



Department of South Carolina *SENTINEL*



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

210 Glassmaster Road, Lexington, SC 29072

Vfwsc.org

admin@vfwsc.org

803-808-0317

SECOND QUARTER (Apr – Jun) 2022

ALL AMERICAN STATE 2021-2022

***It's not the price you pay to become a member.
It's the price you paid to become eligible!***

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!

VA WOMEN VETERAN HELP LINES...1-855-829-6636 or 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The five signs of emotional suffering: PERSONALITY CHANGE, FEELING AGITATED, FEELING WITHDRAWN, POOR SELF-CARE AND FEELING HOPELESS.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 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.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT !! 😊 😊 Why you are at it – Have you gotten a PNEUMONIA or SHINGLES shot. What about the COVID shot? How about the COVID Booster Shot?

Are you a veteran of Afghanistan? Or the family member of a veteran who served there? And you/they need some help. Contact 877 – WAR – VETS (877-927-8387). This is a 24/7 helpline.

******In 2021 there were more than 8,000, military-on-military, sexual assaults reported to DoD***

CONGRATULATIONS – To North Myrtle Beach VFW Post 10804 for earning the VFW National #StillServing Award for the month of April for the community service work the post and auxiliary does year-round.



State Sr. Vice-Commander Ed Stefanak, Jr. presenting the VFW National #StillServing Award for April 2022 to North Myrtle Beach Post 10804 Commander Mike Mishoe and post member Bill La Monte

My VA Prescription, Is It a Refill or Renewal

When you run out of your VA prescription medication, do you know how to get more? VA pharmacies can process most of your prescription refill requests. Keep in mind that there are certain cases when VA may not be able to offer a refill. Instead, you may need a *renewal*. A renewal is a different kind of request, and it's important to remember the difference.

Refill requests vs. renewal requests: Providers determine how many prescription refills you can request between appointments. If you need more medication and have no refills left or the prescription is expired or discontinued, you'll need to request a [renewal](#).

How to request a prescription refill:

Prescription [refills](#) can be requested online via [My HealtheVet](#), on the [Rx Refill](#) mobile app, by phone, or through the mail. To make sure you get your medication before you run out, request refills at least 15 days before you need it. You could even schedule a refill the day your medication arrives. The medication won't be processed for shipping until its [fill date](#).

How to request a prescription renewal: Start thinking about renewing your prescription as soon as you have zero refills left. Requesting a renewal of a VA prescription could be as simple as reaching out to your provider. You can ask for a renewal via [Secure Messaging](#), phone, or during an appointment. The phone number on most prescription labels can direct you to an automated pharmacy line for renewal requests without needing to talk to anyone.

Prescriptions and [copayments](#) can be hard to navigate. VA has resources available to help. To access all the best features of My HealtheVet, like tracking prescription deliveries, upgrade to a [Premium account](#).

HOW DOES YOUR POST GET THE WORD OUT?

As of the beginning of this calendar year, I only know of five posts that are producing any sort of Post Newsletter to keep their membership informed. That's five out of 70+ posts.

As a general rule, most posts only have about 10% of their membership attend their monthly business meeting. Meeting minutes are generally only distributed at the next business meeting and to that very small percentage of members that attend. One of the biggest complaints within the VFW is the LACK OF COMMUNICATION! Less involved members who don't attend Post/District/State meetings are provided no information on what is happening in their state VFW. Their biggest VFW news source, VFW Magazine.

MEETING MINUTES: Why does your post only produce meeting minutes in time for the next meeting. Why not make it a practice to produce those minutes no-later-than seven days after the meeting. Then email them to EVERY post member who has an email and post a copy on the post bulletin board.

A NEWSLETTER: Does not need to be big or fancy. It can be monthly/quarterly and only a one-page summary of significant post happenings. Same thing, email a copy to every member with email and post a copy on the post bulletin board.

MONTHLY CALENDAR: Even this can be very informative to post membership. At least the membership can see what the post is involved with each month.

PS: If your post does produce a newsletter of any kind? Please send me a copy (4william6@gmail.com)

ASSAULT & HARASSMENT IN VA FACILITIES

The VA is in the process of sending out to its 9 million members, their policy on how to combat assaults and harassment in VA facilities. This goes along with their new policy on “bystander intervention training” (if you see something wrong, do something or at least report it).

The VA has announced a “ZERO-TOLERANCE” policy for harassing, disruptive, abusive or violent behavior! Harassment and sexual assault, including sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, is inappropriate conduct and will NOT be tolerated.

The VA is going so far as to hold offending parties accountable by restricting the manner and location at which an offending veteran can receive VA care.

Veterans may access bystander intervention training, review policies and access resources at **Va.gov/stop-harassment/policy**

Those who have experienced harassment or assault, or who have witnessed such behavior, are asked to contact the VA Police or a VA Management Official. If you wish to make a confidential report on sexual assault, or sexual harassment, **contact the VA Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-488-8244**
Courtesy of DAV Magazine

A LITTLE MILITARY TRIVIA

*The Department of Defense owns around 600,000 buildings/structures at 6,000 locations around the world and it owns over 30 million acres of land worldwide.

*Since 1950, 56 countries have played host to a minimum of 1,000 or more American military troops.

*After WW II, the largest number of US troops serving overseas in a single year was 1.1 million in 1968. The least amount was 206,000 in 1999

*The range of age for available military service is 18-49

a. That equates to 73.2 million men and 71.9 million women

b. Of that number, the number considered fit for military service is 60.6 million men, 59.4 million women

c. Each year 2.2 million men and 2.0 million women reach military service age.

SOURCE: VietFriends.com

SINCE 2001

*2.77 million members have deployed on 5.4 million deployments

*1.33 million Army deployments with over 225,000 members deploying 3 times or more

*563,000 Navy deployments

*518,000 Air Force deployments

*367,000 Marine deployments

NOTE: These figures only go through 2015

DRIVING AND DYING – In a very recent year over 3,000 DISTRACTED drivers were killed while driving on U.S. roadways. Some of the causes of their distraction include; something happening in the vehicle, sight-seeing, reading a newspaper or magazine, doing things with a laptop computer, and the most prevalent – doing something with their cell phone.

NOTE: The statistic only covers deaths of distracted drivers and NOT the deaths of others in their vehicle or vehicles they may have hit.



