

THE VFW LEADER

Official Publication of the N.C. Department

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW of North Carolina
PO Box 25337
Raleigh, NC 27611-5337

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1838
Raleigh N.C.



Inside:

- Pg. 2 - Band4Good
- Pg. 3 - Officers Columns
- Pg. 4 - VFW Advocacy
- Pg. 5 - Local Sister Soldiers
- Pg. 6 - Presidents Column
- Pg. 11 - All American Ride & Glide
- Pg. 12 - Guitars for Vets
- Pg 13 - VA Claims
- Pg 14 - Mail Preference
- Pg15 - Stolen Valor Act
- Pg16 - Benefits

VOLUME No. 76

THE VFW LEADER

APR/MAY/JUN 2013

Allis and Cacoulidis Take Command of the Department

Ernie Allis of Harrisburg, a comrade of Charlotte Post 9488, and Penny Cacoulidis of Raeford, a sister of Fayetteville Auxiliary 670, were elected as State Commander and State Ladies Auxiliary President for 2013-2014 at the Department of North Carolina's 83rd Annual State Convention in Greensboro on June 8th. The convention was held at the ultra-modern, atrium-style Embassy Suites Hotel at Exit 210 off I-40, and was praised by many comrades, sisters, and brothers as the finest convention they had ever attended.

Also elected on the comrades' side of the house were Jack Goin of Calabash as Senior Vice Commander, Jessie Bellflowers of Hope Mills as Junior Vice Commander, Bruce Edwards of Raleigh as Quartermaster, Dean Harris of Newland as Judge Advocate, Chris Sikes of Wilmington as Surgeon, and Steve Smith of Jacksonville as Chaplain. Appointed to the other major positions at the Department level were Bruce Edwards as Adjutant, Gene Kent of Sparta as Chief of Staff, Glen Phelps of Southern Pines as Inspector, and Cleo Summers of Winston-Salem as State Service Officer.

Most of the offices were uncontested elections, except for Junior Vice Commander and Surgeon. In a very close race, Jessie Bellflowers, the outgoing District 8 Commander, narrowly defeated Steve Amos, the outgoing Chief of Staff, and Victor Letoumeaut, the outgoing District 4 Commander. In another tight race, Chris Sikes, who was finishing up a term as the District 5 Commander, defeated

sitting Surgeon Sandra Claggett.

On the Ladies' side of the house, the following Ladies were elected: Janice Holm of Brevard as Senior Vice President, B. Mae Harris of Fayetteville as Junior Vice President, Fran Redfield of Calabash as Chaplain, and Joyce Preston of Tryon as Conductress. Eileen Wokosky of Swansboro was elected as the new Guard.

For the first time in a historic move, the Men's Auxiliary State Advisory Council was approved by the VFW Council of Administration, and it elected Jimmy Hinesley of Southern Pines as its own President. The concept was approved for this Advisory Council to supply the State Commander and VFW Council of Administration with advice and information on Men's Auxiliary concerns, and to conduct fund-raisers at the Department level.

The Convention itself was a tremendous success from start to finish. The outgoing Council of Administration met on Thursday, June 6th, and finished old business. These business matters included the approval of the Men's Auxiliary Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), several changes to the State Canteen SOP, which will be posted on the state website for downloading, and a recession of last February's Council vote to halt the Department's partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company. As of June 6th, the partnership with American Income Life was renewed, and so all comrades in the state remain covered for an extra \$2500 in Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance (in addition

to the small \$1000 AD&D free policy proved to each comrade by the VFW).

On Friday, the 7th, the day started with the recognition by the Department of the 2012-13 Scout of the Year, Shaun Jones, who attended with his parents. The Joint Session, which followed this presentation, featured Executive Director Michael Dadduk of the national Student Veterans Association (SVA). The VFW has concluded a National partnership with the SVA in the hopes of helping young veterans currently attending school under the GI Bill of the 21st Century. Also speaking were Chief of Volunteer Services Ronni Miller of the Durham V A Medical Center, Medicare Expert Charlie Sloan, and District 12 Commander John Troutman, who recited a moving poem, called "I Was A Soldier," that he had composed himself.

The remainder of Friday included meetings of the three Conferences (Eastern, Central, and Western), and many committee meetings and seminars.

On Saturday, various awards were presented, to include the All State District and Post Awards. Chosen for All State status were Districts 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 17, which was the largest number of All State Districts in many years. Chosen for All State Post were Raeford 10, Fayetteville 670, Indian Trail 2423, Spring Lake 4542, Morganton 5362, Fayetteville 6018, Concord 6480, Haysville 6812, Sparta 7034, Havelock



Ernie Allis, State Commander

7315, Whittier 8013, Jacksonville 9133, Charlotte 9488, Swansboro 9960, Holly Ridge 9983, Raleigh 10001, Gamer 10225, Boiling Springs Lake 10400, and Hope Mills 10630.

Nominations for state office were conducted in the morning, and the election and installation in the afternoon. Past State Commander Elree Smith installed new Commander Allis and the other Council members.

That evening, the comrades, sisters, and brothers were delighted and stunned by a bravura performance by Dolly Parton impersonator Wynonah Dove. Ms. Dove's superb singing and acting fit in perfectly with the Installation Banquet's theme of the Wild West. The collected cowboys, cowgirls, and Indians cheered and laughed continuously, showing their approval.

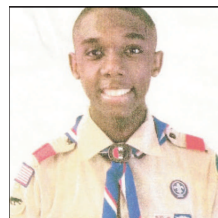


Penny Cacoulidis, State Ladies Auxiliary President

On Sunday morning, the incoming Council of Administration conducted new business, to include approving the 2013-14 state budget, and agreeing to become partners with the Doing Good Network and agreeing to opening communications with the American Ride and Glide event. Separate stories in the edition of the newspaper are included on the Doing Good Network and the American Ride and Glide event.

Near the end of the Sunday morning business session, Steve Amos of Walkertown and Russ Burleson of Mars Hill both declared they would be running for State Junior Vice Commander for 2014-15.

Eagle Scout



Eagle Scout Shaun R. Jones of Boy Scouts of America Troop 29 of Raeford was awarded the Department of North Carolina's Scout of the Year Award at the Department's annual state convention recently in Greensboro. Fifteen young people competed for the award, determined by State Scouting Coordinator Terry Middleton and his committee, to include four Girl Scouts. Shaun was sponsored by VFW Raeford Post 10, commanded by George Balch.

A member of both Cub Scout Pack 29 and Boy Scout Troop 29 for 11 years, Shaun battled his way to Boy Scouting's top rank, that of Eagle Scout. In that troop, he has served as Chaplain's Aide, Quartermaster, Scribe, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He has earned many special awards, to include to the Arrow of Light, the Fireman Chit, the Historic Trail Award, the Camp Bowser award, the Totin Chip, the Flag Ceremony award, and the U.S. Heritage award. In addition to these he earned 61 Merit Badges!

Shaun also excelled in his school, Massey Hill Classical High School in Fayetteville. He attained a 5.0 cumulative weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) and a 4.0 cumulative unweighted GPA - which translates as "Straight A's." He was ranked 1st in his academic class, and served as Student Body President in his senior year.

Post Training Set for Aug. Saturdays

The Department of North Carolina will conduct its annual "Flying Squadron" post and auxiliary training on the three middle Saturdays in August - the 10th for the posts in the Eastern Conference, 17th for the posts in the Central Conference, and the 24th for the posts in the Western Conference.

The Eastern Conference contains all the posts and auxiliaries in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7. The Central Conference includes all the posts and auxiliaries in Districts 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12. The Western Conference contains all the posts and auxiliaries in Districts 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. All District Commanders, District Quartermasters, District Presidents, and District Treasurers are required to attend their Conference session. Post Commanders, Post Quartermasters, Auxiliary Presidents, and Auxiliary Treasurers are strongly encouraged to attend. All other comrades, sisters, and brothers may attend if they wish to become educated in the procedures and operations of the various organizations that constitute the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Eastern Conference "Flying Squadron" training will be all day long beginning at 9:00 a.m. on August 10th at New Bern Post 2514. It is located at 3850 S. Butler Road in New Bern. The Central Conference training will be all day long beginning at the same time on August 17th at Sanford Post 5631, located at 1500 Webb Street, Sanford.

The Western Conference, like its two counterparts, will conduct all-day training beginning at 9:00 a.m. on August 24 at Hendersonville Post 5206, located in downtown Hendersonville at 900 N. Main Street. Lunch will be provided free of charge to all attendees.

These three Flying Squadron sessions take the place of the District schools of instruction required in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It is absolutely vital that as many commanders, quartermasters, adjutants, presidents, treasurers, and secretaries as possible take this training.

Reimbursement procedures are as follows: District Commanders/Quartermasters and Presidents/Treasurers will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles per district at \$.30/mile from up to two central locations (since these officers frequently do not reside close to each other). Post Commanders/Quartermasters with one or no Auxiliaries will receive driver reimbursement for one vehicle at \$.30/mile from the post home, and posts with two Auxiliaries will receive driver reimbursement for up to two vehicles at \$.30/mile from the post home if both Auxiliaries attend.

Reimbursement forms will be available at the training site. Attendees will not be reimbursed for any hotel costs or meals. The projected schedule for each Flying Squadron session follows:

| Time | Event | Required Attendees | Instructors |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Welcome | All | Ernie/Penny |
| 9:15 - 9:30 | Admin Announcements | All | Bruce/Lynn |
| 9:30 - 10:15 | Recruiting/Membership | All | Jack Campbell/Deborah Crowder East: Lacy Gentlesper/Eileen Wokosky Central: Billy Brown/Maria Gant West: Bill Dean/Farres Upton |
| 10:15 - 11:15 | Internet Reporting System/ Webmail/Websites | All | Lynn Edwards |
| 11:15 - 11:30 | Break | All | |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | VOD/PP/Teacher of Year | All | Mike Asyue/Jeff Friar/ Walter Glance/Ginger Amos |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | Lunch | All | |
| 12:45 - 1:45 | Successful Quartermasters, Trustees and Men's Auxiliary Treasurers | Qm's, Adj's, Treasurers | Bruce Edwards |
| 12:45 - 1:45 | Successful Ladies Aux. Treasurers | Ladies Aux. Treasurers | Jeanne Gilbert |
| 1:45 - 2:45 | Inspection Techniques | Cdrs | Glenn Phelps/Steve Amos East: Fred Partlow Central: Jim Young West: Bill Dean |
| 1:45 - 2:15 | Men's Aux. Admin Procedures | Men's Aux. Cdrs, Treas, Secs | Lynn |
| 2:15 - 2:45 | Subscription Dues | QM's | Bruce |
| 2:15 - 2:45 | Ladies Auxiliary Programs | All Ladies | Ginger Amos |
| 2:45 - 3:30 | How to Be A Successful Commander | Cdrs, Men's Aux. Pres. | Ernie |
| 2:45 - 3:30 | How to Be A Successful Ladies Aux. President | Ladies Aux. Pres. | Penny |
| 3:30 - 3:45 | Break | All | |
| 3:45 - 4:15 | National Military Services/Scouting | All | James Clark/Terry Middleton |
| 4:15 - 4:45 | District Commander Time with their Posts District President Time with their Aux's | All | Optional |
| 4:45 - 5:00 | Farewell and Closing Comments | All | Ernie/Penny |

Visit Your Post's Website
Every post in North Carolina has their own website. It takes a minute to visit your post's site. Just log in to: www.vfwwebcom.org/northcarolina

THE VFW LEADER

The VFW Leader is published quarterly by the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars at 917 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Editor.....Bruce Edwards

News stories, photographs and other matters for publication should be addressed to Editor, VFW Leader, P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Correspondence regarding subscription and circulation should be addressed to VFW Leader, P.O. Box 25337, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

"Department Headquarters normal operating hours 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Closed for holidays: New Years Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day."

