

NC VFW *The Leader* Magazine



Fall 2021

Official Publication of the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars



VFW POST 7794 CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY (P16)

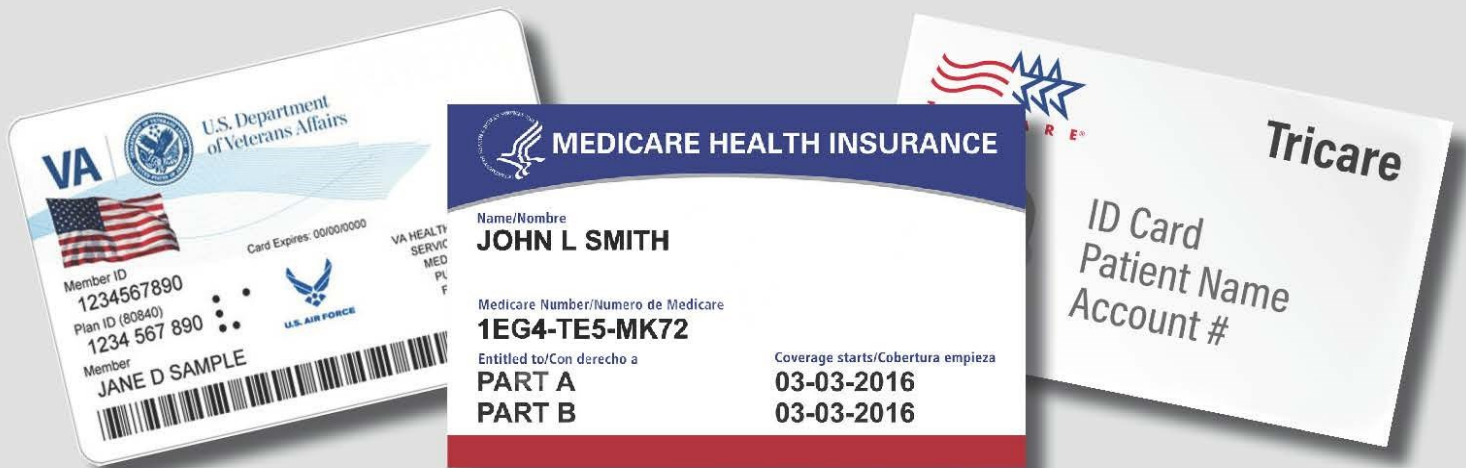


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VFW National Award Winning Magazine

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articles and photos to:

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ON THE COVER

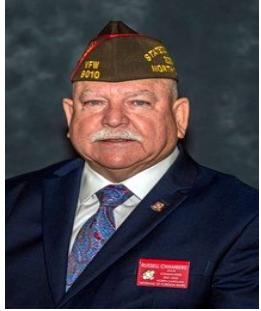
VFW Post 7794 in front of Gold Star Families
Monument in Elkin, NC

IN MEMORY

This Magazine is Dedicated to The Men and Women of the Armed Services
Who Honor, Protect and Defend This Great Nation.

Magazine available online at vfwnc.com

STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



COMRADES COOTIES & AUXILIARY MEMBERS

“The time is Now!” And with that said, Fritz Mihelcic, the newly elected Commander-in-Chief, brought the 122nd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to a successful conclusion. For the first time in 24 months Comrades from across our great country and around the world were able to assemble as one body to conduct the business of the greatest organization of combat Veterans in the world and to hear and see candidates nominated for elective office before casting their ballots. Great or What!!!

To be certain, all was not what one would be accustomed to if you were a “veteran” (pardon the pun) convention goer. Gone were the throngs of vendors and healthcare advocates. Local venues were often short staffed and wait times were increased everywhere. And, at the 23rd hour, an indoor mask mandate was put in place. Despite all of this and more, the VFW rocked this convention and it resulted in one of the most successful conventions I have attended. Veterans did what Veterans do best; Improvise, Adapt and Overcome...(Sorry, it's not just a Marine thing)

As we look forward, plans are in the works for our Fall Council of Administration meeting which will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Greensboro, NC October 1-3.

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento will be the National Representative for the VFW and Secretary/Treasurer Ann Pantelkos will be the National Representative for the Auxiliary. Meetings and an afternoon of training will be the order of the day and once again, our banquet/dinner theme will celebrate Halloween. So dig out your best (or worst) costume and plan on evenings of fun with the band “For the People” providing entertainment for both Friday and Saturday nights in the Hospitality Room.