Checkout the parking sign I found at this Pharmacy in Cherry Grove, SC. If you happen to be in the area. Stop in and tell them THANKS!

COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION May 9, 2022

Started with a Joint Session of the State and the Auxiliary;

There was a CofA meeting (the last official one for this state administration). There were 51 comrades in attendance, including six past state commanders. Members of the CofA were given the opportunity to make presentations, along with a couple of committee chairpersons. Some highlights are:

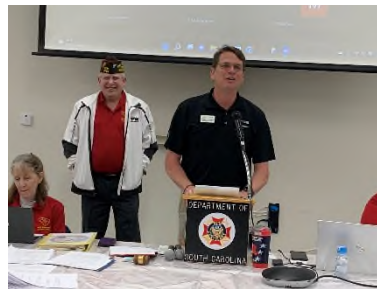
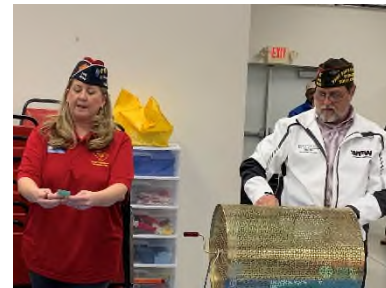
- *WALGREEN'S presented the state VFW with a check for \$31,000.
- *District 7 retained the membership trophy as #1 district in the state.
- *STATE SERVICE OFFICER office took 333 calls for information/assistance and filed 55 veteran claims in March. Filing a claim help is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
- *The 2022-2023 Voice of Democracy theme is: Why is the Veteran Important To Me and the Patriot's Pen theme is: My Pledge To Our Veterans
- *Post 3746, District 5, earned a state plaque for having the most recruiters in a post...14
- *Post 10420, District 7, will receive National VFW recognition for the most Legacy Life Members – 26
- *A collection bucket was passed around for the National Home for Children. \$311 was collected.

The State, the Auxiliary and Humana had been co-sponsoring a raffle fund drive for the Fisher House. The drawing was held at the Joint CofA meeting. Winners were
\$200 – to SAMANTHA McGALA of Post 9138
\$500 Pampered Chef Gift Card to ALEXIS BAKER of Post 10813

The Mini Jeep Grand Prize – to POST 3433 AUXILIARY

THANK YOU GINGER GRAHAM, PSC TED TUFTS, ALL THE TICKET SELLERS and ESPECIALLY THE TICKET BUYERS and HUMANA ☺

FROM AROUND THE STATE/AUXILIARY - CofA APRIL 9, 2022



First 3 pictures: Opening of Joint Session

Pictures 4-6: The "JUDGE" is back; Auxiliary photographers; Drawing the Fisher House Raffle winners.

Pictures 7 – 9: Our guest speakers



First picture: Our membership/recruiting award winners

Second picture: Some members of the "We Are Family" Southern Conference volunteers

Getting your post information out to the membership: The first quarter of 2022 is over and so far only FOUR Posts in the state have sent me their newsletter. I am curious to know; **How are you letting your post members know what is happening in and around your post on a month to month basis? If you are saying YOUR NOT!, that is a wrong answer and it is the answer that contributes to the biggest loss of VFW membership. LACK OF COMMUNICATION!!**

Even if you are not producing a newsletter. What are you doing to keep your post informed? A monthly calendar is a start. Sending minutes of your monthly meeting to every member you can (email is the easiest way) and posting those minutes on the post bulletin board within ONE WEEK of the meeting is an even better start.

WOMEN VETERANS & SEXUAL TRAUMA SITUATIONS – According to a study conducted by RAND Corp. and supported by the VA & DAV. Nearly ONE-QUARTER of women veterans responding to the RAND survey stated they had experienced some sort of sexual harassment during their service time. One in every sixteen reported being the victim of a sexual assault.

What makes matters even worse is that during a survey period of three months in 2021, **57%** of all MST claims filed were mishandled and denied. To make matters worse. This percentage of mishandling and denial is going UP! This even though the VA Office of Inspector General and Government Accounting Office have filed a series of reports on the mis-handling of MST claims. Also, a series of recommendations made to the Veterans Benefit Administration to improve the accuracy and timeliness of MST claims processing **HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED.**

A study conducted by the VA and the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas pointed to long-term effects on women veterans who go on to become mothers. In many cases, a history of MST appears to be leading to higher rates of depression during pregnancy and after birth, as well as poorer bonding between mother and child.

SOURCE: VA & DAV

TAPS.....TAPS.....TAPS.....TAPS.....TAPS.....TAPS

If you post commanders, or someone in your post, send me the names, post number & branch of service of members who have passed on during the quarter? I will respectfully create and post their information in the quarterly state newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW – That in 2021, there were 295 people a day in America that died from a drug-overdose.

MEET YOUR NEW

STATE COMMANDER – ED STEFANAK, Jr.

Edward "Sarge" Stefanak Jr. enlisted in the United States Army in 1998 and served 9 years as an Mortarman (11C).

During his service, he deployed in support of several campaigns to include Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. His military decorations include a Bronze Star for Valor, an Army Commendation Medal (2), a Good Conduct Medal (3), the National Defense Service Medal, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, an Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, a NATO Medal, a Combat Infantry Badge and the Expert Infantry Badge.

Ed graduated from Greenville Technical College with a Culinary Arts Degree with a minor in Business Management.

Ed joined VFW Post 1975 in Auburn NY after returning from Bosnia in 2000. In 2008 he transferred his membership to Wildcat Post 3447 Gaffney SC where he served as Jr Vice, Sr Vice and Post Commander. In District 8, he served as Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice and District Commander. He also served as District Inspector, Adjutant and Programs Director.

His VFW awards include the Samuel U. Roach (Most Outstanding District Commander) Award 2019-2020. He was awarded All-State 2009-2011 and again from 2018-2020. In 2019-2020 he was Co-Captain of the All-State Post Team. In 2019-2020 he was named Captain of the District All-State Team. He is a two-time All-American Post Commander 2009-2010/2019-2020 and an All-American District Commander 2019-2020.

Ed is a Life Member of the VFW (Post 3447). He has 4 children, Madelyn, Lilly, Riley and Brody.