Letters to the Editor

PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICARE BENEFITS

6 June 13

MEMORANDUM FOR Dept of VFW Commanders

SUBJECT: Medicare Chairman Summer Conference Report

1. The VFW VA/NC Partnership was established in 2005 to provide a one-stop information source for all areas of Medicare health and drug coverage for our 40+ thousand comrades and sisters. Since then, we have been an advocate for helping guide thousands of them in choosing health and drug plans that best fit their needs. More importantly, they have someone they can rely on 24/7 when they need help working through complex medical/prescription billing issues.

2. Biggest issue so far this year is the skyrocketing cost of Medicare Supplemental insurance. For many years, premium increases to these policies would normally be in the 2-5% per year range, however,

we have been seeing 10-40% increases, due to current low interest rates for investment and anticipation of looming cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates.

To help find cheaper rates for our comrades & sisters, we now have access to a national database that is updated regularly that will list all of the Medicare Supplements in a particular zip code and their current pricing. We can simply print out the list and send it to anyone needing help finding a cheaper plan premium.

This data base is an outstanding addition to our tool kit, as we are now routinely saving our members hundreds of dollars a year by finding the same coverage at a cheaper premium.

Call Comrade Charlie Sloan or Jeff Magg anytime at 1-866-633-2226 for assistance.

Charles E. Sloan Partnership Chairman

Friday, April 12, 2013

Dear VFW Member:

This year over 50,000 of our VFW members will be turning 65, making them eligible for Medicare. I am writing to remind you that the VFW has selected Humana, one of the nation's largest healthcare companies, as its national Medicare Advantage plan provider.

Humana has a long history of excellence in military health care services, and is deepening its commitment to provide innovative health care solutions for active duty, retirees, their families and continued support of veterans' programs. Humana Government Business has evolved as the subsidiary providing administrative services, integrated healthcare and wellness solutions to military and veteran populations. Humana Military has been an administrator of the TRICARE program for the Department of Defense (DoD) since 1996. Since 2007, Humana Veterans has developed solutions to health care issues for the Department of Veterans Affairs (V A) and the veterans who rely on V A services.

During the past year, Humana launched the Humana Veterans Initiative as part of a plan to help veterans and their family members achieve and maintain lifelong well-being. There are several key parts of the initiative:

exceeded its goal of hiring 1,000 veterans and/or their spouses by mid-2014. The company is committed to hiring another 1,000 veterans and/or their spouses during the next two years. In 2011, Humana contributed \$1 million to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities. The program offers cutting-edge, firsthand training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with disabilities resulting from their service.

Humana supports the Yellow Ribbon Program which provides support and education for veterans.

As a leading national healthcare company, Humana has a wide variety of Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug plans.

You soon will receive information from Humana so you can find out more about its products and services, and what it's doing to help our veterans. You also can call 1-800-526-5344 for more information. TTY users, please use 711.

Humana is a Medicare Advantage organization and a stand-alone prescription drug plan with a Medicare contract.

Sincerely,
Robert B. Greene, Quartermaster General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

On January 29, 2013, Humana announced it

STEPHEN AMOS, USMC RETIRED

Candidate for Jr-Vice Commander 2014-2015

In 1982 I accepted the most important and only permanent title the VFW has to offer, that of Comrade. Regardless of what position you are appointed or elected to we are all Comrades. Elected officers should be there to assist the Comrades at whatever level they are elected at. The goal of every elected officer should be to leave that position in better shape than it was when they were elected. To accomplish that goal you must have the support of the Comrades at the Post and District level. Your state officers should travel the state to visit District's and Post. The best way to encourage Comrades to work membership and the core programs is to get out into state and work with them. The most important thing about being a Comrade in the VFW is to "honor the dead by helping the living". With the support of the Comrades of our Department, I will do everything I can to help all Comrades live up to that motto. No one does more for Veterans than the Comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for your support.

VFW Dept. NC Student Scholarships

Recent high school graduates Noah W. Ponton of Wilmington and Tamara D. Gatlin of Vanceboro have won the Otis N. Brown and Billy Ray Cameron college scholarships in 2013. They were chosen among twelve applicants who completed an entire packet of paperwork and were eligible for the scholarship.

In order to apply for these scholarships, which pay \$1000 per year for four years, the student must be: (1) be a high school senior, (2) be planning to attend a North Carolina college or university, and (3) be a close relative of a VFW comrade or Ladies' Auxiliary sister (son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter).



Tamara Gatlin



Noah Ponton

Tamara Gatlin is the daughter of Daryle J. Gatlin (deceased) and Tracy Carol Gatlin Hunnings of Vanceboro. She is eligible for the Billy Ray Cameron scholarship through her grandfather, Clarence O. Gatlin of Vanceboro, a member of Vanceboro Post 11119. Tamara graduated from the West Craven High School in Greenville, where she will study biology/pre-medicine.

The two Department of North Carolina scholarships are named after North Carolina's two past National Commanders-in-Chief, Otis N. Brown, who served in that high position in 1939, and Billy Ray Cameron, who was Commander-in-Chief 1984.

Department Signs On To Bands4Good Challenge



A "Bands4Good Challenge", similar to the popular American Idol competition, will be conducted by the Department of North Carolina and other patriotic organizations from September 29 through November 24, 2013 in order to raise money for our many good causes. Organized by the Doing Good Network, the event was approved by the Department Council of Administration at the annual State Convention on 9 June.

Participating in the Challenge along with the VFW are the Patriot Foundation, the Special Forces Association, Rolling Thunder of North Carolina, the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the Patriot Guards, and Purple Heart Homes.

The Challenge is essentially a music competition, using local artists and supporting Veterans' causes. North Carolina musicians are recruited and challenged to write, perform, and record an original patriotic song with lyrics and video the speaks directly to veterans' causes. These videos are posted on the Doing Good Network's (DGN's) Bands4Good Challenge website, and the competition begins. Together, as teams, the musicians and cause-supported partners (the VFW included) engage their internet

social networks and compete against similar partners in a virtual, interactive, American Idol type "donate-to-vote" global fundraising event.

Votes can be purchased in packages such as: 5 votes for \$5, 20 votes for \$10, 100 votes for \$50, and so on. All purchased votes are paid into, accounted for, and distributed by the 501(c)(3) Doing Good Community Foundation, Inc. In this way, VFW supporters (not just VFW members) will know their donation is secure and they will receive a tax deduction as well. Each organization, to include the VFW, will have a code built into the voting website to insure that monies donated by VFW supporters come back to the Department.

Each music video is then ranked by the number of votes it gets, the judges' ratings, and the amount of dollars raised from votes for that organization. The more fans that vote, the more exposure the support group receives and the more dollars they raise. The competition builds to a "live" webcast concert by the semi-finalists, which gives the VFW supporters a final chance to push their favorite video into the top spot and raise more money.

The trick to the Department raising a large sum of money is for all comrades, Auxiliary sisters, and Auxiliary brothers to engage their social networks, such as all their "friends" on Facebook, in the hopes those internet contacts will participate. Supporters do not have to live in North Carolina to participate.

In the end, the winning musicians get new fans and significant music industry exposure as their bid to "hit it big," and the Department gets at least 70% of the dollar amount of purchased votes their supporters have generated. Additionally, the top 3 veterans' organizations generating the most purchased votes qualify for a matching grant that can push the total dollars received to 100% or more of the purchased vote revenue they generate.

Comrades, Auxiliary sisters, and Auxiliary brothers will hear more about this revolutionary, internet fund-raising event through their districts, posts, email, and The VFW Leader. When ready, all members need to engage their social networks to make this a success.

Getting the Word Out

Chapel Hill - Lee Heavlin, blogmaster

Does your post have an identity problem? Do you do a lot, but the local paper ignores you? Do your post members miss out on what is going on because they don't get to meetings? If yes, you are not getting the word out.

What can a post do? Go into the publishing business and start its own newspaper to publish post stories. A post can use the VFW NC Department website that is provided to each post at no cost.

Posts can use the information now flowing in emails. News coming in to the post commander, adjutant, quartermaster can be cut and pasted into a news story for the web. Stories on post websites are monitored and picked up daily for state-wide distribution.

When post stories are broadcast by the state, every subscriber gets to see what is going on at another post. If a post in Durham is hosting a special event or a veterans' stand down, everyone gets the information. Your event may encourage other posts to try the same thing.

Local newspapers and radio stations

troll the web for veterans information, people to talk to, people honor, and for participants in patriotic events. Post stories are often selected to be reprinted in local papers as letters to the editor or opinion pieces. Our views are important!

Local schools have patriotic projects and students look to the internet for information on flag retirements, holidays, the history of local veterans and more. What is on the web about your veterans?

Another added benefit that is millions of people have the opportunity to view what you are writing. Did you know that a short Calabash story on Tuskegee airmen gets read about 300 times a day and this has been going on for about a year! Our VFW web sites are getting read!

Post web sites also put a face on a local post. This is invaluable to students seeking information on a post to submit their Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, or Scouting Scholarship application. Some posts report that they get inquiries from Virginia and Tennessee from North Carolina students away at boarding school. Their home is here and they need to submit an application.

VFW Post web sites were given a new

look two years ago. Adding information is easier and we use WordPress as the software of choice. We load the software on a central server and give each post a template and space on the server. There is absolutely no cost to the posts. No fees for access and no monthly charges for server use.

