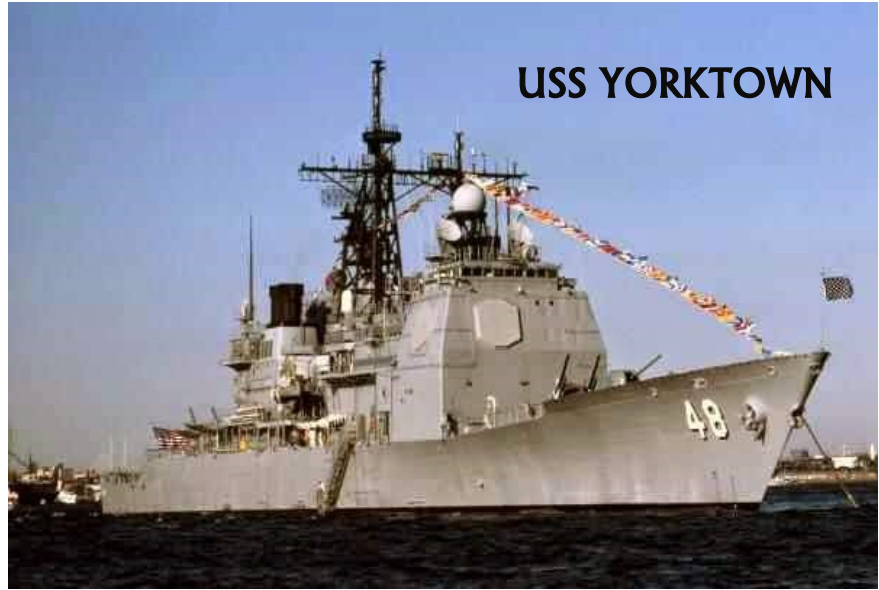


NC VFW *The Leader* Magazine

Spring 2024



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



USS YORKTOWN



"IN THE NAVY" (Page 13)

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**NO ONE DOES MORE
FOR VETERANS**

VFW National Award Winning Magazine



Helping you NAVIGATE A SEA OF INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW that you can complement military benefits (VA, CHAMPVA and Tricare For Life) with the right Medicare plan?

- Veterans will not lose their VA or Tricare for Life benefits
- Complement military benefits with the right Medicare plan
- All our Veterans Initiatives Program specialists are trained and certified in the combination of military and Medicare benefits.

Advocate Health Advisors LLC has been serving Veterans for over 16 years.

DID YOU KNOW? 60% of Veterans do not use their VA benefits.
Let's work together to make sure you get all the benefits you deserve.

ADVOCATEFORVETERANS.COM

DID YOU KNOW

that you could be missing out on benefits?

As Veterans, we saw too many of our fellow Veterans and family members struggling with the complexity of both Medicare and Military benefits (VA, Tricare for Life, and CHAMPVA). You have earned both benefits. It can be complicated to navigate the combination of these health care systems in maximizing the benefits and care you deserve. Advocate Health Advisor's Veteran's Initiative Program can help. Our trained and certified representatives provide a no obligation review of your benefits.

For more information please contact,



Doug Marshall
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Advocate Health Advisors

(336) 416-3320 TTY:711

Doug.Marshall@advocatehealthllc.com

This is an advertisement. By calling the number provided you agree to speak with a licensed insurance agent about Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plans, or Medicare Supplements. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently, we represent 9 organizations that offer 66 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options. Not affiliated with any government agency including Medicare.

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Publisher.....Clark Hunter

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VFW of NC will not be responsible for un-
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and photos implies the right to edit and
publish all or in part.

Please send your comments, suggestions,
articles and photos to:

leaderinfo@vfwnc.com

editor@vfwnc.com

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ON THE COVER
"IN THE NAVY"

DEDICATION

This Issue is Dedicated to The Men and Women of the U.S. NAVY, Both
Past And Present, Who Honor, Protect and Defend This Great Nation.

Magazine available online at vfwnc.com

STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



COMRADES COOTIES & AUXILIARY MEMBERS

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the Winter Council of Administration a resounding success. It was

truly a wonderful event, and I am immensely proud of the turnout. With over 260 attendees, the annual VOD, PP, TOY Banquet and awards ceremony were moments of celebration and recognition that will be cherished forever.

I am especially delighted to announce that our winner will be representing us admirably in the National competition. To all the contestants who participated, please know that each and every one of you is a winner in your own right. I only wish that I could have sent all of you to the National stage. I encourage you to continue reaching for the stars in your educational endeavors.

Looking ahead, the next couple of months will be exhilarating and fast-paced. In March we have the Legislative Conference, where we will have the opportunity to engage with our State Representatives on matters close to our hearts.

During our elections, it is crucial that we elect and appoint individuals who are committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of the VFW and ensuring continuity within our Posts, Districts and Department.

Let us not allow petty jealousies or trivial personalities to influence our deliberations. Our focus should be on working together towards our common goals.

Membership remains to be the cornerstone of our organization, and we have until June 30th to achieve our target of 102%. I urge each and every one of you to continue in your efforts to recruit new members and strengthen ranks. Moreover, I am thrilled to announce that the Department Convention will be held in Greensboro from the 6th to the 9th of June. I strongly encourage you to book your hotel rooms and reserve your banquet tickets for what promises to be a memorable event. The theme for the Banquet is a Hawaiian Luau, so let us come together and enjoy the festivities as we conclude the year on a high note.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all my comrades and auxiliary members. Your unwavering support and encouragement have meant the world to me. Together, you embody the essence of our motto "One Team-One Goal." It is with your dedication and commitment that our Department will continue to strive for greatness.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional efforts and for making our Winter Council of Administration an unforgettable experience. Here's to a bright and successful future ahead!