COOTIES GRAND – ERIK ROTHERING

Meet your new COOTIE Officers:

Grand Commander – ERIK ROTHERING

Grand Sr. Vice Commander – BETTY HILLIARD

Grand Jr. Vice Commander – MILTON DRUMMOND

Grand Quartermaster (Custodian of the Crummy Duffle Bag) – HARRY McFADDEN

Grand Adjutant (Hungry Cootie) – JACQUELINE BROOKS

Judge Advocate (Shyster) – NORRIS STEVENS

Surgeon (Pill Pusher) – ARTHUR FOGLE

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES FOR SC COOTIES

PUP TENT Hosts of GRAND SCRATCHES & GRAND CONVENTION for upcoming year:

*** OCT 7-9 : Scratch, hosted by Pup Tent #1 – Beaufort**

***JAN 6-8 : Scratch, hosted by Pup Tent #9 – Greenville**

**** MARCH 29 – APRIL 2 : Supreme Commander's Homecoming and Grand Scratch Hosted by Pup Tent #15 – Columbia**

*****JUN 2 – 4 : Supreme Scratch : hosted by Pup Tent #10 – Summerville**

NOTE: S.C. COOTIES are in District 5 of the National Council of Administration

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE – JIM FOX

Brothers and sisters it has been a real privilege to have served all of you this past year as your Jr. Vice and I look forward to serving you during this upcoming year as your Sr. Vice. This spring I represented our Department at the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids MI. The staff and director did a first class job in showing all of us all the facilities. The service that they provide at the campus is second to none in serving our families in need. I again would like to thank all of the posts and individual members for their generous contributions this year as I handed the director a check for **\$10,258.00**. Let us all get the word

out to veterans and active duty personal about all of the great work that we do and have them join our ranks .Remember!

NO ONE does more for veterans than the VFW and the State of South Carolina VFW!

God Bless! **Jim Fox**

VFW ENDORSED CONGRESSIONAL BILLS

The VFW supports many bills that are currently running through Congress. In each edition of the Sentinel I will post various Bills that the VFW supports. If you are in agreement with the VFW. You need to write your Senator or Representative and urge them to support the Bill in question, by its Bill number. For this edition, I will hi-lite a couple of Bills currently in Senate review.

****S.1664 Department of veteran's Affairs Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Processing Claims**

Improvement Act of 2021 – An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General Office identified a flaw in the VA processing of PTSD claims. It stated that over 16% of all PTSD claims reviews were not in-accordance-with VA regulations and procedures.

The VFW supports this proposal to improve the PTSD disability claims process by updating the current training programs, ensuring participants complete all required training, analyzing all claims processing error trends, and creating an annual study to guarantee consistent and current national training.

****S.2329 BEST for Vets Act of 2021** – The VBA currently uses a lot of contractors to perform medical evaluations and determinations. The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 required that contracted medical disability examiners would mimic VHA'S health-care professional medical disability examiners. There are currently way too many contract examiners who are not qualified to rate a veterans medical disability.

The VFW supports this Bill because it would ensure that only licensed health care professionals furnish medical disability examinations under an existing VA pilot program. It also requires contracted health-care providers to ONLY furnish examinations within the scope of their practice. (EX: A contracted general practitioner cannot evaluate a veteran's mental disorder/PTSD issue).

S.2794 Supporting Families of the Fallen Act – The SGLI & VGLI Insurance maximum payouts to veteran families has remained at \$400,000 for the last 16 years.

The VFW supports legislation to increase these payments to \$500,000 as an adjustment to inflation.

A FINAL SALUTE – To the 30 members of the military who were deployed overseas somewhere and answered their last roll-call in 2021. They include 13 who died from hostile causes and 17 who died from non-hostile causes. These deaths happened in 10 countries around the world.

DO YOU KNOW THE #1 DISBILITY AMONG VETERANS? - It is not PTSD, Heart, Cancer, or anything else you might expect. It is **TINNITUS!** This condition effects about 15% of all adult Americans and for the most part, IT IS NOT CURABLE!

People who work in noisy environments are most at risk, but TINNITUS is thought to be caused by ear infections, ear canal blockage, head or neck injuries, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, some anti-biotics, water pills, anti-malaria drugs and anti-depressants.

FOR OUR AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

VA expands reimbursement agreement program to Urban Indian Organizations

The Department of Veterans Affairs partners with Health and Human Services' 41 Indian Health Service grant-funded Urban Indian Organizations serving eligible American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans.

The collaboration is part of a recent expansion of VA's health care [Reimbursement Agreement Program](#).

UIOs provide unique access to quality health care and culturally appropriate services for AI/AN people living in urban areas, who may not have access to Indian Health Service or Tribal health care services because they do not live on or near a reservation or reside outside of an IHS area.

The partnership is possible through Section 1113 of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#) which amended [Sharing Arrangements with Federal Agencies](#) to allow UIOs to participate in the department's Reimbursement Agreement Program to deliver health care to the 70% of AI/AN Veterans now living in urban areas.

"VA has partnered with the Indian Health Services/Tribal Health Program since 2012 to deliver the Reimbursement Agreement Program — which continues to evolve to meet the needs of all Veterans," said Acting Chief Medical Officer of VA's Office of Integrated Veteran Care Sachin P. Yende, M.D.

"Partnering with Urban Indian Organizations will widen access to culturally sensitive care and build mutually-beneficial relationships to better serve American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans."

Visit [Community Care](#) for more information on VA's reimbursement Agreement Program and eligibility. Find more information on the [41 Urban Indian Organizations](#).

***FORMER AIR FORCE AIRCREWS** – Do you know that a VFW supported law mandates that more studies be conducted to find out why Air Force flyers are more likely to be diagnosed with, and die, from certain cancers than the general U.S. population?

Air Force pilots and crew members had a:

- *64% more chance of dying from melanoma skin cancer
- *13% more chance of dying from prostate cancer
- *25% more chance of being diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer
- *19% more chance of being diagnosed with prostate cancer

The study also found that Air Force aviation veterans had a higher rate of complications from non-hodgkin's-lymphoma, specifically, the veterans were

- *13% more likely to be diagnosed with the disease
- *32% more likely to die from the disease.

The primary culprit seems to be older model/decommissioned aircraft that had instruments painted with radium.

The law in question is part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021, P.L. 116-283.

Communications & Public Affairs

Public Relations is all about communicating our message in a good way, promoting the good work of our organization and engaging our audience. Public relations not only works to improve our credibility and accessibility, but also aids in marketing our organization to potential members, donors and supporters. Today, public relations is much more than distributing press releases. It's about taking advantage of a number of intermediaries to best engage, educate and influence our audience.