Preparing to go to press over the past several days, we have watched the situation unfold in Afghanistan, which has surely turned into a humanitarian disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Afghanistan who have suffered so much along with our brothers and sisters in arms, whether currently serving, Veterans or one who has made the ultimate sacrifice. Please know that your efforts have not been in vain and that we stand with you to help in any way we can.

May God Bless each of you!

IN COMRADESHIP

Russ Chambers
State Commander

***SERVICE-SACRIFICE
RESPECT-RESPONSIBILITY***

2021/2022 Department Officers



VFW of North Carolina

State Commander.....Russ Chambers

Senior Vice Cdr.....Tim Woods

Junior Vice Cdr.....Helen Nelson

Adjutant/QM.....Charles Slater

Judge Advocate.....Dave Wagoner

Surgeon.....Johnny Taylor

Chaplain.....Richard Rice

Chief of Staff.....J.K. Smith

National Council Rep.....Greg Stafford

Department Service Officers

Tab Brown 252-933-2040 (East) tab.brown318@va.gov

Jay Wood 980-866-1328 (West) jerry.wood1@va.gov

Cindy Hathaway 336-631-5457 cynthia.hathaway@va.gov
Winston Salem Office

District Commanders

DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Graham Lever | 10. John Marion |
| 2. Robert Brock | 11. Dolphus Troy |
| 3. Jimmy Baughman | 12. Bobbi Sheets |
| 4. Barbara Chance | 13. Danny Rochester |
| 5. Anna Cummings | 14. Art Gordon |
| 6. Joe Caradonna | 15. William Carter |
| 7. David Martin | 16. James Young |
| 8. Josh Holt | 17. Robert Morrow |
| 9. Dwight Rickard | |



Commander Russ Chambers



Senior Vice Cdr.
Tim Woods



Junior Vice Cdr.
Helen Nelson



Judge Advocate
David Wagoner



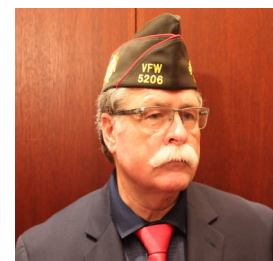
Surgeon
Johnny Taylor



Chaplain Richard Rice



Chief of Staff
J.K. Smith



Chuck Slater
Adjutant /QM

SPARTA VFW POST 7034 - BACK IN BUSINESS

VFW Post 7034 did not let a 5.1 earthquake stop them as the post immediately made plans to restore their damaged building. These plans were put into effect to repair the damaged areas of the building which consisted of new foundation walls, interior walls, flooring and the reconditioning of the museum.

To celebrate the newly refurbished post building an open house was held with the general public, post members, their families, community officials, VFW Department officers and NC State Representatives in attendance. Project Manager Doug Blevins expressed appreciation to the contractors, the community and the state of NC for their support in putting VFW Post 7034 "Back In Business."



(LtoR) Past State Cdr. Doug Blevins, Post Cdr. Gary Adkins, Post Auxiliary President Diana Hubbard and Department Auxiliary President Sandra Johnson-Leu.



(LtoR) Past State Commander Doug Blevins, Drew Cristy, Western Regional Director for Governor Cooper and State Commander Russ Chambers visit the Veterans Museum.

**A SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR LEADER MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION STAFF
WHO WILL BE ASSISTING IN
THE DELIVERY OF MAGAZINES TO OUR
DISTRICTS & POSTS**

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Greetings Veterans

The Veterans Foundation of NC continues to support and fund the following programs:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

NC CHILDREN'S HOME

VETERANS RELIEF FUND

GUITARS FOR VETS

VETERANS HEALING FARM

FOOTBRIDGE DENTAL CLINIC



The Veterans Foundation is a sponsor and has partnered with Footbridge Dental Clinic, a non-profit that supports the underserved needs of families in NC. They provide free dental care services to underinsured/uninsured Veterans and their families. Footbridge utilizes more than 250 volunteers to provide these services. The clinic team consists of dentists, dental hygienists, dental service technicians, patient advocates and support personnel. Each team member donates their time to help make the clinic a success. The John Pruitt Memorial Free Veterans Dental Clinic will be on October 8-10 in Winston Salem, NC. It will be hosted by Pinedale Christian Church at 3395 Peters Creek Parkway in Winston Salem. For more information about the clinic and to sign up for care go to Footbridge.org or call 336-788-7600.

Walgreens will once again support the programs of the Foundation with an All Store Scannable Fund Raiser September 1-14.