Some posts are worried about the complexity of using their website. If someone can create email, then the post has the talent needed. Also, the system is designed to be passed on to another post member to manage. We just grant access and all existing information stays on-line and just as it was before the blogmasters changed.

Want more information? Just look at the state website at <http://vfwnc.org> and look under TOOLS for details on the post websites, how to use them, and how to add impact to your post stories. You will also find information on how to gain access and a password.

Are you ready to put on your editor's visor and start your post on-line newspaper?

State News Subscriptions

Posts throughout the state are publishing stories about local activities. Are you getting to see them?

Everyone is encouraged to subscribe to the free on-line Veterans of Foreign Wars North Carolina News feed. It is easy and will ensure that you will know what is going on around the district and around the state.

Local news items get published by individual posts and the state website locates new news items for broadcast as subscription news. It is All My VFW NC News.

How do you subscribe? Just go to the state website and scan down to the subscription box. Visit <http://vfwnc.org> and look for:

Enter your email address to receive news from the My VFW NC Website

Subscribe

FOR A SPOT ON THE LEADER, VISIT THE NC WEBSITE SCAN HERE



COMMANDER'S COLUMN



ERNE ALLIS

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as commander of this great organization. I will do my utmost to provide leadership that lives up to your expectations. I am excited about the year ahead of us. We will build on the legacy of our past, while providing a future legacy for those who will come after.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Commander, Ted Briggs, for his unwavering support and tireless efforts, and all past department commanders for their leadership that has sustained us to this day.

Despite any challenges we may have ahead, there have been numerous accomplishments made by our members, officers, district, and post commanders. I have had the privilege of talking with many of you who inspire me with your enthusiasm and dedication to our VFW, our mission, and our future.

In meeting our goals this year, I would like to share three main points that are essential for our continued success.

Communicate. We have the technology tools in place, and should not overlook how using that technology can keep us informed and focused on the important issues. Aside from technology, attending post and district meetings is an important part of the communication process. Make a point of speaking with someone you have not met before and listen to one

another's point of view.

Educate. Make sure you and those serving your post are up-to-date on the bylaws and participate in the educational sessions offered at the Flying Squadrons and C of A meetings. Help one another with what you have learned. Spread the word in your communities and educate the public about your VFW.

Advocate. Our mission to support veterans and their families is unchanged. We exist to help our comrades, and have a collective voice for veterans' issues in Washington, lest they forget. Based on the US population, only about 1 of our citizens have ever served in harm's way. We shall not fail them.

Now, don't get too comfortable thinking these basics are the only goals we have this year. These three things are simply the framework by which we will guide ourselves before we begin the real work of our state and national initiatives. We will talk more about those initiatives in future meetings.

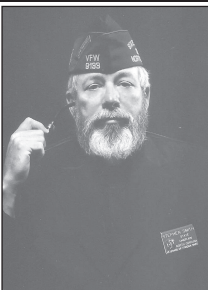
Serving as your commander required that I step down as your Budget Committee Chairman. I have appointed a new chairperson, who also serves as your Senior Vice Commander, Jack Goin. All of our fine committees and the dedicated committee persons will continue to work for you, resulting in another banner year for our state. Remember, the meetings are open to VFW members. Stop in to gain a better understanding of what is going on. I assure you it will not be wasted time.

In closing, I ask that you become fully engaged in communication, which requires listening as well as talking, education, which requires learning as well as teaching, and advocacy for our veterans, which is why we exist.

I look forward to serving with you.

Yours in comradeship,
Ernie Allis

CHAPLAINS COLUMN



SR SMITH

When you read my articles and when they are written are months apart. This submission was written directly after the Memorial Day weekend. By the time you are reading this, the Department Convention has come and gone. If you are reading my article, then I was reelected. Thank you. I will continue to do my very best to both represent and serve my Comrades and Sisters in this Department. I enjoyed last year and pray to improve this year.

We awarded the first Chaplain of

the Year at this past Department Convention. I received a good showing of letters of recommendation of hard working VFW Chaplains within our Department. It made the judges work hard to choose a Chaplain. With your assistance, I hope to make them work even harder this year. It is possible we could award an Eastern, Central, Western, and District Chaplain of the Year at the next Department Convention. This can happen, only if we get the word out and the letters in. The deadline for submission for this year's Chaplain of the Year will be at the close of the Winter CofA. Let us continue to recognize the hard working Chaplains within our Department.

We begin new VFW year with new faces. New challenges will come up (as each year does), but we still have many of the old challenges. I pray that all have a successful and blessed year in office.

Peace be with You

SR Smith

SR. VICE COMMANDER COLUMN



JACK GOIN

Comrades

I would like to thank each member of our great VFW organization for electing me as your senior vice commander for the coming year. It will be a great honor to serve you and all veterans as we move forward.

This past year your line officers have been extremely busy, traveling our state and visiting

many posts and meeting so many post, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary members. The work that you have accomplished in your posts, in the communities that you reside in and working for veterans is fantastic. Congratulations to all those post and district commanders that have achieved all state or all American status.

I had the extreme pleasure of visiting our national home for children in May and what a rewarding experience it was. To meet and see the dedication of all the staff was overwhelming. I would encourage all members to visit at some time to see the set up there and see where your post and district contributions go.

As we move forward to the coming year don't forget in August we will have our flying squadron training, which was so successful last year. The training is mandatory as per our regulations so if the commander can not attend either the senior or junior vice should attend as should the quartermaster and representatives from the ladies aux. Also, let's strive to utilize our elec-

tronic reporting system for all the activities that your post partakes in. This past year 70 of all our posts in North Carolina used the system. Commander Allis and your line officers would like to see that number at 100. Don't use the excuse that no one in your post or district doesn't know how or doesn't have a computer, take credit for what you do and your accomplishments. Don't forget our department newspaper the "Leader". Send in your pictures and articles, share what you are doing. Toot your own horn, maybe what your post did will entice another post to undertake a project.

Thank you, commander Ted, for allowing me to serve under you as your junior vice commander. Your "bull dog" has learned some important lessons as I move forward these next two years. Thank you my fellow veterans for your service to your country and the VFW. Let us all have a successful 2013-2014 year.

Yours in comradeship
Jack Goin

DEPARTMENT SURGEON'S COLUMN



CHRIS SIKES

flowing to the heart or brain. The most common reason for this is a build-up of fatty deposits on the inner walls of the blood vessels that supply the heart or brain. Strokes can also be caused by bleeding from a blood vessel in the brain or from blood clots.

What are the risk factors for cardiovascular disease?

The most important behavioral risk factors of heart disease and stroke are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol. Behavioral risk factors are responsible for about 80 of coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.

The effects of unhealthy diet and physical inactivity may show up in individuals as raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, raised blood lipids, and overweight and obesity. These "intermediate risks factors" can be measured in primary care facilities and indicate an increased risk of developing a heart attack, stroke, heart failure and other complications.

Cessation of tobacco use, reduction of salt in the diet, consuming fruits and vegetables, regular physical activity and avoiding harmful use of alcohol have been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. The cardiovascular risk can also be reduced by preventing or treating hypertension, diabetes and raised blood lipids.

Policies that create conducive environments for making healthy choices affordable and available are essential for motivating people to adopt and sustain healthy behavior.

There are also a number of underlying determinants of CVDs, or "the causes of the causes". These are a reflection of the major forces driving social, economic and cultural change - globalization, urbanization, and population ageing. Other determinants of CVDs include poverty, stress and hereditary factors.

WHAT ARE COMMON SYMPTOMS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES?

Symptoms of heart attacks and strokes Often, there are no symptoms of the underlying disease of the blood vessels. A heart attack or stroke may be the first warning of underlying disease. Symptoms of a heart attack include: pain or discomfort in the center of the chest; pain or discomfort in the arms, the left shoulder, elbows, jaw, or back. In addition the person may experience difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath; feeling sick or vomiting; feeling light-headed or faint; breaking into a cold sweat; and becoming pale. Women are more likely to have shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

The most common symptom of a stroke is sudden weakness of the face, arm, or leg, most often on one side of the body. Other symptoms include sudden onset of: numbness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; confusion, difficulty speaking or understanding speech; difficulty seeing with one or both eyes; difficulty walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; severe headache with no known cause; and fainting or unconsciousness.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical care immediately. As a patient it is our responsibility to live a healthy lifestyle and have regular checkups. It is recommended you have a checkup every 6 months. You increase your chance of heart diseases tenfold by using tobacco, unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, diabetes and eating an unhealthy diet.

We all know that the proper diet and weight loss is a major challenge for all of us. We have to start somewhere in order to make a change. I will challenge everyone of you to take 30 minutes out of your day and talk a walk outside. That 30 minute walk might give you another 30 years of life.

Chris Sikes
Department Surgeon

Heart attacks and strokes are usually acute events and are mainly caused by a blockage that prevents blood from

2013 WWII TOURS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE & AUGUST



"EVERYONE IS WELCOME on our 2013 WWII tours," states tour hostess Vi Ranney from Yankton, SD, who just escorted her 19th WWII tour this past August. The life-time VFW Auxiliary member would love to take you along to Paris, the Beaches of Normandy, Patton's grave in Luxembourg, through the Battle of the Bulge area in Belgium, into Germany for a stop at the Remagen Bridge, and enjoy a Rhine River cruise before visiting Dachau and Hitler's Eagle's Nest. June and August departures are slated for 2013.

Call Vi at 605-665-3596 for more info. Discount for WWII veterans. The ten WWII Veterans pictured above at General Patton's grave were part of the forty participants on the August 2012 tour. www.rupipertravel.com



Vi Ranney,
Tour Escort

Two Korean War MIAs Recovered

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to two soldiers who had been unaccounted for since the Korean War. Were recently identified and will be returned to their family for burial with full military honors. Identified were: Army Pfc. Ernest V. Fuqua Jr., 21, of Detroit, was buried January 15, in Rochester Hills, Michigan. In late November 1950, units of the 35th Infantry Regiment and allied forces were deployed in a defensive line advancing across the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces enemy forces attacked their position. American units sustained heavy losses as they withdrew south toward the town of Unsan. He was listed as killed in action on November 28, 1950.

Army Pfc. Glenn S. Schoenmann, 20, of Tracy City, Tennessee, was buried January 12, in Palmer, Tenn. In late November 1950, Schoenmann and elements of the

31st Regimental Combat Team were deployed along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. Schoenmann was reported missing in action on December 12, 1950, after his unit and U.S. positions were encircled and attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces. In 1950, a returning American who had survived the attack reported that Schoenmann had been killed in action on November 28, 1950, as a result of sniper wounds. In 1953, that conclusion was amended when an American, who was held as a prisoner of war, told U.S. officials that Schoenmann was wounded by a sniper but not mortally, held captive by the Chinese on December 2, 1950, and died shortly thereafter from malnutrition and lack of medical care.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some

of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Fuqua was believed to have died in 1950, near the Ch'ongch'on River; and where Schoenmann was last seen.