Getting the word out about the great programs and assistance we provide can be hard work. That's why we've made a wide array of audio and video PSAs available for you to download. Using the list below, you find current PSAs, as well as longer videos designed to help showcase our mission and the vital work we do.

Connect with the Media (Here's How)

- [Public Relations Guide](#) - Discover the components to developing a successful public relations strategy
- [Media Alert Template](#) - Notify your local media of an upcoming event
- [Press Release Template](#) - An easy template to announce or highlight an event
- [Post Milestone Anniversary Template](#) - A press release template to announce your Post's upcoming milestone anniversary
- [VFW Boilerplate](#) - A brief description included at the end of all VFW alerts or releases
- [Interview Tips](#) - Quick tips to prepare your Post or Department leadership
- [Chief's Visit](#) - Engage the local media when the Chief comes to visit
- [Photo/Video Release](#) - Ensure you have absolute permission to share what you've captured
- [National Officers' Bios and Photos](#) - Press-ready information about the VFW chair officers

VA establishes presumptive service connection for rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans

As part of a commitment to support the nation's Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

The following list of rare respiratory cancers have been added to [VA's regulations through an Interim Final Rule](#) published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2022:

- *Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- *Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- *Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- *Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- *Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- *Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- *Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- *Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- *Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biological plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract — and the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

The rarity and severity of these illnesses and the reality these conditions present, is a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence, prompted VA to take this action.

VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#) beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. VA will contact impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply.

Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a [supplemental claim](#) for benefits. If you are a Veteran, survivor or dependent applying for the first time, file a new claim [here](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000

DO YOU KNOW THAT YOUR VFW – Exists in **14 Countries** around the world and that Germany is host to **15 Posts**.

*That in December of 2020, the VFW had 6,000 Posts. As of April 2022 that number is 5882 Chartered Posts.

*That the largest Post in the US is Post 1503 in Dale City VA with a Feb 2022 membership of 3,307 members. Over 3,000 of which are Life Members.

6888th CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION (SIX TRIPLE EIGHT)

Was the **ONLY BLACK – ALL FEMALE** military unit to serve overseas during WWII. They were formed primarily to go to England and clear all the mail log-jams that existed throughout the country. It mostly took troops up to a minimum of six months to get mail before the 6888th took over. The 6888th had 817 enlisted and 31 officers in the WAC Battalion. The initial contingent arrived on February 14th and the rest 50 days later. What was considered an insurmountable task that would take at least six months to fix, was resolved in just a couple of months.

After resolving the British mail issue. The 6888th was sent France on June 9th (3 days after the Armistice) and later to Paris (October 1945) to help get backlogged mail to the troops throughout Europe.

*Recent legislation saw this group being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

* It is estimated they handled over 65,000 pieces of mail per shift with an end-of-tour estimate of over 17 million pieces of mail moved.

*As of May 1st, there were only six of the battalion's original members still alive. The oldest a 101 year old Fannie Griffin-McClendon an Air Force Major, retired.

SC DMV DRIVERS LICENSES & MILITARY PLATES

DID YOU KNOW THAT – As a current/recently former military member, you can get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) if you worked in/are working in any of the following military career fields
ARMY - 88M, 14T, 92F NAVY – EO MARINES – 3531 AIR FORCE – 2T1, FO, 3E2

You can 'exchange' your military commercial vehicle training for a SC CDL without having to take the driving skills or knowledge tests. You do this by applying for an "Even Exchange Waiver"

Even if you were not in any of the above MOS'S, but you did:

*Operate the same type vehicle for more than 3,000 miles within two years of your CDL application or military discharge date.

*You must still pass all required knowledge tests and follow federal regulations.

To qualify for both (either/or) waivers:

*Must currently be on active duty or left the military in last 12 months

*Operated a military commercial vehicle

*Hold a valid SC Drivers License

*Not hold any other drivers license within last two years

To get all the details on a **COMMERCIAL LICENSE**, go to: SCDMVONLINE.COM/Drivers-Services/Military

FOR NEW MILITARY PLATES: Fill out the *SCDMV Form 37 Application for Military Plates*
(Go to SCDMV to see the various military plates available)

PS: For you women veterans. There are over 240,000 CDL licensed women drivers out there! Most over-the-road truckers. Need a job??

ANOTHER VETERAN WIN IN SOUTH CAROLINA – As of May 13th, military retirees living in SC, **DO NOT** have to pay state taxes on their military retirement!

To set the record straight: Back in 2015, at the urging of Frank Fogner to “WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN”, I wrote a letter to the SC House and the Governor urging the passage of a bill that would exempt military retiree taxes from state tax (since, for the most part, military retirees did not earn any money in SC). Fast forward 2022. Apparently someone in Columbia opened, read and agreed with my letter. Then the above happened. I DONE GOOD!!

IT IS HURRICANE SEASON – And for most part it only effects those of us that live East of Interstate 95. That is a big deal! It means having a ‘Hurricane Evacuation Plan’ or a ‘Stay-in-Place Plan’ and most importantly, having some sort of Hurricane Evacuation Kit. What should be in the kit can be found in many sources, including YOUR VFW web site.

One thing that is not emphasized enough, is your need to have plenty of SMALL cash (\$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 bills) available. Power outages put an end to credit card readers, banks, gas stations, stores of any kind. Most places still open, or open to sell-off their perishables, won’t take a personal check and Traveler’s Checks are mostly useless, unless in the \$10 or \$20 category.

AROUND THE STATE

POST 3137 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3137, known as “Post on the Coast,” dedicated its new Patriots’ Courtyard on May 14. The public was invited to the event to honor veterans during Military Appreciation Month.

The courtyard honors all veterans and patriots and is devoted to the VFW’s mission and core values. The mission of VFW is “to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.” The organization’s core values include promoting patriotism and honoring military service.



All are welcome to donate an engraved paver to honor a veteran or patriot. The tax-deductible donation of \$125 per brick includes engraving and placement of the paver in the courtyard. These contributions aid in the safety improvements and beautification of the Post entrance and beach access, including widening the sidewalk from four to eight feet, removing standing water from heavy rain, new lighting to improve night visibility and a memorial to honor veterans.

An engraved paver brick pays tribute to a veteran who has served in one of the six military branches. Each paver brick can be engraved with as many as three lines, up to 15 characters per line. Please note that the space between words count as one character.

