

Department of South Carolina

SENTINEL

Fall 2019



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

Want to stay current with VA & VFW issues? Go to vfwac@vfw.org and sign-up for “Action Corps Weekly”.

The “Sentinel’s” mission is to try and keep you, the members of the South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars, informed on what is happening in YOUR Department (state) VFW. The Sentinel is open to all Posts and Districts to provide inputs as to what you are doing and to hi-lite any special projects you and your post are proud of.

Part of YOUR Department’s responsibility to you is for it to hold information and training events that will help you learn and keep you current on what is happening in the state of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars. The prime in house (at Department Headquarters) means of accomplishing the task of keeping you informed and current on VFW issues, is the School of Instruction.

The School of Instruction is conducted by the Department Council of Administration and the various committee chairpersons.

The first CofA conducted under Commander Holsclaw’s leadership involved the persons pictured below and a brief summary of the subjects covered by the presenters.



Commander Holsclaw addressing the Council of Administration and School of Instruction attendees and conducting a brief CofA meeting prior to commencing the School of Instruction.



Quartermaster – Jim Fox



Adjutant – Jimmy Lee Wallace





Community Service-
Nick Camera



National Council Member -
Augustus Singleton



VOD/PP – Mary Smith



Sr. Vice –Ted Tufts



Judge Advocate – Paul Lyles



Chief of Staff – John Mellert



Surgeon–Janet Chisolm Richard



Veterans & Military Support
Allen Rundall



Service Officer-Martin Snowden



National & State Legislative-
Dentist Harvin



Chaplain – Wilton Fowler



Jr. Vice – Dwight Hora



National Council Member
Augustus Singleton



Student Veterans-
Johnny Guest



Veteran Homeless & Employment
C.B. Anderson



Some of the attendance at the CofA and Sol in August

On August 10th the Department held a Council of Administration and School of Instruction at Department Headquarters. The following covers most of what transpired at these meetings:

Council of Administration: Conducted by Department Commander Holsclaw

***A motion was made and passed to provide \$2,000 to support a home at the National Home for Children.

***All posts wanting to contribute to the National Home for Children must send their donation to the Department Quartermaster. He, in turn, will generate a single check that will be taken to the National Home in the spring by the Department Junior Vice and anyone else who wants to accompany him.
NOTE: All posts that donate to the National Home will be given credit on their District Report Card

***Upgrades and modifications to Department headquarters are in their final stages. Once complete, it will make the Auxiliary building more receptive to rentals and more money for the Department.

***On November 9th Post 6740 will hold a "Sully 5K walk/run". The purpose is to raise money for a handicap vehicle for the Sullivan's. Individual and post donations for this cause can be made to Post 6740.

***The State judge Advocate reminded all posts in S.C. that gambling of any sort in a post building is ILLEGAL. If caught by the law, you could lose your liquor license and/or suffer an expensive fine.

School of Instruction

Department Quartermaster:

***All posts should be using VMAIL for most financial transactions to the Department or National. Guidance is available on the VFW website.

***There is a lot of evidence to show that many Quartermasters and Trustees are not properly trained for their position. If you have doubts or questions, contact your Department Quartermaster.

***If you want to be able to vote at the Department or National Convention, your Post delegate dues must be paid to the Department by the end of April.

***TRUSTEES are responsible for doing the post quarterly audit. NOT the Quartermaster or Commander.

*** VMSP donations (a report card requirement) must be done ON-LINE to National NOT the Department.

Department Adjutant:

***Many Post Adjutants are not complying with their duty requirements as outlined in Sections 217 and 218 of The Manual of Procedure.

***Your Post/District Adjutant is the ONLY 'corresponding officer' for your Post/District (MoP Section 218(6)a.

Community Service:

***If you do something to help/support veterans, report it to your Post Commander's Community Service Chairman using the form on page 28 of the Commander's Handbook. He/she will consolidate the month's information and send it to the Department Community Service Chairman.

Membership:

***Your actions in recruiting helped your Department and YOU earn All American Status!

***Review your post membership rosters by September 30th and start working on those continuous members renewals.

NOTE: District 8 currently leads the membership challenge.

*** The Department Commander would like to see ALL posts at least at 93% membership by December 31st.

HOT HOT HOT – A question was raised about "members at Large" trying to transfer to a post and them NOT being able to provide a DD 214 to validate their eligibility. NO DD 214 or other legal supporting document, that person is NOT eligible to join your post.