"IT IS AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN YOU DON'T CARE WHO GETS THE CREDIT." *Harry Truman*

On July 6-7, 2021 **VFW Post 8989** and **VFW Post 6365** along with **District 12** came together for a common cause. An Auxiliary member of Post 8989 has Stage 4 cancer and needed some money to survive while going through treatment. District Commander Bobbi Sheets spoke to Post 8989 Commander Tony Gullidge and suggested that instead of hot dogs that they have a chicken dinner sale. The profit is much higher and the guys from Post 6365 love to use their smokers for a great cause.

Tickets were presold, bands were planned, baskets were made, cakes were baked, bikes were washed and before you knew it \$15,000 was raised.

VFW Post Auxiliary Treasurer, Donna Guy said, "We are definitely blessed for the comradeship within our organizations to always know someone has your back no matter the circumstance. This event embodies the spirit of the VFW organization. If one is in need, we all are in need."



(Front) Marshall Burgess (Back L to R) Cdr Dave Blaney, Bill Pennea and Sammy Cavalier



District and Post 6365 QM Dave Sheets prepares the chicken

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

GREETINGS COMRADES!

As we start a new membership year our Department begins in a great position, despite the challenges of 2020 and early 2021.



North Carolina finished the year with membership at 101% of the previous year and has been awarded **All-American** status. Department Commander Victor Letourneaut was honored at the National Convention in Kansas City for having earned **All-American** status.

In addition to the Department, 31 posts and eight districts in North Carolina were announced in July as **All-American** for the year 2020-2021. This shows the drive and tenacity that pushed us above and beyond.

The VFW of North Carolina remains strong, and we will no doubt continue to thrive through the new year. The criteria for Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic's membership program has been announced with an increased concentration on reporting through the All-American Dashboard. The dashboard can be intimidating for District and Post adjutants, but Department Commander Russ Chambers and the NC leadership team stand ready to assist our comrades in using this tool.

As the global pandemic surges and recedes and surges again, we march on, "ranks grown thinner" as the funeral prayer says. We will continue to show that we accept the challenge of not only retaining our current membership, but replacing those we have lost with new members and by attracting transfers from other states.

I stand proud to call North Carolina my VFW Home.

Kevin M. Holden, Editor

ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS

ALL-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT

VICTOR LETOURNEAUT-COMMANDER

ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 5

DISTRICT 8

DISTRICT 9

DISTRICT 11

DISTRICT 12

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 15



ALL-AMERICAN POSTS

POST 10

POST 5352

POST 8989

POST 670

POST 5886

POST 9010

POST 2019

POST 6018

POST 9134

POST 2423

POST 6060

POST 9337

POST 2740

POST 6183

POST 9488

POST 2771

POST 6365

POST 9983

POST 2908

POST 7313

POST 10226

POST 3006

POST 7318

POST 10630

POST 4203

POST 7383

POST 10950

POST 4286

POST 7794

POST 4542

POST 8466

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Buddy Poppy Child Aurora, representing the VFW National Home, addressed the VFW National Convention in Kansas City. She is seven years old and lives in the NC House at the VFW National Home with her Mom and Dad. Her Dad works for the Army and her Mom goes to Nursing School. She also has a sister and two brothers and a dog named Sergeant who she calls Sarge. Her Dad is a Captain in the Army and is her hero who helps protect our Country and people. “He is brave so that everyone can have freedom. I want to be a Buddy Poppy girl so I can thank everyone in the military for making America safe. United we Stand. Respect, Honor, Freedom.” (Taken from Aurora’s speech)



Dept. Jr. Vice Helen Nelson, Poppy Girl Aurora, and Department Commander Russ Chambers



Dept. Sr Vice Tim Woods with Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic



Past Department Commander Victor Letourneaut and his grandson Damon Florez accept the presentation of All-American Awards for Department, District and Post levels. The VFW Department of North Carolina is proud to have reached its membership goals. Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch II makes the presentation. He served as Past Post Commander of VFW Post 4542 in Spring Lake, North Carolina early in his VFW career.

DATES TO REMEMBER

VFW POST 4286



2021

OCTOBER 1-2
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
GREENSBORO, NC

NOVEMBER 18-21
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
HILTON HEAD, SC

2022

FEBRUARY 5-6
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
GREENSBORO, NC

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

JUNE 11-13
NC DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
GREENSBORO, NC

JULY 16-21
NATIONAL CONVENTION
KANAS CITY, MO



Newland's VFW Post 4286 Color Guard leads the annual Independence Day parade in Crossnore, NC. (L-R) Oliver Nyberg, Bill Dean, Kevin Holden and John Millan.

The Pat Ray VFW Post 4286 in Newland, NC is celebrating its 76th Anniversary. The Post Honor Guard has been providing funerals since the 1970's and the Color Guard has participated in flagpole dedications, parades and the Newland High School reunion for many years. Commander Kevin Holden and Quartermaster Bill Dean have led the post for the last six years with the post being awarded All-State status four years and All-American this year. The post represents Veterans in Avery County.