To identify the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence, and forensic identification tools such as dental comparisons, mitochondrial DNA which matched Fuqua's brother.

Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials. Today, more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Identifications continue to be made from the remains that were returned to the United States, using forensic and DNA technology.

Mojave Cross, Stolen in 2010

Nov 07, 2012 San Jose Mercury by Eric Kurhi - More than two years after it vanished from its rocky perch in the Mojave Desert, a controversial cross reappeared Monday, wrapped up and zip-tied to a fence post along Highway 92 in San Mateo County.

The Mojave Cross was at the center of a Supreme Court case about whether the cross was an appropriate memorial for federal land: Two weeks after the court ruled to allow the 7-foot tall metal cross to remain on the land, it vanished in May 2010, prompting outrage from veterans groups that vowed to replace it.

"This cross is an important historical artifact," read a note that was attached to the cross, which was found along the road near Highway 35 by deputies acting on a tip from a television news station. "It is in fact the Mojave Cross, taken on the evening of May 9, 2010, from Sunrise Rock in the Mojave Desert. I would be

very grateful if "you would be so kind as to notify the appropriate authorities of its presence here."

According to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, there is a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who stole it.

The cross is in good condition, according to a sheriff's office news release. A Mojave Desert police officer who is familiar with the cross was contacted, and he was able to confirm that the cross is indeed the missing memorial.

The sheriff's office said it will contact the San Francisco branch of the National Park Service to take custody of the cross.

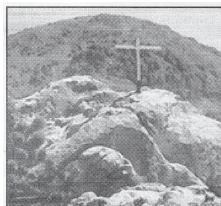
The memorial was taken from where it stood atop a rock in the 1.6 million-acre Mojave National Preserve, about 70 miles south of Las Vegas.

The first cross was erected at the

site in 1934 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars to honor soldiers killed in World War I. Various versions have been vandalized through the years, and the metal one went up in the late 1990s.

Federal courts previously ruled that the presence of the cross in a national preserve was an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state.

After it vanished, the theft raised the ire of veterans groups and civil libertarians alike.



VFW Advocacy

National HQ has created the following national legislative priorities for the 2013 year. Please contact your federal lawmakers to ask for their support on these key issues.

VA HEALTH CARE Insist Congress sufficiently funds the Department of Veterans Affairs so it can continue to provide the highest quality care to all eligible wounded, ill and injured veterans.

- Push VA to implement evidence-based solutions to the mental and behavioral health challenges veterans face, and correct shortfalls at VA in providing needed care for those suffering.
- Ensure Congress prioritizes and fully funds VA research to prevent, diagnose and treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injuries, traumatic vision and hearing injuries, and other injuries disproportionately affecting current conflict veterans.
- Urge Congress to keep women's issues at the forefront, and to continually improve and expand access to VA programs and services.
- Oppose all efforts to curtail the health care provision for service connected veterans by protecting Category 7 and 8 veterans from any reduction or elimination in services or increase in copayments.
- Provide adequate funding to administer necessary and proper maintenance on all VA facilities.
- Suicides & Homelessness
- Address the national crisis of 18 veterans and one service member committing suicide every day, by ensuring that Congress properly funds Department of Defense and VA crisis awareness and support programs.
- Push Congress to provide VA with funds necessary to end veteran homelessness by 2015.
- Require Congress to continue providing proper oversight by increasing per diem rates where necessary, and providing education and career training opportunities alongside Department of Labor and other relevant agencies.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent both suicide and homelessness by making mental health services and substance abuse treatments an urgent priority.
- Ensure permanent housing solutions are available for all homeless veterans, especially female veterans with children.

VA COMP. AND BENEFITS

- Urge Congress to use its funding and oversight authority to require the Veterans Benefits Administration to reduce the claims backlog while improving the overall ratings quality.
- Work to pass legislation in Congress that offers workable solutions, intent on enhancing training and investing in the skills and knowledge of VA employees.
- Require higher accountability and accuracy standards for processing claims. Demand that adjudicators provide veterans with a full explanation of VA's decision.
- Demand proper oversight from Congress as VA installs an IT infrastructure that will help transform the agency into a 21st century operation. A timely, accurate claim should be what every veteran, service member and eligible family member receives.

DEFENSE & HOMELAND SECURITY

- Fully support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism, as well as to protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.
- Ensure defense funding fully supports personnel Quality of Life initiatives, troop end strength requirements, and needed weapons systems development and replacement programs.
- Halt the development and/or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, while continuing to develop and deploy a ballistic missile defense system to protect the U.S. and our allies.
- Secure America's borders from all threats, foreign and domestic, and identify and deport illegal aliens who commit crimes.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

- Oppose all proposals to change the current military retirement program or increase TRICARE enrollment fees and co-payments on military retirees and military families.

- Call on Congress to remain fully committed to improving all Quality of Life programs for active duty and Reserve Component service members and their families.

- Support full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset, and regardless of the rating percentage.
- Support efforts to lower the Reserve Component retirement pay age to 55.

POW/MIA

- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.
- Urge the President and Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for all organizations involved in the Full Accounting Mission, and to protect the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command budget from being redirected by U.S. Pacific Command or reduced by the Department of Defense. To also keep the U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs intact with funding and personnel.

VA COMP. AND BENEFITS

- Urge Congress to use its funding and oversight authority to require the Veterans Benefits Administration to reduce the claims backlog while improving the overall ratings quality.
- Work to pass legislation in Congress that offers workable solutions, intent on enhancing training and investing in the skills and knowledge of VA employees.
- Require higher accountability and accuracy standards for processing claims. Demand that adjudicators provide veterans with a full explanation of VA's decision.
- Demand proper oversight from Congress as VA installs an IT infrastructure that will help transform the agency into a 21st century operation. A timely, accurate claim should be what every veteran, service member and eligible family member receives.

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

- Demand the creation of one integrated electronic medical and service record that follows service members from the time they raise their right hand to the time they are buried in a national cemetery.
- Ensure the military's new Transition Assistance Program offers information for transitioning service members and veterans, and that all relevant government agencies and veterans service organizations continue to serve as partners in the transition process.

VETERANS EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

- Ensure new programs to fight veteran unemployment succeed, and work with Congress to improve any shortcomings.
- Close civilian licensing gaps for military professionals through federal and local legislation.
- Protect veterans' employment resources by moving VETS from DOL to VA.
- Fight to protect the G.I. Bill and ensure well informed veterans receive the quality education we promised them.
- Support legislation that amends USERRA to preclude any binding arbitration agreement employers ask service members to sign.
- Ensure the federal government upholds its responsibility to hire veterans

Carolina Field of Honor Breaks Ground

The Carolina Field of Honor, located on an 8-acre site donated by Guilford and Forsyth Counties in the heart of the Triad region of North Carolina has broken ground and started construction. It will be the largest veterans' memorial park in the country south of Washington, D.C. Past State Judge Advocate Al Edwards states that the dedication is projected for Veterans Day week.

When completed, the memorial will honor all who serve in the Armed Forces. It will include a tribute to each branch of the service in a manner that remembers all who served in the military, past, present, and future, along with key historical facts. A flag walk will explain the history of the growth of the United States starting with the 13 colonies.

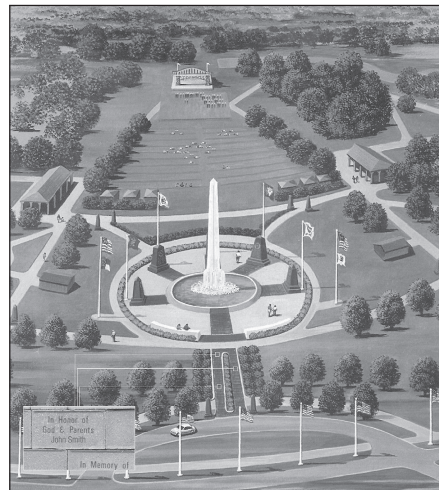
Also included will be an entertainment platform in an open

air amphitheater design, where spring and summer concerts will perform to a projected thousands of spectators. A Parade Deck will provide a setting for the military, and other organizations like the Boys Scouts, county schools, law enforcement, and firefighters, to conduct a variety of patriotic ceremonies. A Meandering Walkway will tell the story of other important contributors to the nation's military history with monuments such as the Canine Corps, MIA/PIA, Red Cross, Merchant Marine, and the like.

The memorial can be supported with the purchase of a Remembrance Brick, to be used in the various memorial walkways. The buyer can specify a branch of service, and even the brick's location. The brick will have three lines of writing with a maximum of 16 characters a line. They can be purchased by visiting www.ncwmf.org.

Costs are \$200.00 for a 4" x 8" brick, \$500 for a 8" x 8" brick, and \$2000 for a 16" x 16" brick and recognition on the bronze plaque donor wall at the park. The granite stone for the centerpiece of the memorial has been designed by the Mount Airy Granite Quarry. The goal of the memorial commission is \$5,000,000, which they are close to reaching. Kernersville VFW Post 5352 has already collected and donated more than \$5,600 to the project.

The park is located on Mountain Street, close to where I-40 Business intersects. If one approaches the site from NC Highway 68 (the highway that our Convention hotel is on), turn at West Market Street towards Kernersville and Winston-Salem, which becomes Mountain Street. It is also close to the intersection of Mountain Street and Sandy Ridge Road.



Shipping Smiles, Love to Soldiers Deployed Overseas

LOUISBURG /Families of deployed North Carolina National Guard soldiers are able to have their care packages mailed to their loved ones in part through ingenuity and dedication of other soldiers like Staff Sgts. Aaron and Amanda Jones.

Amanda is able to send large lots of packages, helping families avoid shipping costs. She ships the packages directly to her husband, who distributes them among the soldiers of 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, who have been deployed to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt since October of 2012. They have distributed more than 1,000 packages since the deployment began.

"We started this back in December," Amanda said. Families

will show up in groups, supporting each other, as they drop off packages.

"We're like one big family now," she said.

Along with building close bonds among the families, the shipping system has become a way for the families to more easily put a smile on their soldiers' faces.

"There are several families who couldn't really afford to continuously send care packages," Jones said. "They are thrilled to have the opportunity to put together their own care packages and send it over."