NOTE: The 'member at large' membership application does not require a DD 214 submittal, just a 'certification from the applicant' stating they are eligible. Many non-eligible use this as a means to get into the VFW. DON'T let them into your post membership!

Department Inspector:

All Post Inspections are due to the Department no-later-than **December 31st.

Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teacher/Scouts/JROTC:

**VOD: A question came up concerning the Grade (9-12) VS Age of the student. The VOD is for Grades 9-12 regardless of age.

** Teacher Nominations: A question was raised about who can nominate a teacher. A teacher CANNOT self-nominate, nor can they have a relative nominate them.

** JROTC: Is for any eligible students in grades 9 – 12.

Veteran Affairs:

** Sports Clips has donated over \$1.2 million dollars to veterans.

** Over 1,000 scholarships have been awarded to veteran families

Buddy Poppy's:

** Every Post needs to participate in this program. It is the easiest way to get money into your Relief Fund so you can help local veterans in need.

** Poppy's are assembled by disabled veterans around the world.

Safety:

**Do you know someone eligible for a "Life-Saving" award? This is a great way to garner some community recognition for YOUR Post.

Loyalty Day: Is May 1st. Make sure you do a Loyalty Day program and report it.

Membership – Do you know that in 2019? The VFW, for the first time in 27 years, had 100+ membership. Really great, considering that just a couple of years ago the VFW had 77,000 annual members not renew their memberships.

Here's a recruiting idea – from Post 10010 in East Helena Montana. Rather than ask a recurring member to 'renew their dues', they ask them to "CONTINUE YOUR VFW MEMBERSHIP".

Starting in January – About 3 million more service-connected disabled veterans will be able to shop at on-base commissaries and exchanges. Any veteran with a VA disability rating will be able to gain access to their local military bases. If you have a VA disability rating of 0 to 90%, you can shop at exchanges and commissaries and in some cases morale-wellness-and recreation (MWR) facilities. To be able to use this access, the veteran must have a VA issued Veterans Health Identification Card. If you shop by credit or debit card, there will be a 5% surcharge added to your purchases. If you use cash, check or Military Star card, there is no fee.

All 'honorably discharged' veterans currently are eligible to shop all military exchanges on-line surcharge free.

To apply for the Veteran Health Identification Card go to: www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply. Or go to a VA medical facility.

Also starting in January – On January 1st the VA Hospital in Charleston and all the VA clinics associated with that hospital are going SMOKE FREE! This means anywhere on the VA property.

Did you know? That on November 9th, 30 years ago, the Russian Government began taking down the Berlin Wall. On July 12th 1994, the US military was deactivated in Berlin and that pretty much signaled the end of the "Cold War" with Russia that had lasted over 40 years.

Do you know the difference between TRICARE & CHAMPVA?

Tricare- is a medical program available to uniformed service members – including those on active duty, National Guard and Reserve members, as well as retired service members and their families.

CHAMPVA – is available for the spouse or widow(er) and children of a veteran who was permanently disabled doing work associated with their military service. This program is open to anyone who fits these criteria and is NOT eligible for Tricare.

Want to know more? Call the VFW Member Benefits Department at 1-833-839-8387, option 3.

And now a word from some of your CofA –

Commander – Robert Holsclaw

Greetings,

Comrades, sisters and brothers of the VFW and Auxiliary. I am hoping this finds you all well and am wishing you all a very safe and happy Holiday Season.

We have asked for numerous ideas and have heard your voice. We are now trying to implement these, along with several others. We are now at 84.69% membership. We are running behind! I am asking that every Post and District please call your members and ask them to pay their dues. Try to get members to convert to Life Membership. It helps the post as well as the member. If you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me by e-mail or phone. Hope to see you at the conference 31 January at the Embassy Suites in Columbia. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours in Comradeship
Robert Holsclaw
Veterans of Foreign Wars
State Commander, South Carolina

Senior Vice-Commander – Ted Tufts

Happy Holidays Comrades and Auxiliaries,

Well the cold weather is here and time to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. As always, please watch out for the other guy as they may not be as diligent as you.

The Department had a great year last year and we are on the road to yet another one again. I've had a chance to visit a few posts in the Department and have had a wonderful time. I plan to keep up the visits this year.

We've had decent representation from the Posts at the CofA's and I would like to see more post officers and members attend. I ask the District and Post Commanders to encourage your members to come to these meetings as there is a wealth of information to be shared. Cof A's, conferences and conventions are a great place to network with other posts and members. Many are doing great things and you may be able to share your ideas as well as get some good ideas from others.