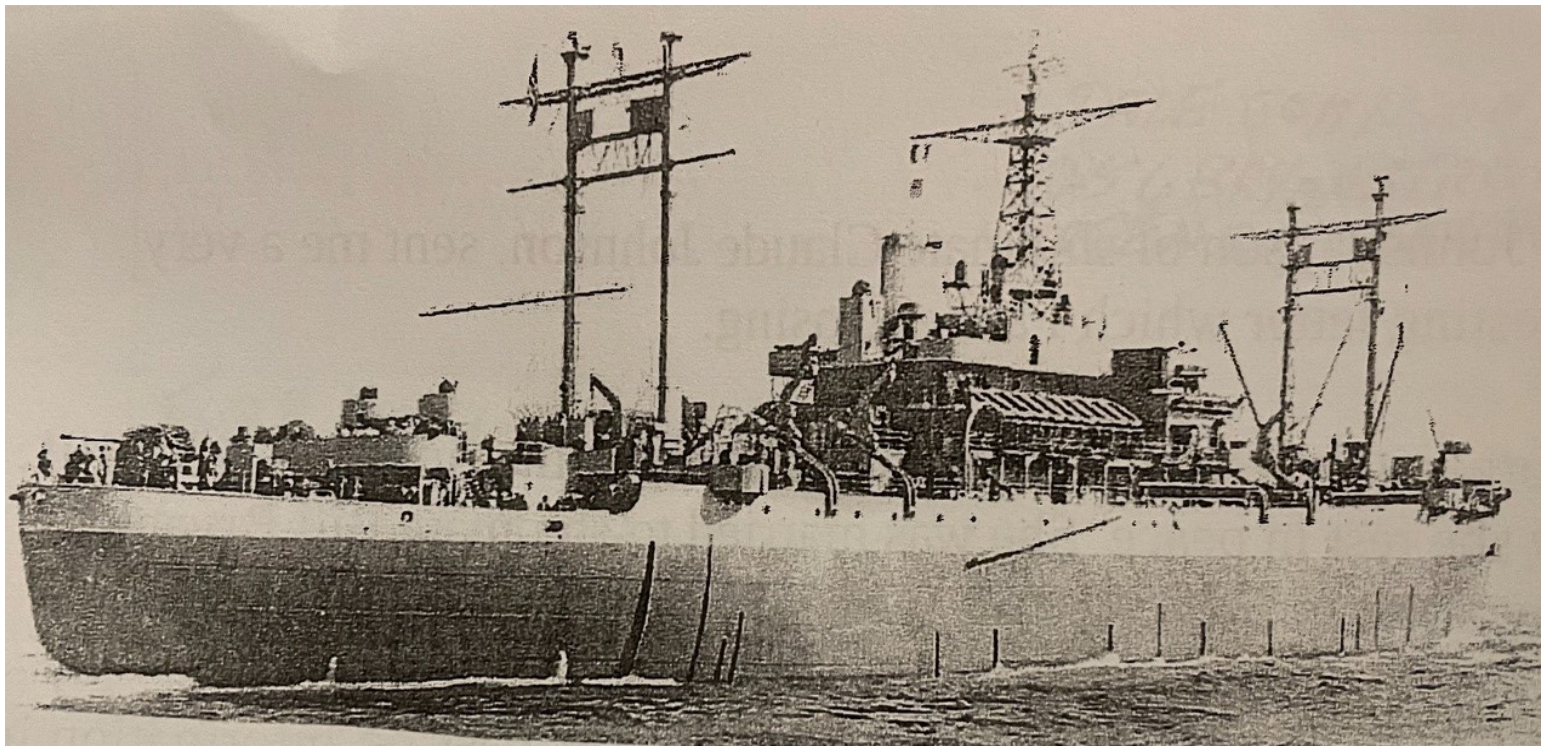
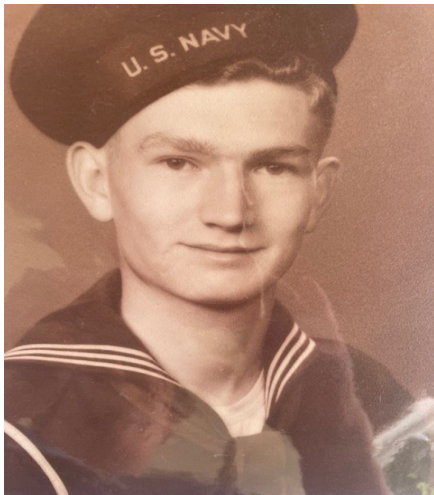


Members of the VFW Post 4286 Honor Guard honored Past Post Commander Dennis Ralph Holden at his funeral service in February.