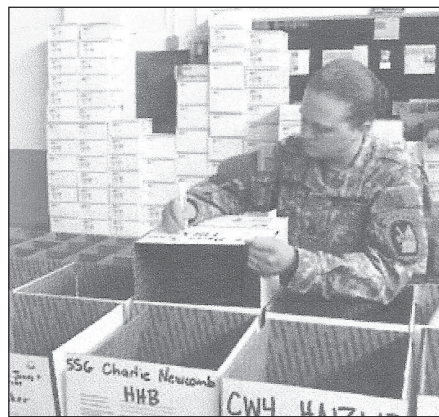
All of the work Jones has put into ensuring the deployed Guardsmen

have something to look forward to is worth the sweat.

"If I can help out one family or one soldier overseas to put a smile on his or her face over there, then to me, it's all worth it," said Jones.

The packages have been taking approximately one month to reach the soldiers, deployed to the Sinai Peninsula. Jones intends for the last shipment of packages to be sent to the soldiers in June. The soldiers are scheduled to return to North Carolina by the fall of 2013.

Army Staff Sgt. Kelsey Blankenship Reprinted from the NC Dept. of Safety's internet magazine, "On The Scene." Sgt. Amanda Jones is a member of Ladies Auxiliary of Wake Forest Post 8466.



Local Sisters Reunite in Afghanistan

Miles sisters graduated from Hiwassee Dam, before joining Air Force

By DWIGHT OTWELL

The Cherokee County sisters, who played about every sport available to girls at Hiwassee Dam High School, were reunited in Afghanistan, where they serve in different U.S. Air Force units.

Staff Sgt. Danna (Miles) Pash, 25, and Capt. Randi (Miles) Ludington, 31, had the opportunity to get together in Bagram, Afghanistan, on April 13, then again on April 24.

The Miles family moved to the Ranger community in 1994. Betsy Miles-three daughters went to Ranger Elementary/Middle School and then to Hiwassee Dam High School, where they all excelled in sports.

"They played volleyball, basketball, softball and cross country," Miles said. "They played everything they could. They gave it their all. They were good at every sport they tried."

Pash played basketball, softball, volleyball, cross country and track. She graduated in 2006 "I excelled the most at track, even though basketball was my favorite because everyone always came out to watch the ball games," Pash said. "I went to state level three out of four years for track and field."

Ludington played basketball softball and cross country, and graduated in 2000.

"I was the offensive and defensive player of the year" in softball my senior year," Ludington said. "I won first or second place in all my cross country meets while in high school."

Ludington earned a business degree at Western Carolina University, then joined the Air Force. She went through Officer's Training School. Pash enlisted after one year in college.

Ludington is on a 365-day deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, and is assigned to U.S. Forces - Afghanistan. She is the commander's Emergency Response Program manager for Afghanistan, Miles said. Her duties include providing guidance and oversight for a \$200 million program to include staff assisted visits and inspection at each regional command across Afghanistan. Ludington coordinates the review and approval of high level projects up to U.S. Central Command and the Office of Secretary of Defense.

Pash is serving a short-notice deployment, having deployed to Afghanistan in March to fill in for an injured teammate. She is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Delta Sector Spartans. Her duties include searching vehi-

cles and personnel for the largest entry control point at Bagram. Vehicles and personnel are X-rayed for suicide vests and vehicle bombs before they enter the base, Miles said. She is scheduled to come home at the end of the month.

Capt. Ludington married Brad Ludington in July. Her home base is in Dayton, Ohio. Ludington was in the military but now works in finance. They have no children yet,

Pash married Chandler, who is a master sergeant in the Air Force. They met in the service. She is stationed in Mountain Home, Idaho. They have one child together, Miles Pash, who is almost 2 years old. She also has two step children - Tristin and Savannah.

In addition, a middle sister, Michele Miles, 28, is a probation and parole officer working in Murphy. She also played multiple sports at Hiwassee Dam. She has a daughter, Braylee, 8.

Miles has worked in customer service for Snap-on Tools in Murphy for seven years.

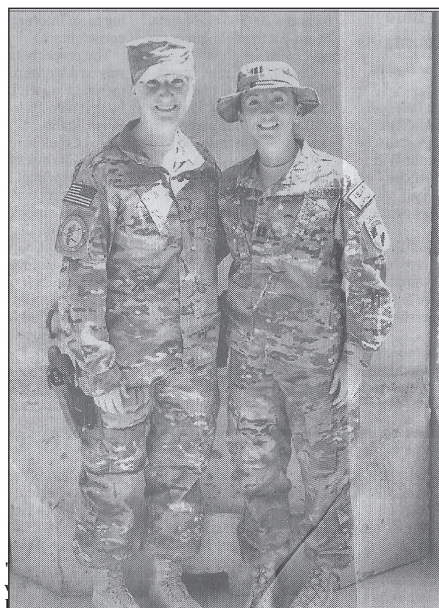
"I was in the Air Force and their father, Mike Miles, retired from the Air Force," Miles said. "We were happy for (Air Force daughters). It was a good life."

"While attending Hiwassee Dam High School, I enjoyed the down home feeling of a small country

town - especially the love of sports and incredible competition," Ludington said.

schools were smaller and that you knew everyone.

"It makes classmates grow together as they grow up through high school."



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



PENNY COCOULIDIS

Sisters: "Thank You" for your vote of confidence in my ability to lead this Department by electing me as your President for the ensuing year. I will represent you all to the best of my ability. By now you have had the opportunity to look at the Department Program Disk and see what an exciting year the Line Officers and Chairmen have planned for you. Check out the Department Auxiliary web site for all the latest information. My promise to you is, as it says in our installation oath "I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties to the best of my ability." I have promised to do just that. My intent this year is for all to be positive in attitude and leave negativity and petty grievances at the door of any Auxiliary room, so we can continue to work for the Veteran which is the reason you joined our great organization.

This year is dedicated to the Military Heroes of my family, as we promote

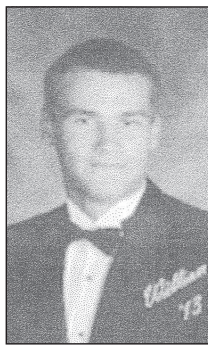
the "Keepin the Wheels Rollin for our Veterans" and doing it with a "Can Do" attitude. We are a TEAM promoting our membership and programs to the fullest. There should be NO "I can't do it" responses or attitudes if our quadruple amputees from these Iraq and Afghanistan wars can continue to Do it with a smile. One our own WWII Veterans still continues to DO it at age 97 by volunteering at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville. We also CAN DO!

The will be 3 Flying Squadron Training schools again and all District and Auxiliary Presidents, Officers and chairmen and members are invited to attend. During this year my intent is to meet as many of our members as I can either at the Council Meetings, District Meetings and at Auxiliary Meetings. My promise is to visit as many as I can and participate in activities sponsored by the Auxiliary as my schedule will allow.

We have an exciting VFW Store in the Department which I encourage you to utilize. They can find most any item you wish. With a revival of the Historian Chairman and a new Chairman in which I totally believe in, that of Mentorship, the Membership Team has worked hard to get new ideas to help with your membership issues. They are a Team that works together, and have planned many different things to promote membership. In 1795 Sir William taught us that the 3 R's meant Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - NOT - for us it means RECRUIT, RETAIN AND RENEW membership. See YA, God Bless ...

Penny Cocoulidis, State President

Auxiliary Erlene Mayberry Scholarships Announced



William G. Anderson



Sean P. Bennett



Jasmine U. Cooper

The Ladies Auxiliary, Department of North Carolina, has announced three Erlene Mayberry Scholarship winners for 2012-2013. They are William G. Anderson of West End, Sean P. Bennett of San Diego, California, and Jasmine U. Cooper of Gold Hill. Each winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship during their freshman year in college.

The Erlene Mayberry Scholarship is named after the Department of North Carolina's only Ladies Auxiliary National President, Erlene Mayberry. They are selected each year by a special committee of Ladies Auxiliary, the criteria being the same as the VFW's

Otis N. Brown and Billy Ray Cameron scholarships, the only difference being that the student does not have to attend college in the state of North Carolina.

William Anderson is the son of Thomas and Kathleen Anderson of West End. Mr. Anderson is in the construction field and Mrs. Ander is an elementary school teacher assistant. William is eligible for the award under his grandmother, Ms. Madeline Buck. He plans to attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Sean Bennett is the son of Robert and Angela Bennett of San Diego, California.

He is a systems engineer with Anderson Audio Visual and she is a lead sales administrator with the Waxie Sanitary Supply Company. Sean is eligible for the scholarship under his grandmother, Ms. Ann Camp, of Columbus, North Carolina. He will attend school at San Diego State University in California.

Jasmine U. Cooper is the daughter of Gregory Cooper of Gold Hill. Her father is a house builder with H.R.D. Industries. She is eligible for the award through her grandmother, as well, Ms. Linda Cooper. She plans to attend college at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

VFW Department of NC Golf Tournament Friday-Saturday-Sunday ~ Sept 6-7-8

Twin Oaks Golf Course
Statesville NC
704.872.3979



4 Man
Captains Choice
(Form Your Own Team)
9 am Shotgun Start

- Post Name & Number
- Contact Name
- Phone #
- Player # 1
- Player # 2
- Player #3
- Player #4

AT THE GOLF COURSE

Friday: Practice Round
Saturday: 1st Round, Breakfast & Lunch
Sunday: Final Round, Breakfast & Lunch
\$ 185.00/Form Your Own Team
\$ 150.00/Golf Only

RETURN THIS FORM & PAYMENT TO:

Allen Payne
VFW POST 2031
518 Queens Court
Statesville NC 28677

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allen Payne
704.657.7221 / 704.873.6080 / 704.380.2438

FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY:
AUGUST 15, 2013

DETAILS FOR GOLF OUTING

Golf

- 3 Rounds with cart and range balls
- Meals at the course
 - Breakfast: coffee, assorted biscuits, and donuts
 - Lunch:
 - Saturday: grilled hamburgers w/ fixins' and sides
 - Sunday: grilled chicken sandwiches w/ fixins' and sides
- Bloody Mary's and Beverages on course both days
- Practice Round on Friday - Call for Tee Times (704-872-3979)
- Closest to Pin Prizes on all Par 3's Both Days
- Awards to Flight winners
- Gift Bags - Give Aways - Auction

Lodging

- Ramada Inn - \$59 per night
- 2 Miles from Golf Course
- Other hotels in area:
 - Courtyard by Marriott
 - Comfort Inn
 - Red Roof Inn
 - Holiday Inn Express

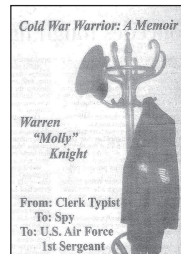
Statesville Post 2031

- Friday - Reception w/ heavy hors d' oeuvres, cash bar
- Saturday Night - Dinner: Prime Rib
- Transportation to and from hotel to Post (Shuttle Van)



Come support the VFW on a fun outing with
long time friends, make new friends, and
make new memories.