The Post is accepting applications for the first engraving period from now through the end of August. Sponsored paver bricks will be etched on-site in September.

To fill out an application for a paver brick, visit www.vfwpost3137.org/pavers. Payment may be completed online or by mailed cash or check.

POST 6091 - HOLDS CHICKEN BOG: The Dillon VFW Post 6091 held its chicken bog fund raising event on Friday, May 6th at the VFW Post. This is a new fund raiser for the VFW and Committee Chairman Bobby McLean and his team arrived at the VFW at 5:30AM to fire up the cookers. VFW members, family members, and others who wanted to help support veterans arrived throughout the morning to help serve pre-sale ticket holders and on-site ticket sale customers chicken bog plates from 11AM to 2PM. Kids coming with their parents took the opportunity to play on the armored personnel carrier located in front of the VFW Post Home. VFW Quartermaster Jim Chavis said that the VFW chicken bog exceeded its ticket sales goal. The VFW will use the proceeds to help support local VFW programs for veterans and their families and needed repairs to the Post Home. Post Commander Harry Moore thanked the VFW members and their family members for dedicating the day to the VFW, and he thanked the other volunteers who had come up to work and help support veterans. Among the servers was a gold star widow and their son. Post Quartermaster Jim Chavis said that the VFW was able to exceed its ticket sales goal because of the strong support provided by Dillon businesses, organizations, and the Dillon people who bought a ticket or gave in some other way to the fundraiser in support of veterans. He said that some donations were made directly to the VFW for veterans. VFW Post 6091 is located at 2042 Highway 9 East and meets at 7PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month. VFW membership is open to military veterans and active-duty members of the military who have honorably served and in a combat area. More information about the South Carolina VFW is available at www.vfwsc.org.



POST 6091 DELIVERS BAGS OF GROCERIES TO VETERANS: Members of VFW Post 6091 in Dillon SC partnered with Help for Veterans, Inc., to deliver bags of groceries to local low-income Veterans. Post members helped deliver 2 bags of groceries to each of 14 local low-income Veterans. VFW members and other volunteers drove to the 14 homes around Dillon County delivering the groceries and visiting with the Veterans. VFW member John Harlow spoke of delivering groceries to a 99-year-old WW-II Veteran who lives alone and has some health issues, but had such a positive attitude. John said, "I was so honored

to be with him and listen to his war stories that seemed so fresh in his memory. I asked him if anyone checked on him and he remarked that the Lord checks on him every day.” VFW member Jim Chavis said, “I heard a lot of thank you’s today and it made me want to do more.” Picture L-R are VFW members Jim Chavis and VFW John Harlow.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DILLON POST 6091 for this project being recognized in the May/June Issue of VFW CHECKPOINT

COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH A TWIST

POST 10804 – Checked with the County Fire Department and Sheriff’s Department to see if there was anything they needed, but could not get through their supply systems because of their budgets. The Fire Department said they needed an air compressor (they specified make and model requested) for their sub-station that happened to be right next door to Post 10804. With the help of Humana (Alan Eden) we were able to secure the compressor. The Sheriff’s Department said ‘training ammo’! With the help of all the posts in District 7, we were able to provide the sheriff’s department with 850 rounds of training ammo.



Post Sr. Vice-Commander Mike Mallory (front left) and events chairperson Bill La Monte (front right) deliver the requested air compressor to members of the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad

Picture 2: Sr. Vice Mallory & Bill La Monte delivering 850 rounds of practice ammo to the sheriff’s department.

POST 12102 – Receiving their “Perpetual Charter”, from VFW National, for having 25 or more Life Members!



Commander Jacob & QM Lies displaying the post Perpetual Charter

MEMBERSHIP – Nationally there are currently 39 challenges to a veterans eligibility to be a **VFW member..** Members be aware of the person's you are recruiting and Quartermasters, make sure you adequately verify that DD 214 before you put your signature of approval on the application.

THE AFTER-LIFE AND REMEMBERING YOU

Would your survivors like for you to be remembered by your post, but they can't afford any kind of sizeable donation?

There is a system in place that for a scant \$1,200 (Memorial Gold Legacy Life Membership), your name will remain in the annals of your post for the entirety of your posts life. This is done by way of an annual \$18 contribution to your post and an additional \$18 contribution to your state VFW's. Not much, but every year that money arrives at the post and state in **YOUR NAME**. Your name will also continue to live in the form of a 'paver-brick' in Centennial Plaza at VFW National Headquarters. Your name is also posted in the kiosk's at the Memorial Building in Washington, DC and the Museum at National Headquarters.

BUT WHY WAIT? *You can become a Legacy Life Member today* (before you answer that last roll-call). By joining today, you get additional incentives like a plated-engraved Life Member Card, lapel & hat pins, a framed certificate of membership in this elite group, recognition on the internet and at every state convention, a special plaque and a hat patch. Add to this you get special discounts on purchases at the VFW store and a NO-COST AD & D insurance policy up to \$5,000. (all as a Gold Legacy Life Member).

NOTE: As of this writing, there are 189 active Legacy Life Members and 25 deceased members in the state. All 25 still being remembered by their post and state and all 25 still contributing to the future of their post and state.

SOON TO BE SOLDIERS GET TO TALK WITH VETERANS – As part of a Fort Jackson basic training information program for soldiers about to graduate boot camp. It is called the 'Soldier's Indoctrination Ceremony'. Ft. Jackson invites veterans' organizations to meet and talk with the **soon-to-be** soldiers. It is an open question forum that ranges from "why did you join", "how did you handle the military & married life"" what can I expect on a deployment"?, etc.



State Commander Hora, Department Auxiliary President Brock, and Service Officer Johnson talk to the Army troops. You have to be an early-bird for this one as activities start at 5AM.

KEEPING UP THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES



State Commander Hora was invited to speak to the employees of the Walgreen's Management Team meeting held at the Department Council Building. Department Auxiliary President Brock and Commander Hora present four Appreciation Plaques to Walgreen's for their donations to SC VFW that help support the Department Service Office that helps veterans in filing their VA benefit claims.