SERVING ABOARD THE USS ROCKY MOUNT

Robert L. “Bob” Robertson served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1946. He was born and raised on a small farm in Blount County, Alabama July 20, 1925. That makes him 96 years young while maintaining his handsome looks. Bob is a Life Member of **VFW Post 7034 in Sparta, NC** and enjoys the fellowship of his VFW comrades.

Bob’s naval journey begins with boot camp at the US Naval Training Station in Great Lakes, Illinois, Radio School and a staff assignment to ComPhib Group 6, US Pacific Fleet aboard the USS Rocky Mount AGC-3. The USS Rocky Mount participated in the Invasion of Leyte, Philippine Islands and Lingayen Gulf and joined General MacArthur for the Invasion of Mindanao, Philippines and two invasions of Borneo. Bob spent the last few months of his time at the US Naval Communications Center on Guam. Bob currently resides in Alleghany County, NC.

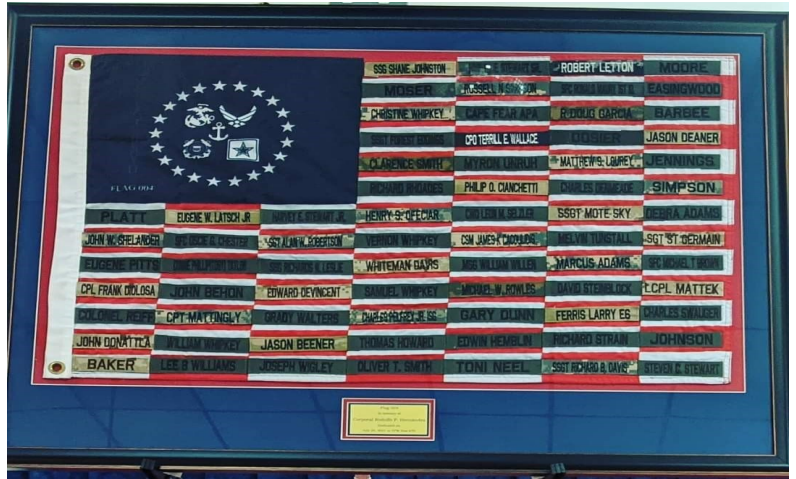


VFW POST 670 ACTIVITIES

Anthony Peterson presented the Flag #004 to Comrade Commander Baker during a well-attended ceremony in our social hall. For more information about Anthony's mission visit:

<https://flagtoremember.com>.

VFW Post 670, Fayetteville, NC brought awareness to the issue of Veteran suicide in North Carolina by sponsoring and attending the NC Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Series (VSAPS) 2.2 Mile Swim at Hope Mills Lake in Hope Mills, NC. While sharing resources with Veterans and their families, the Comrades told the story of what the VFW has done, is doing, and will continue to do for Veterans and their families.





Understanding Health Insurance and You.

Health insurance can be confusing. That's why we broke it down into easy-to-understand language in Part One of our Understanding Health Insurance and You miniseries. In Part Two of our series, we'll help you rethink your relationship with your health insurance company for the better. Here's how.

Your insurance company is your partner in health.

Your health insurance company can be a valuable partner in your health and wellness. After all, you both want the same thing: for you to be as healthy and happy as possible. Improving your health can make a positive impact on your quality of life while reducing your healthcare costs. Embrace conversations with your carrier. Lean on your carrier to help you navigate the healthcare system. Ask your carrier for support and advice.

Rethink your insurance relationship— and your benefits.

Many Humana Medicare Advantage plans, for example, include SilverSneakers® and Go365® benefits. SilverSneakers gives beneficiaries access to certain gyms and recreation centers as well as on-demand and virtual classes nationwide. Class offerings range from strength training to tai chi, yoga to Zumba. Programs like this help remove barriers to staying active and create a sense of community whether online or off.

Humana's Go365 is a wellness program that rewards Medicare Advantage members for completing eligible health activities such as getting preventative screenings, social and health education activities, fitness activities and community programs.

Every eligible action earns rewards that can then be redeemed for more than \$300 in gift cards through the Go365 Mall to use online or in store at national retailers such as Target, Amazon, Walmart, Shell, Lowes, Kroger, CVS, Walgreens and more.

Your insurer wants you to stay as healthy as possible for long as possible. That's why they may offer services and screenings at no additional cost to you. Take advantage of those. If you're not sure what your insurer covers, review your Summary of Benefits, ask your licensed health insurance sales Agent or call your insurer for help. Your insurer has a team of people ready and waiting to help you make the most of your plan.