Brevard Comrade's Memoir



By DEAN POLING THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

LAKE PARK - The subtitle draws readers immediately into area author Warren "Molly" Knight's book, "Cold War Warrior: A Memoir."

The subtitle reads: "From: Clerk Typist To: Spy To: U.S. Air Force First Sergeant." Describing himself as an All American Boy from North Carolina, the book shares Knight's work at the height of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

As a Russian linguist in the United States Air Force Security Service, Warren Knight bore witness to the construction of the Berlin Wall, the U-2 incident, the Cuban Missile Crisis and an adversary's Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile test," according to information from the book.

Knight shares stories of assignments to a listening post on the Far East island as well as a jungle survival course in the Philippines. He joined the military in 1951 & served in the Korean War.

For the next 26 years, until the late 1970s he served as an Air Force "intelligence asset."

He blends personal history with national and world history in a readable, compelling, you are there style.

He wanted to write the book now because Knight finally felt like he could share his experiences.

"As I said in the book, a young leaves home for military service and through various turns of events finds himself flying in recon-planes in hostile environments, and he can't even tell his mom and dad what he's doing," Knight says.

Older readers will be reminded of the Cold

War's perils while younger readers will come to better understand them.

"The Cold War was far more dangerous than most people realize," Knight told The Times. "Never before or since has the whole world been on the brink of total annihilation. For decades, the U.S. and the Soviet Union stood toe to toe, each holding devastating explosives with very short fuses. It is nothing short of miraculous that the Cuban Missile Crisis did not see the use of nuclear weapons."

Yet, even amidst the danger, Knight shares stories of a young man discovering the thrills of life, and the passion for being involved.

"Flying was the thrill of a lifetime," he says. "We were in customized aircraft containing the most sophisticated aerial reconnaissance equipment in the world, flying in places that were jam packed with air defenses bent on taking us out. There were 12 shoot downs by the Soviet of U.S. recon during the period of the Cold War."

As for what event had the most impact on him, given the vast panorama of history and personal situations, it's impossible to say.

"I was witness to so much history - the construction of the Berlin Wall, Soviet nuclear tests, the crisis in Cuba, the U-2 incident the loss of friends in fatal crashes, Vietnam," Knight says, "How does one pick from such a list?"

Now 81 Knight moved to Lake Park in June 2003. His wife, Ellen was from Valdosta, she passed away Feb. 11, 2003.

His military service defined his career: "Serving my country for nearly 30 years was singular honor," Knight says. "Nothing else in my lifetime compares."

(Cut & Return This Portion)

N.C. VFW to Support The All American Ride & Glide Event

The Department of North Carolina's Council of Administration approved a motion to support the upcoming All American Ride and Glide event, to occur on 2 November in Wake Forest. The support will include communicating the event to the comrades, Auxiliary sisters, and Auxiliary brothers, and urging the posts to put the event on their calendars. The Department will not contribute funds for the event, but posts are allowed to help fund it from their Relief Fund if they desire to do so.

The idea for the event got started by a group called the Wake Forest Veterans Memorial. Its original intent was merely to maintain the veterans' memorial site in Wake Forest, but their focus is now on soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost limbs to IED's and other combat causes. The Memorial group is concerned that mobility for limbless veterans is an issue that will not heal and does not get better. Fatigue is an issue with these veterans, and covering long distances is still out of range for many of them. The organization's answer to this problem is to issue SEGWAY moving devices to deserving veterans.

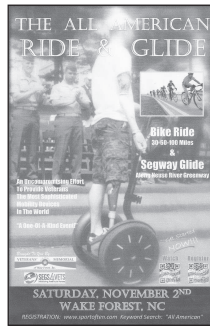
Segway devices allow for fast, long range, all weather, all terrain navigation and has

a zero turning radius. Riders can stand upright on the Segway, holding on to the shoulder-level handlebars. The problem with the issuance of the device to deserving veterans is that it was not designed and is not designated as a medical device. Therefore, it is not able to be paid for by medical insurance, benefits, or any type of government grant, to include VA.

The device enables disabled veterans to stand up and move about at the same head level as normal people, instead of being confined to a sitting position in a wheelchair or electric cart. Each Segway costs about \$10,000.

Supporting this event along with the VFW are organizations that include the Hendrick Automotive Group, Golden Corral restaurants, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, the Whitley Law Firm, and SegsVets, a charity with similar goals. Major General Bert Maggart, former Executive Vice President of RTI International, has signed on to assist with strategic planning.

Posts are encouraged to communicate with the Memorial's action officers, Mr. Lester Burleson, at les.burleson@gmail.com.



com. Registration for the Ride and Glide is at www.sportofthen.com, keyword search "All American." Post support could include donations from the Relief Fund, communicating to its members, showing up for the actual event with cap on Saturday, 2 November in Wake Forest, and possibly participating in the 30-60-100 mile bike ride.

Veterans Retraining Benefits

According to the VA, over 94,000 veterans have applied for Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) education benefits. To date, the VA has approved over 77 ,000 Certificates of Eligibility. However, just over 27,000 of those eligible veterans have begun using their benefits. The VA is encouraging veterans to finish the process and get enrolled in eligible education programs as soon as possible. A VA official recently stated, "We do not want any of the 99,000 slots to go unused. The program is only two years long. By law, we can only accept applications until September 30, 2013, and the last payment can be made through March 31, 2014." VRAP participants that do not enroll in school by March of this year will not be able to receive a full 12 months of training. VRAP participants are being warned that they must apply and begin using their benefits as

soon as feasible, or, notify the VA to cancel their Certificate of Eligibility to make room for other veterans to use the benefit.

VRAP GI BILL FACTSHEET

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) GI Bill offers up to 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for older unemployed veterans. Unemployed veterans between the age of 35 and 60 may apply for education benefits worth as much as \$17,600 (\$1,473 a month). This new GI Bill program was created as a part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011.

To be eligible for the VRAP GI Bill you must: • Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old. • Be unemployed (as determined by DoL). • Not have a dishonorable discharge. • Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program. • Not

be drawing VA compensation due to unemployment. • Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

Here's what you should know about the new VRAP before you apply: • This benefit can only be used to earn an Associate Degree, NonCollege Degree, or a Certificate, and train you for a high demand occupation • According to the VA, the program should begin processing VRAP benefits on July 1, 2012. • This new benefit will be limited to 45K vets in FY2012 and 54K from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. • Once you have completed the VRAP education program, the Dept. of Labor will provide employment assistance.

Be sure to visit the <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> to learn more and apply.



Legendary Veteran Plumley Dies at 92

Columbus, Georgia, Associated Press - Basil L. Plumley, a renowned career soldier whose exploits as an Army infantryman were portrayed in a book and the movie "We Were Soldiers", has died at 92 - an age his friends are amazed that he lived to see. Plumley fought in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam and was awarded a medal for making five parachute jumps into combat. The retired command sergeant major died Wednesday.

Friends said Plumley, who died in hospice care in west Georgia, never told war stories and was known to hang up on people who called to interview him. Still, he was near legendary in the Army - and - gained more widespread fame through a 1992 Vietnam War book that was the basis for the 2002 movie starring Mel Gibson. Actor Sam Elliott played Plumley in the film.

Plumley didn't need a Hollywood portrayal to be revered among soldiers, said Greg Camp, a retired Army colonel and former chief of staff at neighboring Fort Benning who befriended Plumley in his later years.

"He's iconic in military circles," Camp said. "Among people who have been in the military, he's beyond what a movie star would be and his legend permeates three generations of soldiers."

Debbie Kimble, Plumley's daughter, said her father died from cancer after spending about nine days at Columbus Hospice. Although the illness seemed to strike suddenly, Kimble said Plumley's health had been declining since his wife of 63 years, Denise Plumley, died last May on Memorial Day.

A native of Shady Spring, West Virginia, Plumley enlisted in the Army in 1942 and ended up serving 32 years in uniform. In World War II, he fought in the Allied invasion of Italy at Salerno and the D-Day invasion at Normandy. He later fought with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment in Korea. In Vietnam, Plumley served as sergeant major - the highest enlisted rank in the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

"That puts him in the rarest of clubs," said journalist Joseph L. Galloway, who met Plumley while covering the Vietnam War for United Press International and remained lifelong friends with him. "To be combat infantry in those three wars, in the battles he participated in, and to have survived...that is miraculous."

It was during Vietnam in November 1965 that Plumley served in the Battle of Ia Drang, the first major engagement between the U.S. Army and North Vietnamese forces. That battle was the basis for the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young", written nearly three decades later by Galloway and retired Lt. Gen. Hal G. Moore, who had been Plumley's battalion commander in Vietnam.

In the 2002 film version, Mel Gibson played Moore and Elliott played Plumley. Galloway said several of Elliott's gruff one-liners in the movie were things Plumley actually said, such as the scene in which a soldier tells the sergeant major good morning and is told: "Who made you the (expletive) weather man?"

"Sam Elliott underplayed him. He was actually tougher than that," Galloway said: "He was gruff, monosyllabic, an absolute terror when it came to enforcing standards of training."

That's not to say he was mean or inhuman, Galloway said. "This was a man above all else who had a very big, warm heart that he concealed very well."

Plumley retired with the rank command sergeant major in 1974 at Fort Benning, his last duty station. He then took a civilian job doing administrative work for the next 15 years at Martin Army Community Hospital.

Camp said Plumley remained strong until just a few weeks before his death. He helped open the Army's National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning in 2009. Camp, who now works for the museum's fundraising foundation, said Plumley helped him get Elliott to come narrate a ceremony dedicating the parade ground outside the museum. When Camp mentioned the actor's name, Plumley handed him Elliott's cell phone number.

After Plumley became ill, Galloway mentioned his worsening condition on Facebook. Fans of the retired sergeant major responded with a flood of cards and letters. The day before he died in hospice, Camp said, Plumley received about 160 pieces of mail.

"He was dad to me when I was growing up," said Kimble, Plumley's daughter. "We are learning every day about him. He was an inspiration to so many. He was a great person, and will always be remembered."

Veterans Memorial of Macon County



Time line of all US Wars



Frag Circle

Come visit the memorial on its fourth Anniversary!

A new destination has been created in Western North Carolina in the past seven years. Covering 2/3 of an acre makes it an awesome sight to see. The Veterans Memorial of Macon County was built to honor all Veterans of all the Wars. It was born in the minds of a few veterans who had been wanting to see a memorial especially created to honor those who gave their all for our country.