HONOR FLIGHTS – Honoring Our Veterans

Recently Post 12207 Commander Anita Wilson – Received the opportunity to provide one of the ultimate means of showing a veterans true support of a fellow veteran. Commander Wilson participated, as an escort to a Vietnam Veteran, in an “Honor Flight” to Washington, DC. The flight was organized by Blue Ridge Honor Flight out of Asheville, NC. It was primarily a trip to say “Welcome Home” too many Vietnam Veterans in NC and SC. Commander Wilson's honoree was Air Force Vietnam Veteran Larry Dorer, a member of Post 12207.

Commander Wilson works with a veteran's group on Wednesday mornings and they had decided that they wanted to try and get an Honor Flight organized. They did the necessary paperwork, were approved, and were originally scheduled for the trip in September 2021. Due to COVID and some political issues going on in Washington, the flight was postponed until its actual departure in late May.

94 Veterans and one Red Cross worker were honored. The 94 included 92 Vietnam Veterans, two WW II Veterans (age 96) and one Korean War Veteran. This consisted of 54 Army, 15 Air Force, 13 Marines, 12 Navy and the one Red Cross worker.

They got to visit most all of the war memorials and participated in a Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A trip none will ever forget!

NOTE: If you know someone who would like to be a member of an Honor Flight? Or would like to be an escort. Go to: <https://www.honorflight.org>



Picture 1: Commander Wilson with AF Vietnam Veteran Larry Dorer

Picture 2: Larry Dorer at Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Picture 3: Audie Murphy's gravesite at Arlington

Picture 4: The Honor Flight

Picture 5: Group picture at Lincoln Memorial

Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen

Congratulations to:

***Chester D. Townsend POST 6561 SALUDA for their \$2,000 Voice of Democracy National Awardee: MARY COPELAND**

***Captain John P. Monahan POST 12136 INDIAN LAND for their \$500 Patriot's Pen National Awardee: JAMES BOWEN**

A PIECE OF TRIVIA THAT COULD EARN MY FELLOW SOUTHEAST ASIA VETERAN FRIENDS A FREE DRINK AT THE BAR..... Bet someone that you know of **THE ONLY RIVER** in the WORLD that flows **BOTH DIRECTIONS** (almost everyone will say there is none, some RIVER RATS know differently)! The only river in the world that actively flows both directions is the....***TONLE SAP RIVER in the Mekong Delta.***

Before we put this edition to bed. Let's look at some important things happening over the next three months:

JULY

11-13 School of Instruction Preparation

16-23 National Convention Kansas City

23 Quartermaster and Adjutant Training

30 All Post Audits due to State Quartermaster

AUGUST

6 Joint State Meeting and School of Instruction

13 District 6 & 9 School of Instruction

20/21 Recruiting event in Columbia

27 Districts 4, 7, 8 School of Instruction

31 All Post Bonds due to State Quartermaster

Buddy Poppy orders due to State Quartermaster

SEPTEMBER

10 Patriot's Day Celebration

14 VFW AUXILIARY Birthday

29 VFW Birthday

EVERYONE should read/review the **Department Membership Mission** which can be found: Go to vfWSC.org, after entry scroll over to ABOUT, scroll down to Department Commander, click open, then click open 2022-2023 Department Membership Mission, start reading, start recruiting/reinstating.

This is YOUR newsletter. It is designed to provide YOU with helpful information, along with all the accomplishments of the Posts and Districts around the state and State Headquarters itself.

If there is anything YOU would like to see added to the newsletter that would be beneficial to most of our VFW/Auxiliary membership? Please send it to me for review and between the State Commander and I, we will decide if it is a suitable subject for the newsletter.

Got a special project you or your post does to support veterans. Share it!



State Commander Dwight Hora ventured to North Carolina to present past District 7 & Post 10804 Commander Allen Rundall with a "Commanders Eagle" of Appreciation for all the work Allen has done in supporting the SC VFW. Looking on is Allen's wife June Rundall

WE ARE GROWING

CONGRATULATIONS TO – Foothills Post 12207 for chartering the newest Auxiliary in the State. Seventeen members took the oath and are welcome members to the Auxiliary family. A "WELL DONE" to all who worked to make this Auxiliary happen!



Soon to be members of the newest Auxiliary in S.C prepare for their induction ceremony.

YOUR 2022 STATE CONVENTION

Prior to the convention. YOUR National Representatives visited Posts 8738 in Lexington & Post 11079 in Elgin

VINCENT B.J. LAWRENCE – Past National Commander-in-Chief (2018-2019)

CORTINA BARNES – Past National President (2010 – 2011)

WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA

LEXINGTON



This was supposed to be a post visit, but 102 year old WW II, Battle of the Bulge, veteran GERALD WHITE became the person everyone had to be seen with. I'm sure it made his day!
AS usual, Ginger has a charity thing going and even the Past NCIC was not exempt from her sales pitch

ELGIN





THANKS!!! For the pictures GINGER

THE STATE CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING



Part of the process of a convention is the “Business Meeting” which basically involves reports/comments from all 19 members of the Council of Administration. Here are some highlights:

- *There were 231 comrades registered for the convention. This is slightly larger than the last few years. There were several late registrations not included in this total.

- *Every post was reminded that if you did not/do not pay your “Delegate Fees”. Your post would not be allowed to vote in the Sunday elections.

- *There was one post that did not submit a single Trustee Report for the 2021-2022 year.

- *Every Post Commander was reminded that their Commander & Quartermaster must be bonded for the the maximum amount of money the post takes in during a year. If a post takes in \$50,000, the Commander and Quartermaster must be bonded for a minimum of \$50,000 each (one post with a \$50K+ annual income had their CC & QM only bonded for \$3,000. Not correct!)

- *Every post (in attendance) was reminded that they had to register as a charity with the state in order to function. They need a second registration if they plan on holding raffles. Cost per registration is \$50.

- *The SC VFW hosted Southern Conference netted the state a profit of slightly over \$10,000

- *Commander Hora stated there was too much in-fighting and bickering within posts and districts and that if the SC VFW is to continue to succeed? This bickering needs to STOP!

***Past National-Commader-in-Chief Vincent B.J. Lawrence addressed the comrades and praised the work of DENTIST HARVIN, GUS SINGLETON and RICHARD BELL for their outstanding service at the national level, to include their work on Capital Hill.