Along with that, some of the suggestions made at the round-table discussions and newcomers meetings we started at last year's conference are being incorporated starting in February. These sessions have worked out so well that we plan to continue them and are requesting the District's also hold their own round-tables. Look for more information as the Spring Conference gets closer.

Wishing all a very safe and happy holiday season.

Surgeon – Janet Chisolm-Richard

Veterans Health Administration Update:

There is a new information source for veterans who served during the Gulf War Era (1990 to present) and their families. It is a new newsletter titled "Military

Exposures and Your Health"! Topics include military environmental exposures, updates about health, benefits, and news for veterans. This newsletter will be release twice a year and replaces the Gulf War Newsletter and Post 9/11 Vet Newsletter.

You can find the first issue at:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-1/index.asp>

District 1 Commander – William King

District 1- Held its meeting on November 6th. Department representative was Ted Tufts, Senior Vice-Commander. We had a good meeting. Sr. Vice Tufts went over the workings of the All- American Dashboard. This helped to give more understanding to all who attended. VAVS representative Buddy Gillam, for the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, briefed on our upcoming Christmas Party at the medical center.

Post 8760- Beauford

- Held a homeless veteran's camp-out (awareness and donations) and a clothing drive for homeless veterans, along with a Victory House Ride for homeless veterans.
- Had a "Kids Day" backpack school supplies giveaway.
- Attended a Veterans Day Parade
- Conducted a food drive for military families
- Held a Thanksgiving Dinner for Military Families, the Post, Auxiliary, MOC and MOCA.

Post 10624- Mount Pleasant

- Held a Halloween drop-in party for children
- Held a fund-raiser for VMS and Fischer House donations
- Worked with Student Veterans of America at the College of Charleston. Set up a recruitment and information table providing information on the VFW
- Entered and staffed a float (with Comrades and Auxiliary) in the Charleston Veterans Day Parade
- Hosted an information dinner for veterans and others. Subjects included setting up a Will or Trust, and the need to pre-prepare burial paperwork.
- Represented the VFW at a Chamber of Commerce Veterans Luncheon
- Hosting annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the RHJVAMC. Dinner for veterans and families of the Community Living Center
- Hosting a children's Christmas Party on December 15th
- Distributed Poppies at the Charleston Veterans Day Parade

Post 3137, Isle of Palms – Celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the November 15th meeting

District 4 – Commander Jeffrey Hunter

Post 6734- Piedmont



Post Honor Guard pays tribute to a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife at a recent post Function.

Post members are Jay Irick, Roy Miller, Melvin Croft, Jeff Hunter and Harold Fowler



Post Honor Guard prepares for Veteran's Day activities.

Post 8131 - Greenwood

Keeping Busy – Here's some of our latest projects:

*VFW 8131 Leaders attend, partner with the VA and mentor several veterans in the 8th Circuit Court's drug treatment programs from Laurens and Greenwood Counties. This program has successfully graduated 4 Veterans while supporting and mentoring 5 more.

*Adjutant Penman has participated in several recruiting efforts, most notably at Darlington raceway and at a Community Rally in Greenwood to stop gun violence in the Community. Commander Sudik and Adjutant Penman also informally meet at a local establishment on Sunday afternoons to discuss VFW issues and recruit.

*VFW 8131 Leaders and Comrades are Chamber members and participate in a Monthly Business after Hours meeting at local business's to inform and educate the public on the VFW. Several Buddy Poppy drives have yielded numerous contacts, recruiting leads and cash for ongoing programs.

*The Auxiliary has organized, set up and implemented an annual Chili sale that had a successful yield and led to highlighting the Veterans organizations in the Community.

*VFW 8131 organized another successful yard sale with additional proceeds being given to Faith Home, a local outreach program.

*VFW 8131 presented the National, Department, District 4 and Post legislative agendas to National Candidate Kamala Harris and Senator Lindsay Graham while attending Veterans day functions in the local community.

*VFW 8131 continues to support our adopted active Unit. ANG 151st Signal Battalion.

Future and Continuing Programs

- a. Continue to recruit and educate. VFW 8131's goal of a 5% increase in membership is achievable while sustaining current members. This is a priority for the Post
- b. Buddy Poppy Distribution is raising our visibility in the community. Need volunteers to continue on a Monthly basis

- c. Veterans Court. We are making an impact in the community. We are helping those that want to be helped.
- d. Increase our Web presence through social media, Chamber of Commerce and Veterans service organization sites.
- e. Support all upcoming events held at the County Veterans Center and Museum.