In the early months of 2007, a small group of veterans came together at the VFW Post 7339 in Franklin and discussed with one of the county commissioners about the possibility of building a memorial. They were given the go ahead to come up with a proposal. Out of that meeting, a group of 12 volunteer veterans formed a committee. This committee then decided where they would like to build it.

Macon County has had a Recreational

Park for many years, located just south of Franklin on US 441, and it really had not been formally named. The Committee found part of it to be just right for a Memorial. The Commissioners were asked to meet with them at the park to get their approval to proceed with plans to build.

At the next Commissioners meeting, they asked the Commissioners to rename the park, "The Veterans Memorial Recreation Park," and to provide necessary funds to begin.

Funds from the Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands came later. Am. Legion Post 108 and VFW Post 7339 also provided funds. Since then all funds have come from the community and individuals from all over the country.

The hard work to decide what was to be done began. Ideas floated and a search was done to consider other memorials and what they had done to Honor veterans. An architect vol-

unteered to come up with a print using the ideas that the committee thought would work. With this preliminary plan, the project began. Groundbreaking was held on D Day 2007. Work began shortly thereafter. The land was in a flood plain and this required raising the plot 4 feet higher.

A wall was built and it took 465 truckloads of dirt to bring the area up to grade. Most of this was done by volunteers. All underground work was completed and concrete slabs were poured. The walkways were done by alternating concrete and old bricks that had been around the county courthouse.

A local timber frame company and their employees volunteered to design and build and erect the Gazebo. For the roof, two 160-year-old red oak trees from the US Forest Service were felled, 4,000 shakes for the roof were made by volunteers, and the local Habitat group stained and finished it. All construction

equipment for the entire project was furnished free of charge.

The rear area has the time line of plaques of all our wars. Honor Bricks of those from Macon County who were killed in action beginning with WWI to present are laid along the walkway. Also, a flag pole honors KIA/MIA/POW Veterans with POW Honor Bricks placed at the base of the pole. This area also has a plaque honoring all GOLD STAR families.

Around the main circle flags of all the Services, including the Merchant Marine Flag, head up the walkways to the large granite monuments with sculptured marble slabs mounted on them honoring those in each of the services. Along side of these walkways are the Honor Bricks of those who have served in that branch of service.

There are over 2,500 so honored at present. Many of those have never been to or lived in Macon County.

In the center, the US Flag flies high over a large granite pedestal topped with a giant granite Eagle facing the main entrance.

Dedication was held on July 4, 2009. Over 200 volunteers worked on this project. Most were members of VFW Post 7339, Am. Legion Post 108 and The Sons of the Legion. Many others were sons of veterans. It is truly a community built Memorial and is a tribute to the spirit of love that the community has for its Veterans.

Visit it at anytime. It is always open to the public. Honor Bricks can be purchased at any time.

At present an effort is being made to raise more funds for the continued maintenance. For more information go to the internet at www.veterans-memorial-maconcounty.org.

Guitars for Vets Program

Guitars 4 Vets Mission Statement

Guitars 4 Vets is a non-profit organization designed to enhance the lives of ailing and injured Vets by providing them with guitars and music instruction.

It is our hope that self-expression through the gift of music will help restore the feelings of joy and purpose that can be lost after suffering trauma.

Guitars 4 Vets Program Information

1. Applicants must be a Veteran receiving treatment at a VAMC via established treatment program such as PTSD.
2. Complete *Guitars 4 Vets Application Form* and submit to your care provider for signature. Send to the G4V contact listed.
3. After review and acceptance of your application, an instructor will contact you to schedule lesson times.
4. Expectations: You will complete a study course consisting of six 30 minute lessons and at least four G4V Workshops. Following the fourth workshop, and contingent upon availability, you will be presented a guitar to keep. This will allow you to continue independently. If you are not planning to continue, please "pay it forward" and return the guitar so others may benefit.
5. Once the Veteran is accepted into the program, a statement of understanding will be available for signature to confirm the agreement of the above policies.



GUITARS FOR VETS: STUDENT APPLICATION



Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

e-mail _____

VA Location _____

Care Provider Signature(*required) _____

Special Needs _____

Branch/Era of Service _____

Previous Musical Experience _____

Musical Goals _____

Please send completed application to:

Gary Walbrun: G4VCarolina@comporium.net, 7224 Harcourt Crossing, Fort Mill, SC 29707

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Assigned Instructor/ Address _____

Phone _____ Lesson Location _____

VA Contact _____

Equipment Checklist *PLEASE DATE

Guitar _____ Gig Bag _____ Tuner _____

Strap _____ Picks _____ Music Book _____

Lessons Completed/Paid _____

WWW.GUITARSFORVETS.ORG

Guitars 4 Vets Program Agreement

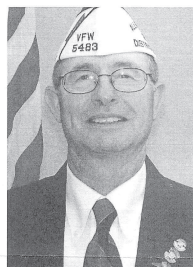
As a program participant in *Guitars 4 Vets*, I agree to the following:

- ♪ Attend a study course of six 30 minute lessons and at least four G4V group workshops.
- ♪ If I am unable to keep a scheduled lesson appointment, I will call my instructor in advance to cancel.
- ♪ I agree to practice what I learn at least 10 minutes per day between weekly lessons.
- ♪ After completion of the study program, and contingent upon availability, I will be presented a guitar to keep in order to continue my music studies independently.
- ♪ If at any time during the study course (individual lessons and workshops), should I conclude that the guitar does not interest me and I am not willing to continue playing or continuing lessons, I will "pay it forward" and return the guitar so others may benefit.

Veteran _____ Date _____

Guitars 4 Vets Instructor _____ Date _____

2014-2015

CANDIDATE FOR STATE JR VICE COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

RUSSELL BURLESON
VFW DISTRICT 16 SR. VICE COMMANDER

POST

Post Commander -- 2003-2006
Post JR Vice Commander
Post Surgeon -- 2012-Present

DISTRICT

District Commander -- 2004-2010
All-American -- 2008-2009
District SR Vice Commander -- 2010-Present
District VFW Program Chairman -- Present
District Asst. Inspector -- Present

STATE

Voice of Democracy Chairman -- 2010-2011
Long Range Planning Committee -- 2010-Present
Assistant Inspector
Assistant Membership Chairman
VFW Western Conference Vice Chairman/Secretary-Treasurer
District Commander Club Chairman/Vice Chairman

NATIONAL

National Aide-de-Camp -- 2008-2009, 2009-2010
Special Aide-de-Camp -- 2010-2011
Assistant Inspector General -- 2011-2012



DEDICATION AND SERVICE

Veterans Benefits Reference Guide

Connect Our Nation's Heroes to the VA Benefits They Are Entitled to for their Military Service

VA delivers world-class benefits to help Veterans, Servicemembers, and families get through tough times, improve their lives, and achieve their goals. This **Veterans Benefits Reference Guide** provides you with basic information about VA benefits and programs that you can use to inform our nation's heroes about VA benefits for which they might be eligible. Use this tool to direct Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families to VA resources where they can learn about and apply for their VA benefits.

Several factors commonly determine eligibility for specific VA benefits: length of service, income, service during a wartime vs. peacetime period, age, and whether or not the Veteran has a service-connected disability. Additionally, VA benefits typically require a discharge other than dishonorable to receive benefits. Each benefit described below includes an eligibility overview. Encourage individuals who are potentially eligible for VA benefits to seek out more information on the VA website or through eBenefits.

INSURANCE

Life insurance coverage options for Veterans which features low monthly premiums to provide security and peace of mind. Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is automatic coverage for Servicemembers, while Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is available after separation from service.

Basic Eligibility: SGLI coverage is generally automatic, but applications to convert from SGLI to VGLI must be filed within one year and 120 days from discharge. www.insurance.va.gov

PENSION

Pension is a monthly benefit paid to Veterans who are either age 65 or older or permanently and totally disabled who demonstrate financial need.

Basic Eligibility: 90 days or 24 months of active service (depending on when you served), with at least one day during a wartime period. <http://www.vba.va.gov/bn/21/pension>

HOME LOANS

VA-guaranteed home loans to build, buy, or repair a home allow lenders to provide mortgages to Servicemembers and Veterans with favorable terms, such as no down payment.

Basic Eligibility: 90 days or more on active duty during a wartime period (180 continuous days if during peacetime), or six years of service in the Selected Reserve or National Guard. www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

eBenefits

Find links to VA benefits information and apply on-line at www.ebenefits.va.gov

EDUCATION

VA sponsors several education and training programs that provide financial support to Servicemembers and Veterans to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree, take vocational and technical training, or get professional licenses.

Basic Eligibility: 90 days or more of active duty service after September 10, 2001 (Post-9/11 GI Bill). Additional programs cover Veterans with prior service. www.giill.va.gov

HEALTH CARE

Health care benefits include all necessary inpatient hospital care and outpatient services.

Basic Eligibility: Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty. www.va.gov/healthbenefits

BURIAL

Burial and memorial services honor our deceased Veterans, including an allowance provided to reimburse the person who bore the Veteran's burial expenses.

Basic Eligibility: Service on active duty, or if the death was due to injury or disease that developed or was aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training. www.cem.va.gov



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Fact: We Can't Help Our Heroes *Without You*

Next time you receive a mailing from VFW or Ladies Auxiliary VFW, please don't set it aside.

Veterans, service members and their families need us desperately right now.

Your gifts stay right here in our state, supporting our programs. We need loyal members like you to make our state programs possible.



DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR POST MEETING ATTENDANCE?

If you want to dramatically increase your post attendance at your post meetings, you are urged to contact Indian Trail Post 2423 Commander Brian Boze at 704-243-1475 or State Membership Chairman (and 2423 member) Jack Campbell at 704-882-2172 for advice. By judicious use of a phone tree and many active projects at once, they PACK THEM IN. At their February post meeting, 83 OUT OF 337 COMRADES ATTENDED. THAT IS AN ASTONISHING 25% ATTENDANCE RATE, THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE.

Membership Application - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

TEMPORARY RECEIPT

Received from _____ Date _____

Application for Membership in Post No. _____

City and State _____

Received by _____

Check one: ☐ CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX

PLEASE SEPARATE FORMS BEFORE SIGNING

VFW PLEDGE

I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that: I do hereby join the VFW, and I will always be loyal to the VFW and its principles. I do further solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply with the Congressional Charter -- By-Laws and Rules of the organization -- and I will always be loyal thereto -- that I will never wrong or defame the organization -- nor a member thereof -- that I will never refuse to perform any duty assigned to me by the organization -- I will never propose for membership -- any person not eligible -- nor one whom I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone -- not authorized to receive it -- any of the work of this order. I will never, with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- cause in any way -- I will consider this pledge -- as having outside of the order -- as though I had remained a member of same. All this I promise and pledge -- upon the honor of a true comrade -- and a citizen of our great republic.