***THE BEST PART OF A STATE VFW CONVENION IS RECOGNIZING THOSE COMRADES, POSTS
AND DISTRICTS THAT HAVE STEPPED-UP IN THE NAME OF THE VFW***

Samuel U. Roach (Most Outstanding Commander)

Post Commander – MARC JACOBS	Post 12102
District Commander – CURTIS PETERSON	District 1

Melvin L. Elmore (Most Outstanding Quartermaster)

Post Quartermaster – JOHN IOVIERO	Post 6444
District Quartermaster – DOUGLAS WAY	District 4

Louis Thornton (Most Outstanding Veteran)

RAY KELLER	Post 8346
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James W. Cothran (Most Outstanding Post)

Post 12207 (Anita Wilson, Commander)

Clyde Lindsay (Most Outstanding Community Service)

Post 10804 (Mike Mishoe, Commander)

J. Francis Carlisle (Most Outstanding Chaplain)

Catherine Wilson	Post 12102
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Volunteer of the Year

Comrade – MATTHEW LEAIRD	Post 3137
Auxiliary – CAROL LONG	Post 6740
Patron – ROBERT PIEFKE	Post 12136

Commander Hora Life Achievement Award (Commander's Eagle) to:

Paul Lyles

Richard Bell

Commander Hora honored his executive staff with personalized gifts of appreciation. Receiving this recognition was; Sr Vice Ed Stefanak Jr, Jr Vice Jim Fox, Quartermaster Ella Calvert, Adjutant Betty Hilliard, Chaplain Wilton Fowler, Immediate Past State Commander Ted tufts II, and Department Secretary Kate Brock

Commander Hora honored others in his elected/appointed staff with personalized gifts of appreciation. Receiving this recognition was; L.C. Mills Dergeant at Arms, Ervin Johnson, Guard, John Bacon Color Guard Captain, singleton National Council member, Dentist Harvin

National Legislative Chairperson, L.C. Mills Sgt at Arms, Ervin Johnson State Guard, John Bacon Color Guard Captain, Robert Holsclaw Membership Chairperson, Rodney Burne Grounds/By-Laws Chairperson, Richard Henry, Conference Convention Chairperson and Bill La Monte State Editor (Sentinel).

Commander Hora Special Recognition To

BAILEY BRYANT	State Surgeon		
RUSSELL BROOKS	State Inspector		
CURTIS PETERSON	District 1	TONY BROWN	District 2
JEFFREY HUNTER	District 4	JAMES TAYLOR	District 5
JAMES McLAUGHLIN	District 6	MICHAEL MISHOE	District 7
CHAD CALDWELL	District 8	LAWRENCE WARREN	District 9

Commander Hora "HENRY RIFLE" Quartermaster Award to (for any post that reached 95%+ membership by December 31st):

JEFFREY HUNTER, Quartermaster Post 6734



All-State District Quartermasters

POST 10804 District 7
POST 3433 District 1

All-State Post Quartermasters

DENNIS M. HAMILTON	Post 3137
MARK R. PATO	Post 10126
SCOTT E. LOFTUS	Post 10420
STEPHEN J. JOHNSON	Post 8346
JEFFREY HUNTER	Post 6734
JOSH A. WILSON	Post 12136
ROBERT E. HADLEY	Post 12207
DANIEL FARLEY	Post 10804

All State Post Commander Captain & Co-Captain

Captain - ANITA G. WILSON Post 12207

Co-Captain – TODD A. HAVILAND

Post 10420

All State District Commander Captain & Co-Captain

Captain – MICHAEL P. MISHOE

Post 10804

Co-Captain – CURTIS PETERSON

Post 10624

All State Post Commanders

REX A. BROWN

Post 3137

CHRIS MANNING

Post 10256

RICHARD J. HENRY

Post 8346

MELVIN CROFT

Post 6734

JAMES S. TAYLOR

Post 12136

MICHAEL P. MISHOE

Post 10804

These Posts Made All State After the CUTOFF

9509, 10624, 12102, 8738, 11079, 6500, 6932



*****This year a new award was instituted for that post that has gone out of its way to make their building appealing to all who pass by it. This year the winner of the initial;**

**RODNEY BURNE POST BEAUTIFICATION AWARD GOES TO: POST 11079, (Robert R. Larson),
Elgin, Christine Rogers, Commander**



**PNP Cortina Barnes helps PDP Kate Brock present “All Star Team Captain” Awards to: Andy Mackemer
Aux Post 6740, Mary Lou Riggs Aux Post 10804 and SuzAnne Taylor Aux Post 12136
Donna Marie King Aux Post 10624 helps PNP Cortina Barnes and PDP Kate Brock present the Auxiliary
Chaplain of the Year Award to Catherine Jackson Smith**

MEET YOUR STATE LEADERSHIP FOR 2022 – 2023

VFW

Commander	ED STEFANAK, JR
Sr. Vice Commander	JIM FOX
Jr. Vice Commander	JANET CHISOLM-RICHARD
Quartermaster	ELLA CALVERT
Chaplain	WILTON FOWLER
Judge Advocate	RODNEY BURNE
Surgeon	BAILEY BRYANT
Adjutant	KEVIN JOY
Chief of Staff	TED TUFTS, II
Immediate PSC	DWIGHT HORA
Inspector	EDDIE WILLIAMS
District 1 Commander	CURTIS PETERSON
District 2 Commander	THEONIS BROWN
District 4 Commander	JEFFREY HUNTER
District 5 Commander	JAMES TAYLOR
District 6 Commander	DAVID MILLER
District 7 Commander	TODD HAVILAND
District 8 Commander	CHAD CALDWELL
District 9 Commander	ROGER WARREN

AUXILIARY

President	BETH TUFTS
Sr. Vice President	LAURA JO SWEITSER
Jr. Vice President	DONNA MARIE KING
Chaplain	MARIETTA HILL
Conductress	SHAREN PETERSON
Guard	SARABETH EARNEST
Secretary	LISA LEVANGIE-COLON
Treasurer	CAROL LONG
Chief of Staff	ROXANNE OHAR

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Council of Administration	TED TUFTS, II
Legislative	DENTIST HARVIN

STATE CHAIRMAN

VMSP	DARREN WISEMAN
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Membership	CHRIS COLE
MAL	JOHN PENMAN
Revitalization	ROBBY HOLSCLOW
Community Service	NICK CAMERA
Teacher	GINGER GRAHAM
Voice of Democracy	CHARLES HOLLOWAY
Patriots Pen	CHRISTINE ROGERS
SC VFW Service Officer	JOHN JOHNSON
Student Veterans of America	HEATHER COPELAND
Loyalty Day	SCOTT PECK
Conference & Convention	JEFF HENRY
Budget & Finance	MIKE MISHOE
State Outreach	WILTON FOWLER
Buddy Poppy	CHRIS MANNING
POW/MIA	CHAD CALDWELL
National Home Education	DENNIS HAMILTON
Awards	GINGER GRAHAM
Webmaster	BETTY HILLIARD
HQ Grounds & By-Laws	RODNEY BURNE
Sgt-at-Arms	LC MILLS
Guard	RICK HICKS
Color Guard Captain	JOHN BACON
Editor	WILLIAM La MONTE
Fundraiser	DWIGHT HORA

A SAD FACT ABOUT THIS YEARS ELECTIONS –

There are **70** Posts in the state. Of that 70, **ONLY 32** voted in the state elections. There were **24** Posts eligible to vote, but did not send anyone to the convention/elections. **14** Posts were not eligible to vote because they did not pay their delegate fees.