Your insurer can help you be a student of health. Your insurer can teach you how to make small, healthy choices throughout your day that contribute to ongoing health and wellness. Humana, for example, offers ongoing classes through Neighborhood Centers on a variety of topics, whether it's collecting cooking tips or learning how to meditate. Learn about upcoming virtual classes, which are open to anyone, not just Humana members.

How your insurer can help you.

Check to see if your insurer has local offices to help you make the most out of your health plan. Most insurers have Care and Case Managers who can guide you in understanding both your plan and your medical needs. These people can help you connect to local resources and providers. They can help you find solutions to problems. You might also ask what community-based resources your carrier offers in your community. For example, Humana's Bold Goal initiative works at the grassroots level to improve community health from the ground up. We aim to make healthcare more human by looking at you as a whole person, not just a member.

Want to learn more?

Contact your local licensed Humana
Sales Agent at 1-844-224-8993 (TTY:711)
¿En español? Llame gratis al
1-844-357-9192 (TTY: 711)

VFW POST 7794 CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Captain Mark Garner VFW Post 7794 in Elkin, NC celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a Post Picnic in the park. Department Commander Russ Chambers presented the 75th Anniversary “Diamond Jubilee Award” to Post Senior Vice Commander Darell Holloway who accepted the award.

Awards were given to the major media organizations that covered and promoted the Post’s work for the past 2 years. Post Publicity Committee Chairman and Elkin Mayor Sam Bishop recognized the VFWNC Leader Magazine for their dedication and loyalty. Department Commander Russ Chambers accepted the award.

Past Post Commanders, representing the last 25 years were recognized. Chester Wooten introduced by Danny Royall, served from 1996-2006. Joe Hicks, deceased, was recognized by Sam Bishop. Joe served from 2006-2015 and was beloved by all. Freddie Couch, introduced by Steve Wells, served from 2015-2016. Richard Hackler, introduced by Jon Skinta, served from 2016-2021. Thanks to all these leaders for their hard work, vision and significant contributions.

District 11 Commander Dolphus Troy presented the 100% Membership streamer to “Top New Member Recruiter” Post Adjutant Ronny White and Post Quartermaster Bill Golden.

Department Commander Russ Chambers officially announced that VFW Post 7794 was named an All-American Post for 2020-2021 and extended his congratulations.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful catered meal provided by Maz-zini’s. The Post Auxiliary provided a cake and all the decorations with cold watermelon for desert.

(Thanks to Commander John Hawkins for this Contribution)



Cdr. Chambers presents 75th Award



**Dist. Cdr. Dolphus Troy presents
100% Membership Banner**



**Elkin Mayor Bishop recognizes
The Leader Magazine**

COOTIES

Military Order of the Cootie Officers

Meet your new Military Order of the Cooties Officers 2021-2022



Helen Nelson
Blanket Bum
Grand Senior Vice Commander
(NC Dept. Jr. Vice Commander)



Sadie aka Tim Woods
Hide Gimlet
Grand Jr. Vice Commander
(NC Dept. Sr. Vice Commander)



Arthur Ehrhardt Jr.
Grand Quartermaster
aerhardt@ec.rr.com



Barbara J. Chance
Grand Adjutant
(NC Dist. 4 Commander)
bjchance08@gmail.com

And Introducing for the First time EVER!!!

The Gnomes of North Carolina



Allen Doubles
Cootie Grand Commander/Seam Squirrel
Grand Chief of Staff
William "Ziggy" Sigwalt
For more info, please go to lotcs.org

One of North Carolina's Own Becomes Supreme



One of Our Own joins the ranks of the Supreme Council. After the 122nd VFW National Convention, the Military Order of the Cootie conducted their 102nd Supreme Convention (VFW National Equivalent). During this Convention there was an election held for the Officers for the ensuing year. A VFW Member from Leslie C. Lewis Memorial Post 7315 in Havelock, NC was elected to the Lousy title of Supreme Junior Vice Commander (known to Cooties as the Supreme Hide Gimlet). Above Pictures show Mark P. Larkin Cootie #122 of Pup Tent 3 in Havelock swearing in as your Supreme Hide Gimlet. This election is the equivalent to National Junior Vice Commander in Chief. Also, in the Pictures are Supreme Sr. Vice Commander Dwight Hora of South Carolina and Supreme Commander Olin Parks of Missouri. After two terms, Mark P. Larkin, of Havelock Pup Tent

3, will take the helm of Military Order of the Cootie as Supreme Commander during the 104th Supreme Convention in Phoenix, AZ.