Admission Fee paid \$ _____ Date _____

Dues paid \$ _____ LM Fee Paid \$ _____

The Review Committee has performed its duties and recommends approval _____ (Signature of Committee Chair)

Committee Member _____

Committee Member _____

Applicant Approved _____ Date _____

CERTIFICATION (See Sec. 104 BY-Laws)

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States, that my Campaign Service was honorable, that I am a member of the VFW, and that I am a citizen of the United States under honorable conditions. I also certify that (1) I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government based on my overseas service or (2) I have served overseas in Korea or I have received imminent danger pay or (3) I have served overseas in Vietnam or I have received imminent danger pay. I hereby certify that I am a citizen of the United States and that I am eligible for membership in the VFW.

Signature _____ Date _____

\$1.00 of your membership dues goes towards your VFW magazine subscription.



MAILING PREFERENCE REQUEST FORM



There are several options to control the number of mailings you receive. Please complete the form below to let us know what you prefer.

- ☐ 1. I would like to continue to receive your regular mailings. (I understand that I am free to contribute only to the mailings I choose.)
- ☐ 2. I would like to receive only mailings that do not include a gift.
- ☐ 3. I would like to have my name removed from the following mailing list(s):
- ☐ Calendar
 - ☐ Address Labels
 - ☐ All-Occasion Greeting Cards
 - ☐ Christmas Cards
 - ☐ Personalized Note Pads
- ☐ 4. I would like to receive a once-a-year mailing for specific program(s):
- ☐ Calendar (September)
 - ☐ Address Labels (Spring)
 - ☐ All-Occasion Greeting Cards (Spring/Summer)
 - ☐ Christmas Cards (Fall)
- ☐ 5. I would like to receive a once-a-year mailing in the Fall that does not include a gift.
- ☐ 6. I would like to receive a quarterly newsletter.

Complete and return this form to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111 or fax to (816) 968-1129.

Questions? Please call (816) 756-3390, x6318. **Thank you!**

NAME _____ POST _____ MEMBER# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____ EMAIL _____

☐ I do not wish to receive additional updates from VFW.

Stolen Valor Act

Stolen Valor Act Passes Congress!
VFW-supported legislation now heads to president

WASHINGTON (May 23, 2013) - The national commander of America's largest and oldest major combat veterans organization is applauding Congress this week for passing the Stolen Valor Act of 2013, which now heads to the White House for the president's signature.

John E. Hamilton, a triple Purple Heart recipient who leads the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, said Congress followed the road map laid out by the U.S. Supreme Court when they overturned the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 last year. In their writings, the high court suggested any future legislation had to be narrower in focus than just to penalize people for simple lying, which they ruled as protected speech in a 6-3 decision.

"Now the new language is bullet-proof," said Hamilton, "because the focus is on the intent to profit from the lie, to obtain money, property or something of a tangible benefit, which is what con artists have been doing throughout history."

The VFW-supported legislation was introduced by Rep. Joe Heck and Sen. Dean Heller, both from Nevada. H.R. 258 passed overwhelmingly in the House on Monday by a vote of 390-3. The Senate passed its companion, S. 210, last night by unanimous consent. Not every combat award is covered, but the ones most worn by wannabe heroes will be protected once the bill becomes law. Protected are the Medal

of Honor, service crosses, Silver Star, Purple Heart, and combat badges such as the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Medal. The maximum punishment under the bill would be a \$100,000 fine and up to one year in jail for each offense. "The VFW is very pleased with Congressman Heck and Senator Heller and all their co-sponsors," said Hamilton, who served in Vietnam as a Marine Corps rifleman. "We want all con artists to pay a very severe penalty - and a very public price - for daring to steal the valor of those too few who survived and of the great many who did not."

ABOUT THE VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is a non-profit veterans' service organization composed of combat veterans and eligible military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and its oldest major veterans' organization. With almost 2 million members located in more than 7,200 VFW Posts worldwide, "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS."

"The VFW and its Auxiliaries are dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs worldwide. For more information or to join, visit our website at www.vfw.org.

Contact: Joe Davis, Director of Public Affairs, VFW Washington Office, (0) 202-608-8357, jdavis@vfw.org.



West Brunswick High School Army JROTC cadets receive the VFW's coveted Voice of Democracy medals from Calabash Post 7288 Commander Ray Ketchum and Senior Vice Commander George Bissette. The cadets are Joseph Hurst, Allison Childers, and Bre Macadoo.



Calabash Post 7288 honors World War II veteran and former U.S. Army Air Force POW Pat Patterson, shot down over Germany. The featured Memorial Day speaker was Colonel Trevor Brendenkamp, Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.



Comrades of Calabash Post 7288 distribute Buddy Poppies at the Food Lion on Highway 17 in Little River SC. Poaching on the grounds of the VFW Department of South Carolina, but in a great cause! Shown here are Frank Pinkerton and Mark Mason, thanking a donating citizen.

PLEASE POST - PLEASE POST - PLEASE POST - PLEASE POST

"Heroes on Wheels"

2013 Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride



Final Stop: Louisville, KY - Saturday, July 20, 2013

Welcome, riders one and all, to support our nation's men and women in uniform and honor the memory of Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. (Commander-in-Chief 1979-80, Adjutant General 1981-1995). All net proceeds of the ride will be donated to VFW National Military Services to benefit those in uniform and their families. The agenda for Saturday, July 20th is being prepared and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who participated in your 2012 ride to Reno. You raised more than \$18,000 for U.S. troops and their families through our National Military Services (NMS) Program. You did that with just slightly more than 100 riders. This year, our goal is to double both the riders and the donation to NMS.

I have attached entry and sponsorship forms for your use. If you're a rider, sign up and get as many sponsors as you can. The 2013 ride will feature a very special prize for the rider who raises the most money.

Plan your route and start finding your sponsors today. Let's show the rest of the VFW what those who ride can do for those in uniform and their families.

SPECIAL NOTE: Those who were first time riders in Reno; your patches are being made and will be sent ASAP. If you participated and failed to get a rocker, please let me know.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT AS THE RIDE DEVELOPS, IN THE INTERIM, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS, E-MAIL OR CALL ME - STEVE VAN BUSKIRK - svanbuskirk@vfw.org or 816-968-1116. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN LOUISVILLE !

Rider Sign-up

2013 Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride

"Heroes on Wheels"

Final Stop: Louisville, KY, July 20, 2013



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Rider's Full Name _____
Street Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
E-mail _____ (our preferred method of contact) Phone _____
Passenger's Full Name _____

REGISTRATION FEE (Free to active duty military) **\$15.00 Per Rider** _____
\$10.00 Per Passenger _____
TOTAL _____

PAYMENT: Circle one - Mastercard Visa Discover Amex Check Enclosed

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Name on Card _____

RIDER/PASSENGER RELEASE - As a condition of my voluntary participation in the Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Memorial Motorcycle Ride, and on behalf of myself and my heirs and assigns, I hereby release and discharge the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, their officers, employees and agents and its affiliated organizations and their respective officers, employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, damages or liabilities arising from injuries to my person or property as the result of participating in the Ride.

I currently hold a valid driver's license with an endorsement to operate a motorcycle, and I have comprehensive motor vehicle liability insurance covering the vehicle, which I will be operating in the Ride.

I will abide by all laws relating to the ownership and operation of motorcycles in all applicable jurisdictions while participating in the Ride.

Rider Signature _____ Date _____
Passenger Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete and mail this form to Steve Van Buskirk, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

All net proceeds from the Ride will be donated to VFW National Military Services for support of the military and their families. Donations from Posts, Districts and Departments will apply to All American NMS qualifications for 2013-2014.



Members of Summerfield Post 7999 at the town's annual Founder's Day Parade. On the left is Commander Roy Lee, in the center is NC Congressman Howard Coble, and then other comrades of the post, dressed in various uniforms. The VFW float won first place in the parade for Most Patriotic.

VISIT YOUR POST'S WEBSITE!

Every Post in North Carolina has its own website. It takes just a minute to visit your post's site.

Just go to:

www.vfwnc.org,

then click on Network, then click on Post Directory!

Veterans Claims & Benefits Update

This information is provided by the Department's Veterans Service program, which helps veterans and survivors file VA claims. Call State HQ at (919)828-5058 or visit www.vfwnc.org for the nearest VFW Service Office.

VA FIDUCIARY PROGRAM: The VA Fiduciary Program protects veterans and beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits through the appointment and oversight of a fiduciary. If you have been determined unable to manage your VA benefits, the VA conducts a field examination to appoint a fiduciary to assist you.

fiduciary selection is based on an assessment of the qualifications of the proposed fiduciary. When seeking a fiduciary the following individuals may be considered: A spouse or family member Court-appointed fiduciaries Another interested party, or A professional fiduciary An assessment of the qualifications of a proposed fiduciary includes, but is not limited to: • The willingness to serve and abide by all agreements • An interview with a VA representative • Credit report review • An inquiry into the criminal background, and • Interviews with character witnesses.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

THE VA FIELD EXAMINATION A VA field examination will be scheduled to appoint a fiduciary to assist you in managing your VA benefits. During the field examination, please have the following information available for review by the field examiner: Photo identification, The source and amount of all monthly bills, recurring expenses (annual, biannual, quarterly, etc.), and income • A list of all assets, to include bank accounts, owned property, stocks, bonds, life insurance, burial plans, etc.

A list of all current medications Name, phone number, and address of your primary care doctor; and • Name, phone number, and address of your next of kin

SELECTION PROCESS

During the selection process, the VA will first seek to qualify the individual you desire to serve as your fiduciary. The

The determination that you are unable to manage your benefits does not affect your non-VA finances, or your right to vote or contract. You have the right to appeal VA's decision finding that you are unable to manage your VA benefits. You have the right to appeal VA's selection of the fiduciary. If you disagree with the VA on either of these matters you may: • Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) by telling us you disagree with our decision and want the Board to review it, or • Give evidence we do not already have that may lead us to change our decision.

GUN RIGHTS

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act prohibits you from purchasing, possessing, receiving or transporting a firearm or ammunition if you have "been adjudicated as a mental defective or been committed to a mental institution."



Governor Pat McCrory gives Kannapolis Post 8989 Commander Larry Brown a hug at the Kannapolis Veterans Park Dedication.



Comrades and Ladies of Kannapolis Post 8989 host a luncheon after the dedication ceremony of the opening of the Kannapolis Veterans Park. In the background is then State Commander Ted Briggs.