REGISTRATION & VENDORS



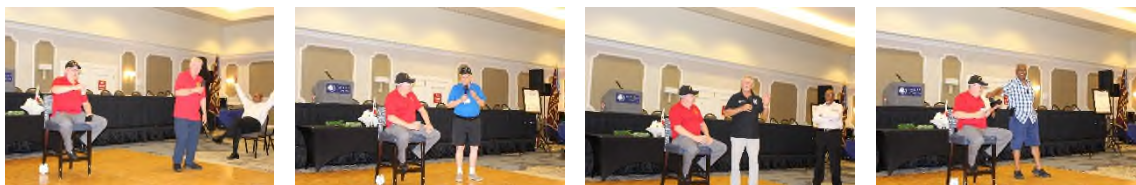


AROUND THE CONVENTION



THE ROAST of COMMANDER HORA





HAPPY TIMES AT THE HOSPITALITY ROOM



COMMANDER HORA AND A HOST OF HELPERS GAVE A COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE COIN TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE AUXILIARY IN ATTENDANCE



GETTING READY TO RECOGNIZE THE GOOD WORK OF MANY



STYLIN"



MORE AROUND THE CONVENTION



PRESIDENT KATE & HER FAMILY



AROUND THE CONVENTION



**You may be gone from the elected rolls of the South Carolina VFW, but NEVER FORGOTTEN
"JUDGE" PAUL D. LYLES**



TEXAS HOLD-EM POKER IS STILL ILLEGAL IN SOUTH CAROLINA!!!



THE INAUGURATIONS 2022





YOUR AUXILIARY INAUGURATION



A PARTING WORD FROM YOUR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT – KATE BROCK

It has been a distinct honor to serve as your 2021-2022 Department of South Carolina Auxiliary President. The members of this organization have continued to improve the lives of those we strive to serve. Our Heroes, Families and Communities have been touched with the love and compassion of our members.

I want to take this opportunity to Thank Commander, Dwight Hora, his Line Officers and Chairs for all they do for the Auxiliary. The brave men and Women of the VFW have given so much of themselves and yet they continue to do more. You, Our Comrades have given us so much. I want you to know that you are loved and appreciated by myself and the Auxiliary. In the day to day interactions this fact is sometimes obscured, but never forgotten.

Thank you to all who worked so hard, laughed so long and cared so much. I Love you all and look forward to our future. Kate Brock 2021-2022 PDP.

FROM THE DESK OF:

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT – BETH TUFTS

Beth grew up in the small town of Newport located near the Southern Outer Banks of North Carolina. She moved to Charleston in January 1974 and has been there ever since. Her husband, Ted, served in the Gulf War and retired from the Air Force in 1996 after serving 22 years. They have been married 42 years. She has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and a new great granddaughter.

Beth graduated from Charleston Southern University with a double major in both Criminal Justice and Sociology and proudly wore an honors rope at her graduation. She worked as a licensed insurance agent for 3 years before taking a job in Law Enforcement at MUSC as a Security Coordinator. She retired in 1999.

Beth joined the Auxiliary in 2007 and became a life member in 2008. She was elected as Auxiliary President to Auxiliary 3433 seven years later. Beth served as District 1 President in 2016-2018 and again in 2019-2020. She was awarded Outstanding District President in 2016-2017 and again in 2019-2020. She was awarded Outstanding Department Program Chairman for her Legislative work in 2017-2018.

Beth has been awarded several National Awards including 2nd Place in the Nation for her hospital work at the Trident Medical Center in 2012 where she was a volunteer for nine years and over 1,000 hours. She was part of a team that developed the Hospital Veterans Recognition Program. Beth earned first place in the Nation for her work as a Department Program Chairman three times. She earned accolades for her National Legislative Program, Scholarship Programs and her Veterans and Family Support Programs.

Beth was elected as Department Guard in 2017 and has steadily progressed from Department Guard to Department Conductress, Chaplain, Jr. Vice President and is currently Sr. Vice President of the Department.

In her spare time Beth enjoys reading about Russian and World War II history and working in her yard.



I Bee-lieve in our Veterans



From the desk of State Commander Ed Stefanak Jr.

It is a complete honor to serve as your State Commander for the 2022-2023 VFW year. I appreciate all of the support I have received over the past 14 years from the comrades of my post, the comrades of my district and all the comrades of this great department.

Nationally we are going to dip below the million member mark this year, so the main emphasis will be on membership. Please look over our membership Program on vwsc.org in the about section under Department Commander 2022-2023. There are a lot of different incentives there as well.

We also cannot forget to serve our community and take care of our veterans. We need to get outside of the four walls and distribute Buddy Poppies, get our Youth Programs out to the schools, and reach out to other veteran organizations to help veterans.

In closing, we have a really good team this year. I'm looking forward to seeing all the successes of our posts and districts as that is what feeds the VFW machine. You are all the ones in the trenches getting the job done. The department is here to facilitate your needs. Always reach out to us if you need anything.

In Comradeship,

Ed Stefanak Jr.
State Commander
VFWSC



The next newsletter will be published the end of September. Plenty of time for y'all to get your good deeds to me and get them in the next newsletter.

YOUR SENTINEL Newsletter is now a National VFW award winning publication!!

Bill La Monte

Writer/Editor

4william6@gmail.com

252-308-3507

Atach: Pictures of award winners at the State Convention (other than those shown above)
See below

CONVENTION AWARDS and RECOGNITION 2022