North Carolina

VFW/BASS PRO SPORT RAFFLE



**DRAWING HELD FEBRUARY 3, 2022 AT THE MID-WINTER
C OF A HELD AT THE EMBASSY SUITES IN GREENSBORO, NC.
TICKETS \$5.00 EA. AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL VFW POST**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Henry Golden Boy 22 | 15. Penn Battle 2 Combo | 27. Savage 243 Rifle |
| 2. G2 RTH Compound Bow | 16. \$100.00 Cash | 28. Bushnell Binoculars |
| 3. Ruger 9MM Pistol | 17. Bass Pro Baitcast Combo | 29. Bass Pro Rain Parka |
| 4. Liberty Gun Safe | 18. Garmin Fishfinder | 30. Buckmaster 50ca1 .
Muzzel loader |
| 5. Pieha 1858 Remington | 19. Savage 30/06 Rifle | 31. White River Flyfishing Combo |
| 6. Barnett XP 380 | 20. Bradley Electric Smoker | 32. \$100.00 Cash |
| 7. Yeti Hopper Flip 18 | 21. Glock G44 Compact | 33. Shimano Baitcast |
| 8. \$100.00 Cash | 22. Penn Surf Combo | 34. Browning AB3 |
| 9. Browning BPS Pump 28GA | 23. Yeti Tundra 65 | 35. Shimano Surf Reel |
| 10. Yeti Tundra 45 | 24. \$100.00 Cash | 36. Winchester SXP |
| 11. Mr. Steak 4 Burner Grill | 25. Mini Kota Trolling Motor | 37. Shimano Calcutta |
| 12. Masterbuilt Propane Smoker | 26. Penn Senator Rod and Reel | 38. Landman Fire Pit |
| 13. Ruger 10/22 Rifle | 40. GRAND PRIZE | 39. Garmin Handheld GPS. |
| 14. Yeti 125 | \$10,000.00 CASH | |

***THIS OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT RAFFLE SUPPORTS YOUR VFW POST AND
DEPARTMENT. YOU WILL BE IN THE DRAWING UNTIL ALL PRIZES ARE
DRAWN.***

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!
FOR ADDITIONAL INFO EMAIL QM@VFWNC.COM

VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES

VFW Post 6018, Fayetteville, NC prepared food and served the 3rd ESC Bde for their Organizational Day held at Wright Field, Fort Bragg, NC. We served over 400 individuals. It was a beautiful day to support such a wonderful unit. We are honored to serve.



The Post sponsored the 18th HR company Organizational Day held at Honeycutt Park, Fayetteville, NC. Six comrades and one Auxiliary member were on hand to provide information about the VFW and answer any questions about the organization. The unit was very grateful for our support and they Presented Commander Beard and the post with a Certificate of Appreciation. We are so honored to serve our active duty soldiers and Veterans alike.



The Post sponsored the 82nd Sustainment BDE BOSS Organization Day at Fort Bragg, NC. Comrades and Auxiliary Members were honored to serve the Unit. We even recruited several new members in the process.



Post members gave away 100 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to youth in the community and provided them with refreshments. Due to Covid-19 we were unable to participate in other games and activities. We hope that each child has an amazing year. The additional school supplies that were left over will be boxed up and donated to area schools. “Veterans Taking Care of Our Community.”





STEPHEN AMOS

USMC RETIRED

**Candidate for Junior Vice Commander
2021-2022**

I LOVE THE VFW!

This is the reason I devote so much time and energy to this organization. I feel that I have the experience to help lead this great Department.