District 5 – Commander James Taylor

Post 12136- Indian Land

Picture 1: Is a presentation by VFW/BSA Chairman Gary Dolan to an Eagle Scout award recipient, Connor Deckerd on Aug 17, 2019.

Picture 2: Members of the Post Auxiliary are shown demonstrating the proper way to fold a flag at a nearby Indian Land Elementary School.

Picture 3: Past Post Commander and now President of the Major Robert Crawford Indian Land Chapter of the Sons-of-the-American-Revolution, John Marker presenting Post 12136 Purple Heart recipients with the Purple Heart Initiative.



Media Release -

Indian Land, SC - May 18, 2019: Major Robert Crawford Chapter - Sons of the American Revolution Purple Heart Initiative program.

The Purple Heart Initiative program donates a numbered commissioned print, depicting the origins of the revered 'Badge of Military Merit' to Purple Heart recipients. The program assists Cities, Towns and Counties who pass a 'Proclamation' which announces they are a Purple Heart community. Organizations can achieve the same type of 'Proclamation'. The print pays tribute to all military veterans in the community, especially Purple Heart recipients.

Counties, Cities/Towns:

Lancaster County, SC | Madison County, FL | Greenville, FL

Organizations:

South Carolina Society - Sons of the American Revolution

Maj. Robert Crawford Chapter - SC S.A.R.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 12136 - Indian Land, SC



(Left) Purple Heart Initiative Recognition presentations: Indian Land VFW - Post 12136; (L-R) Pete Mullenwey, Neil Grace, (Chapter Pres.) John Marker, Greg Beckwith.

(Right) Purple Heart Initiative Recognition presentations: Indian Land VFW - Post 12136; (L-R) Bob Otto, Pete Mullenwey, Bob Barth, Thom Cook, Neil Grace, Tom Windt.

Recipients not pictured: Frank Mampole, Mitchell Kotula, Santo Petruso (WWII) and Jack Monahan (Post's name-sake - deceased).



District 7 Commander – Margo Sheridan

Greetings. District 7 Posts have been busy with Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Citizen Educator programs. Membership remains a critical focus as our year progresses. Of course, getting our national log-ins squared away has been more difficult than we expected.

I'd like to periodically feature a local business that goes out of its way to help veterans. My vehicle was recently in an unfortunate encounter with a utility truck. When I was trying to help set-up for a recruiting event at a local festival. Darrell's Body Shop in Conway took over the care and repair of my vehicle. The repair bill was enormous. Darrell, a Vietnam Veteran, graciously waived all administrative credit card fees- probably a \$300 waiver. I suspect he did this because I too, am a combat veteran. I sat in my car and cried with thankfulness over Darrell's generosity and thoughtfulness.

Darrell and his team did a great job on my vehicle. Please consider using his services if you're in the Conway area. His phone # is 843-347-2211. Please support a fellow veteran!

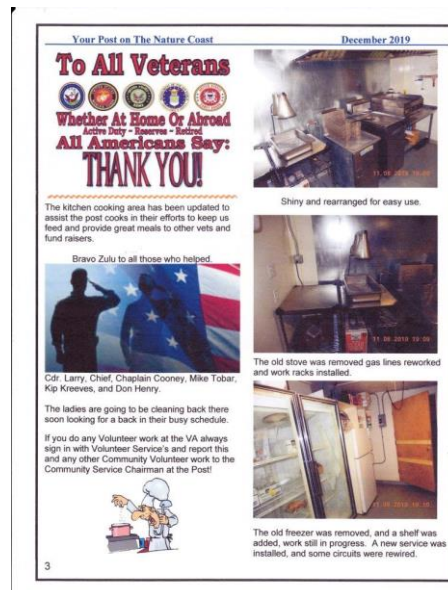
Post 10804- North Myrtle Beach



Horry County Police Captain Kris Leonhardt explains your three primary options during an “Active Shooter” training/information program that was provided to the Little River Chamber of Commerce and other guests at the post banquet hall. The training was a joint-effort between VFW Post 10804, the Horry County Police Department and the Little River Chamber of Commerce. The training idea was conceived and coordinated by VFW Post 10804 member Bill La Monte.

District 9 –Commander Edward Shepherd

Post 10601- Aiken



Post 10601 recently renovated/remodeled their kitchen. They invite you to c'mon out and try some of their food items that they have to offer. You won't be disappointed!

