. Details will be posted on state web-site.

\*State Chaplain Wilton Fowler reported that he is getting VERY FEW reports from District & Post Chaplain's. Every Chaplain is required to provide updates to the state. ALSO – Chaplain Fowler is looking for Post Chaplain nominees for Chaplain of the Year consideration.

\*There are 11 Posts that have been chartered for **75 YEARS** and 2 Posts with **50 YEAR** charters. The 75 Year Charter Posts that will receive VFW National recognition are:

DISTRICT 4: **Post 6087**, Ansel Simpson, **Post 6734**, Capt. Charles F. Gandy Jr., **Post 6830**, Allison P. Rhodes

DISTRICT 5: **Post 5928**, Roberts and Dixon, **Post 5936**, Jack and Harold Bailey, **Post 6732**, Hartman Parrish

DISTRICT 6: **Post 3609**, Gray-Farrow, **Post 3096**, James D. Heriot

DISTRICT 7: **Post 6444**, Georgetown Memorial, **Post 6091**, Eli W. Williamson, **Post 6500**, McClary-Cole

NOTE: Three other posts were previously recognized for achieving this milestone. They are:

DISTRICT 1: **Post 5091**, Pvt. Charles E. McKee – 75 years

DISTRICT 2: **Post 4262**, Gandy-Griffin – 75 years

DISTRICT 4: **Post 5932**, McCoy, Fuller & Jenkins – 50 years

**\*\*\*YOUR State Color Guard is in urgent need of new members. If you would like to join this group? Contact Jim McClendon at [karenvfwla@yahoo.com](mailto:karenvfwla@yahoo.com) or Adjutant Hilliard at State Hq.**

**\*KUDOS to RICHARD BELL** for being recognized by National Sr. Vice-Commander in Chief Mihelcic for doing a great job as YOUR National Inspector General and 2021 Southern Conference Chairman.

There are other things that happened at the CofA, but by now, the official minutes should have been released and they cover everything that transpired. So, I will defer to the official minutes.

**AWARDS –** There were a few awards handed out, but for the most part, award recipients were not present and others had to accept the awards for them.

**\*\*Four Posts were recognized for meeting the ‘Early Bird’ challenge and reporting 100%+ membership. They were:**

**\*Post 6561**, Chester D. Townsend  
**Post 8131**, Greenwood

**Post 8346**, Lake Wateree  
**Post 6938**, PFC Leonard Sartor

- The Top Recruiter (for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year) Award went to **Greg Miller, Post 3433**



**NEWSLETTER AWARD** (Jan-Dec) is traditionally given to the Post voted to have the best Newsletter. This year the commander & I changed things around a little and made the following Newsletter Awards:  
**BEST POST NEWSLETTER – Post 3433 – Summerville** received a VFW Eagle Plaque

Post 3433 Writers/Editors **Bobbi Jo Duck & Robin Pittman** received certificates

**Honorable Mention Certificate – Went to Post 10601 – Greater Aiken & Editor/Writer Bill Bushall**

**Honorable Mention Certificate – Went to Post 445 – James Island**

**\*\* BEST WEB-SITE Award went to Post 9273, Donaldson Center**

**Congratulations to our winners and I hope to see a lot more posts in the running for these awards this year.** Contact me if you have any comments/questions about newsletters...Bill



Are you one of us that have invested in your VFW Legacy by investing in the Legacy Life Program? If you are, and you have one of these gold/silver/bronze plated metal cards? Did you know these Legacy Life plates are NOT a legal form of VFW identification. You cannot use your Legacy Life plate as VFW membership proof for entrance to/attendance at any VFW or official VFW meeting.

BY THE WAY – if you are not a Legacy Life member, why not? It is the ultimate form of VFW membership and keeps your name alive in your post for the life of your post.

**CANDIDATES CORNER – Meet some of those running for next year's offices:**

#### **ERIK ROTHERING**



ERIK ROTHERING CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT JR. VICE CDR: - GOLD LEGACY LIFE MEMBER GRAND JR. VICE CDR (MOC) : 2020-2021 SERVED ARMY: 2000-2014 SEAM SQUIRREL: 2018-2021 KOREA SERVICE: 2005 COOTIE OF THE YEAR: 2019-2020 IRAQI FREEDOM: 2007 5TH SUPREME DISTRICT JIMMY LEG: (APPOINTED) AFGHANISTAN: 2011 NATIONAL ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL DISTRICT 2 CDR: 2019-2021 ENDORSED BY PSC HARRY MCFADDEN POST 641 CDR 2020-2021 ENDORSED BY POST 641 WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE VETERAN.

I would appreciate your vote and support!! – Erik

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**DISTRICT ELECTIONS** – Your District elections will be held at your District Convention. Have you thought about taking a leadership role within your district? If so, you need to let others know so they can help/support you in your quest. If you want to be nominated for/elected to a position and you won't be at the convention. You must send a letter to the District Adjutant stating your desire to be nominated to a particular position, or a statement indicating you will accept any position you are nominated for.

## BETH TUFTS



I would like to thank all of you for your get well wishes, cards and prayers sent my way over the last month as I battled the COVID virus. They all mean a lot to me and I believe they played a huge part in my mild symptoms and quick recovery. I still have a lot of aches and pains and am terribly tired which puts me back in bed often, but I can gladly live with that instead of the suffering so many continue to experience. The doctor has said the lingering symptoms will take time to go away. But I just thank God and my many friends I have here in the Auxiliary that I did not have the terrible experience that so many others have had. Thank you all again for your prayers, encouragement, support.