Comrade 1982-Present

Life Member VFW Post 5352 Kernersville, NC

Department VOD Chairman 2017-18/2020-22

Department Hospitality Chairman 2019-22

Post Quartermaster 2012-14/2017-22

All American Post Quartermaster 2020-21

National General Resolutions Committee 2011-12/2016-17/2019-21

District Jr-Vice Commander 2018-21

National Aide-De-Camp 2007-08/2013-14/2019-20

Department Safety Chairman 2017-19

Department Homeless Veterans Chairman 2018-19

Department Patriots Pen Chairman 2016-17

Department Chief of Staff 2012-13

Department State Inspector 2008-12

National Assistant Inspector General 2010-11

National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee 2008-11

National Deputy Chief of Staff 2009-10

Department Community Activities Chairman 2005-08

District Commander 2003-2008

National Citizenship Education & Community Service Committee 2006-07

Post Commander 2004-07

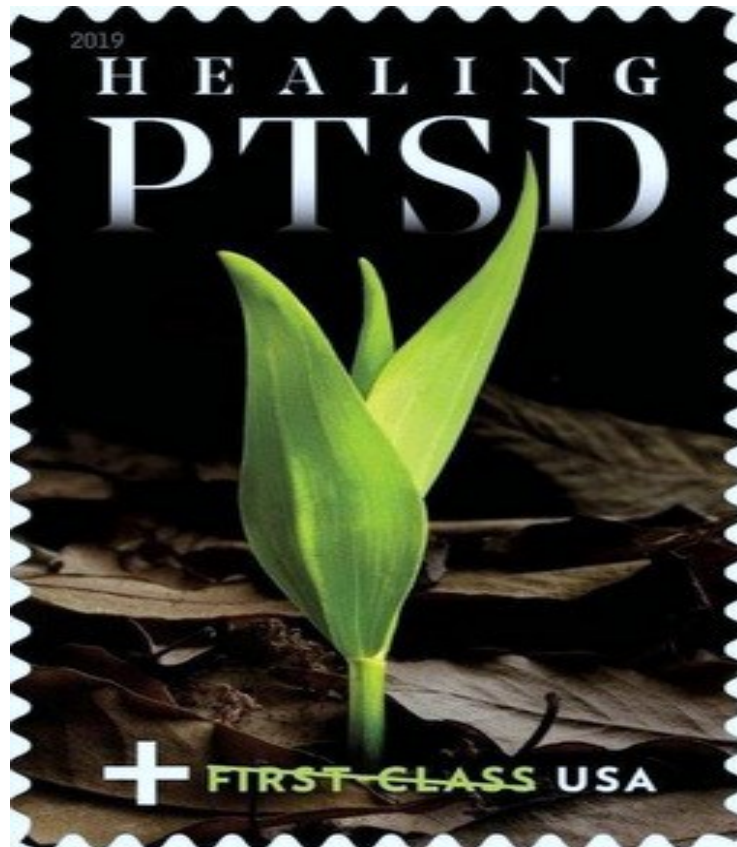
Post Sr-Vice Commander 2002-04

Post Jr-Vice Commander 2000-02

“ALL VETERANS ARE PRIORITY ONE”

PTSD STAMP UPDATE

Our Mission continues with the promotion and energy necessary to insure the continuation of the PTSD Postage Stamp which is being featured in order to increase awareness of a timeless disorder that effects our Veterans. Navy Veteran Garland Bram Denny, who passed away in 2015, was instrumental in the ten year journey to introduce the stamp. Since this time the stamp has been made available to all post offices throughout the country with a portion of the proceeds going to research and the US Department of Veterans Affairs.



This Stamp is raising funds right now!

Sue Tucker Denny, daughter of Garland Denny, and their family are working along with hundreds of other citizens to continue with this effort. Currently more than **12.6 million** Healing PTSD stamps have been sold, bringing the total revenue raised to more than **\$1.2 million** which represents months of sales by the people - for the people. By law, 100% of the net amount raised is transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs to support those suffering from PTSD. **The stamp will continue to be sold until December 2021, after which, it is hoped that your voice will help make the Healing PTSD Stamp permanent.** Visit our website and add your name to support the continuation of the PTSD stamp. (Sales information through July 2021)

Please visit www.HelpHealPTSD.com

VFW POST 8466 NATIONAL FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

As the Wake Forest Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary, a large group of Fire Fighters, Friends and Family members gathered at the Fire Station No. 1 on August 18, 2021, as Joe Csuka, Commander of **Wake Forest Memorial VFW Post 8466** presents a most prestigious National Fire Fighter of the Year 2020, to Captain Ian Moffatte. Captain Moffatte is a 13 year veteran, serving first as a member of a Fire Truck prior to being assigned to administrative duties. The citation signed by the Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars, highlighted the service and dedication of this extraordinary member of the Wake Forest Fire Department. It should be noted that this award was presented as the most well written presentation of over 1600 community posts throughout the country. During the ceremony Chief Ron Early and Captain Ed Bennett praised the performance of Captain Moffatte for his excellent leadership during the recent pandemic by ensuring the department received the equipment to manage the impact of the Corona Virus while providing his expertise to neighboring departments. Ian is married to Michelle and they have a lovely 10 year old daughter, Lily. After receiving the National award by Post Commander Csuka, Ian thanked the officers of the department for his nomination, and the VFW for orchestrating the nomination through the variety of steps to the national level and the people attending the ceremony.



Ian Moffatte and family



(LtoR) Captain Bennett, Ian Moffatte, Chief Ron Early and Post Commander Joe Csuka



Ian Moffatte in front of 100 year anniversary flag



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