SOME THINGS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Your Final Resting Place – Whether your being put in the ground in a casket or being cremated. IF you want your final resting place to be some sort of veteran cemetery, you have several options.

First Off – Things go a lot smoother for your survivors if you do some pre-planning and, while you're alive, get with a funeral parlor or funeral services company and pre-pay for their services. Once you are gone, the funeral parlor will contact the cemetery of your choice and make all the arrangements (in

coordination with your survivors). This includes any 'military honors' to accompany the service, and your transport to your final destination.

Arlington – This facility is different than the National Cemetery's in that it is run by the Department of the Army and has their own set of acceptance procedures. Their 'big 3' are:

Must have a DD 214

Need a Certificate of Death

If you are being cremated? Your funeral arrangers must have a certificate stating 100% of the remains are in the urn (or other holding device). Once placed, Arlington will not allow an urn to be opened to add remains that a family member may have held as a remembrance.

These 3 items must be email'd to Arlington at Arlingtoncemetery.isb@mail.mil or you can fax the info at a number provided by Arlington.

To get things started, your arranger needs to call Arlington at 1-877-907-8585

A National Cemetery – Most states have at least one in their state. If you are an eligible veteran, you can be buried at any National Cemetery. EX: South Carolina has three (3) Columbia, Beaufort, Florence and one state, M.J. Dolly Cooper.

To get started, you need to go to VA Forms and complete a VA 40-10007 (page 2 specifies your eligibility requirements). Once completed, mail the form and their required supporting documents to:

Scheduling Office, PO Box 510543 St. Louis, MO 63151.

NOTE: Arlington and National Cemetery's, as a rule, do not allow your survivor's to hand-carry your cremated remains to their facility. It must be transported by a funeral service company.

Other options available to you are: State Veteran Cemetery's, Military Base Cemetery's. With these, you need to pre-coordinate to determine your eligibility and if space is available.

Burial at Sea – The Navy still performs this ceremony, but pre-coordination is a must!

Non-State or Private Cemetery's – Most have a "Veteran's" section, but pre-coordination is a must with the facility of your choice.

NOTE: If your, non-veteran, spouse precedes you in death, that person can be buried in your plot (in-ground or cremation).

Emergency Room Visits – If you are under the VA Healthcare System and If you had to use a non-VA Emergency Room and make a co-pay to do so? The VA is responsible for reimbursing you that co-pay cost. Contact your VA care provider to find out how to get your co-pay back.

Want to show a hospitalized veteran 'you care'? – Go to VFW.org and click on the show a veteran you care box. An e-card will be sent to a hospitalized veteran in your name.

Credit Checks – If you are 'active duty', you can now use the three primary credit checking agencies at **no cost** to you.

National Census – Will begin on April 1st. If you want to work part-time as a census taker? Go to the National Census website to find out how.

The 2020 Defense Appropriations Bill has authorized a 3.1% pay increase for military personnel.

IF You are getting Social Security, there is a 1.6% COLA increase for next year. Don't spend it all in one place!!!

Tri-Care – If you are under the Tri Care System? There is an 'open-season' (the only time you can make changes to your Tri Care information) from **November 11th through December 9th**.

On the Tri Care website there is a Tri Care Plan Finder, a Tri Care Compare Costs Toll (calculator) and a FEDVIP sites. All designed to help you find the best and cheapest way to get the best out of your Tri Care enrollment.

WANT TO EARN A STATE RECRUITER AWARD? Here's what you need to do –

RECRUIT

- 10 new or reinstated members
- 15 new or reinstated members
- 25 or more
- 50 or more
- 75 or more
- 100 or more
- Most members recruited for a Post
By a Post member

EARN

A VFW Coin
A VFW Coin + \$25 + Certificate
\$50 or a VFW Shirt
VFW Jacket or \$100
Bomber Style Jacket or \$125
VFW Leather Bomber Jacket or \$150
Department Commander Plaque

DAV Membership Dues Increase – If you are eligible for, and are considering joining the Disabled Americans Veterans Organization? Their Lifetime Membership (they DON'T do annual memberships) fee has increased to \$300 for those under the age of 80. If you are 80 or older, your membership in DAV is free!