Now I have one more request. As you know I currently hold the position of Department VFW Auxiliary Jr. Vice President. I am running for the office of Sr. Vice President at our Convention in June. I have worked hard to reach this office and request your continued support in helping me along my journey. I have held every office on my trip to becoming Sr Vice of the Department from post auxiliary, District and now Department. I have worked my way through the chairs always hoping to eventually become your Department President. I have thoroughly enjoyed every office I have held throughout the Auxiliary. Your vote for me for this office will be greatly appreciated. As always, I am open to any suggestion or help that you may need. I look forward to continuing to serve the Auxiliary as Department Sr Vice President and being your representative on the Department Council of Administration.

Thank you for your support and vote in June!

Beth Tufts

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*Donna Marie King*



As we approach a new year of nominations and elections of officers, and what a year it has been, I would like to put my name in for the Auxiliary Department Chaplain. As I complete my year as the

Conductress, I am ready for the next step of Chaplain on my way to the Department President. Please consider giving me your support and vote for me as the -

**2021 -2022 Auxiliary Department Chaplain.**

- ◆ Life Member of Auxiliary 10624, ◆ Auxiliary President Auxiliary 10624 2015-2021
- ◆ Media Chairman at Auxiliary 10624, ◆ Life Member of National Home for Children
- ◆ District 1: Conductress 2016-2017, ◆ District 1: Sr. Vice President 2017-2018
- ◆ District 1 President 2018-2019, ◆ Dept. Outstanding Auxiliary President 2015-2016
- ◆ Department Outstanding Auxiliary President 2018-2019
- ◆ Department Committee Chairman: Veterans & Family Support 2017-2018, Youth Activities 2018-2019, Americanism 2019-2020 and Americanism 2019-2020 (Outstanding Chairperson)

Thank you for your support !! Donna

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**ELLA C. CALVERT**



Hi!, I am Ella and I am seeking your support and vote for the position of Department Quartermaster! I currently serve as Dept. Deputy/Assistant Quartermaster. I have served the state as Special Aide De Camp, serve on the State By-Laws committee, as a Post Quartermaster, MOC Trustee, Post Auxiliary Trustee and I am a Bronze Legacy Life Member.

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**VAVS DONATIONS NEEDED – Are you one of the Post's in the 'Low Country' area and your members use the Charleston VA Hospital or Clinics? If so, they are in need of various items to help less fortunate patients who come to their facilities. There is an immediate need for:**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| *Various packaged snack items           | *Men's tennis shoes size 10 and above |
| *Men's slip-on shoes, size 10 and above | *Winter hats & gloves                 |
| *Ladies sports bra's LG to 2XL          | *Unisex shower shoes, all sizes       |
| *Reading glasses (2.00 to 3.00)         | *Sweat Pants                          |
| *Winter coats, all sizes                | *White wool socks                     |

\* Restaurant, fuel, Walmart, Dollar stores Gift Cards (\$10 each, nothing higher)

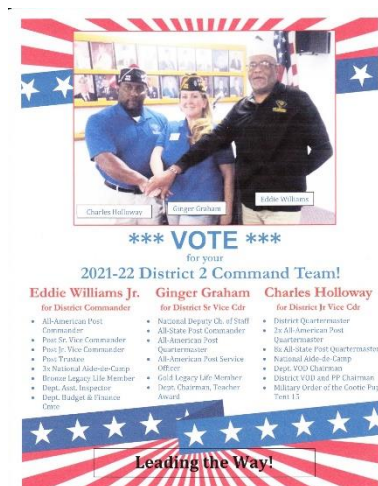
Just go to the Volunteer Services Office at the RHJMC, next to Main entrance elevators or call 843-789-6011 to arrange a drop-off.

**\*\*\*ARE YOU A 25 YEAR OR LONGER VFW MEMBER?** If so, I would like to hear from you so I can put you in the next newsletter. If you could send me your name, years in the VFW, Post number and a picture (preferably of you in your early years/in uniform). That would be great!! THANKS!!

**ELECTIONS** – Your Post nominations for elected positions within your Post start with your March business meeting. Has anyone talked to you about assuming a little more responsibility within YOUR Post. Nominations for positions can go right up until the elections in April. If for some reason you can't make the March or April meeting, but want to be nominated for a position. YOU must send a letter to the Post Adjutant stating your willingness to accept a particular position nomination, or a statement that says you will accept any position you are nominated for.



**What is your Post rapport with your local newspaper/news-media?** The key to getting your post achievements published is to show your local newspaper editor that your post is doing good things within your post and the local community. You need to work with the news media to get them interested in what your post is doing. Most local newspapers will be glad to print your stuff. All you have to do is provide a good product (story) and supporting pictures (if available). Its best if you have a post single-point-of-contact for your media activities (Publicity Chairperson?). By the way, getting local TV or Radio stations to promote your events is just as simple, IF you work with them.



**Bill La Monte**  
**Editor/Writer**  
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***America without her Soldiers would be like God without his Angels !!***

Claudia Pemberton