Veteran Suicide – Did you know that a 2018 Government Accounting Office (GAO) report found that the VA did NOT spend millions of allocated dollars on veteran suicide issues and media related activities directed towards suicide prevention over the last two years. The prime reason is the leadership turnover and reorganization happening within the VA during that time period. This has led to an increased number of veteran suicides being committed on VA property. The VA has stated that 14 of 20 veteran suicides committed each day are by veterans NOT using the VA healthcare system. This presents a number of challenges for the VA to be able to understand and address the needs of all veterans, particularly "at risk" veterans.

If you know a veteran with issues and they are not under the VA Care System. Please try and get them to go to the VA and see a counselor, or call the VA Veteran's Crisis Hotline!! (listed on page 2)

Are you a woman veteran looking for a job? Did you know – There are over 240,000 women, over the road, tractor-trailer owners/drivers. It is one of the fastest growing industries for women. What makes it popular to women is the independence/freedom of the job and 'PAY EQUALITY'!

NO SMOKING! Effective January 1st, the VA Hospital in Charleston and all its affiliated clinics become NO SMOKING campuses. That means ANYWHERE on that VA'S property.

Getting/receiving the word – In today's world, electronic communications, beyond the telephone, is a must if any post wants to communicate with its membership, its district, its state

headquarters, or national VFW. There are a couple of posts in S.C. that do not have any e-mail capability listed (in the Commander's Handbook) as far as electronic communication capability to/from the post. Between the Post itself, the Commander, the Adjutant or the Quartermaster, there should be at least one of these elected officers with a listed e-mail as a point-of-contact for most Post communications. Many posts have only one means of electronic communication listed.

Want to establish a solid line of communications with most of your membership and the rest of the VFW world? Establish a Post Web-Site or, Facebook Page. It's easy, and there are plenty of electronic communications savvy members in your post that can show you how.!

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, our state and nation are blessed by the brave men and women who, throughout our history, have proudly donned the uniforms of our armed forces and taken up arms to defend the freedom we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, behind each serviceman and servicewoman stand spouses, children, parents, siblings, and extended family members who steadfastly support their loved one and our country; and

WHEREAS, in addition to extended absences caused by deployments, our military families face unique challenges and hardships, including frequent relocations and the resulting changes in schools and employment for children and spouses as well as long-distance separations from extended family and spending holidays and other special days apart from their loved one; and

WHEREAS, military families are valued members of our communities who inspire others through their resiliency, patriotism, service, and sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2019 as

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize and honor our military families for their contributions that help keep our country strong.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FLU SHOT? They are available at the VA Clinic and Walgreens for free and if you use a local medical provider, you can check to see if there is any cost for the shot. **BOTTOM LINE – Get the shot!!!**



If your ever traveling around Eutawville, SC late afternoon and develop a hunger pang? Post 10980 wants you to know they can take care of those needs. Feel free to drop in!!

Winter Conference Awards – There will be two annual awards (Jan to Dec) given at the Winter Conference. They are for the best Post Web-Site and the best Post Newsletter. All posts interested in competing for this award, need to get there packages/information to Department Headquarters no-later-than December 31st.

The criteria for each award can be found on pages 46 and 47 of the Commander's Handbook.

A parting thought on membership – EVERY Post can make their recurring (annual) member membership drive considerably simpler by working hard to get your recurring members to become LIFE MEMBERS. The more Life Members, the higher your retention totals will be and that makes it a LOT EASIER to meet your 100% membership goals. EVERY recurring member, current or not, should be asked to become a Life Member!

Continuing this thought – EVERY Life Member should be appraised of the benefits of becoming a LEGACY LIFE MEMBER (Gold, Silver or Bronze). As a LEGACY, you ensure that your name will be remembered at your Post for the life of the Post. Each year a payment is made to your Post, Department & National in your name. Besides a few personal perks in becoming a Legacy, you are helping to ensure that the VFW, at all levels, continues to exist and do what it does best. Help veterans!!

Are you a surviving family member of a deceased veteran? You too, can ensure your veterans' legacy in the VFW by making them a Memorial Legacy Life Member.

EVERY POST has Legacy Life information packages and membership applications.

For more information you can contact the VFW Member Service Center at 1-833-839-8387

From every staff member of the Department of South Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties, to every South Carolina veteran and their families – May you have the most joyous of Holiday Seasons and a very prosperous 2020.

Districts & Posts – If you have any changes in your elected leadership or contact communications (phone numbers/e-mail). Please get these changes to Kate at HQ as soon as possible.

Bill La Monte

Editor

252-308-3507 or 4william6@gmail.com

Robert Holsclaw, Commander

P.S. The next proposed Sentinel will be shortly after the Winter Conference (or at the Commander's discretion).