HELEN NELSON

State Commander

ONE TEAM-ONE GOAL

2023/2024 Department Officers



VFW of North Carolina

Commander/Adjutant.....Helen Nelson
Senior Vice Cdr.....Annie Cummings
Junior Vice Cdr.....Edward Beard
Quartermaster.....Jenn Hutt
Judge Advocate.....Josh Holt
Surgeon.....Johnny Taylor
Chaplain.....Alicia Judd
Chief of Staff.....Thomas Person
Inspector.....Mickey Biggs



Commander/Adjutant Helen Nelson



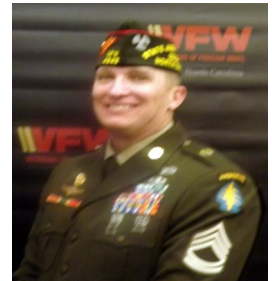
**Senior Vice Cdr.
Annie Cummings**



**Junior Vice Cdr.
Edward Beard**



**Quartermaster
Jenn Hutt**



**Judge Advocate
Josh Holt**



**Surgeon
Johnny Taylor**



**Chaplain
Alicia Judd**



**Chief of Staff
Thomas Person**



**Inspector
Mickey Biggs**

Department Service Officers

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

Brad Blackburn 910-740-2285 -Coastal

Miehisa Zahorski 919-616-1233 - Winston Salem

Cindy Hathaway 336-631-5457 cynhia.hathaway@va.gov

Winston Salem Office

District Commanders

DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Graham Leaver | 10. John Marion |
| 2. Robert Brock | 11. Steve Amos |
| 3. Jimmy Baughman | 12. Bobbi Sheets |
| 4. David Burger | 13. Nathaniel Drisker |
| 5. Nicholas Conrad | 14. Art Gordon |
| 6. Christopher Brown | 15. Lonnie Joines |
| 7. Robert Kennedy | 16. Robert Sumner |
| 8. Mickey Biggs | 17. John Glenn |
| 9. Craig Armstrong | |

JVC MESSAGE



Greetings!

First I want to thank the membership for the privilege of becoming the Department Junior Vice Commander. I promise to work hard with all of you for our Veterans, family members of Veterans and the community. We started the year with the School of Instruction. It was exciting going to the districts and talking to the comrades about their day-to-day challenges in their post and some of the ideas they had to improve their operations.

As we went to the first round of district meetings and listening to the post commanders give their reports, it was motivating to hear the things the post was doing daily. As a current post commander it also made me want to go back to my post and do more.

We are going into the second half of this year. The membership goal set by National is 102%. I challenge each post and district to continue to increase their membership by recruiting new members and retaining the ones we currently have on our rosters. There are many resources available, and the Department is here to assist if needed.

Good luck on the upcoming elections. We hope to choose leaders who are loyal and committed to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Respectfully,

Edward Beard, Junior Vice Commander

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



GREETINGS COMRADES!

By the time you read this the 2024 Legislative Conference will be history. Hundreds of Comrades from all over the US, Europe and Asia will have returned home, rejuvenated in their efforts to continue working for our members and for all Veterans in hopes of securing the benefits that each has earned and deserves for their service to our great nation.

During the Legislative Conference each year a special ceremony is held to honor those high school students who have participated in the VFW's Voice of Democracy contest. 55 students made the trip to Washington, D.C. to compete for the coveted top prize. This year's winner is Sophia Lin from the Department of Arizona. In addition, the top three finalists in the VFW's Patriots Pen contest were also present to compete for the top prize in their competition. This year's winner is Bryant Day from the Department of Ohio. Thanks to all the young competitors who participated this year in North Carolina and across the country.

With Spring upon us it is time to look forward to the new year (2024-2025 VFW Year, that is) and the leadership of our posts, our districts and our Department. Per our National Bylaws, nominations for all posts are to be opened at our March meetings and continue to be open until the start of the election process in April. All our districts nominations and elections are to be conducted at the various District Conventions by the post delegates in attendance. Our Department nominations and elections are to be conducted at the Department Convention by those post delegates in attendance. Those nominated and elected should be able and willing to perform their duties as outlined in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Finally, in this edition of The Leader we are starting a series to focus on the branches of the service. Watch for your branch in coming issues.

Russ "Keen Sabre"



The Veterans Foundation of NC is a non-profit, 501c-3, which enables other NC non-profits who have programs that help NC Veterans and their families, to fulfill their mission. The Foundation is committed to search for ways to help other Veterans and their family members in our state. This year we awarded a grant to Vets to Vets, United (Veterinarians to Veterans, United). Headquartered in the Durham, NC area. Veterinarians and volunteers working together to provide much needed services. Their goal is to pair military Veterans with rescued dogs to help with mental or physical disabilities in order to improve their quality of life.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS

Department Service Officer Tab Brown announces the addition of two new members to his team. Assistant Department Service Officer Miehis Zahorski and Assistant Department Service Officer Brad Blackburn.

Miehis and Claims Consultant Cynthia Hathaway will be located at the Winston Salem Regional Office.

Brad Blackburn from Jacksonville will serve the Coastal area.



(L to R) Cynthia Hathaway, Tab Brown, Brad Blackburn and Miehis Zahorski



STEPHEN AMOS

USMC

CANDIDATE FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2024-2025

I LOVE THE VFW IS THE REASON I DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TO THIS ORGANIZATION.

**I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO HELP LEAD THIS GREAT DEPARTMENT
COMRADE 1982-PRESENT**

GOLD LEGACY MEMBER VFW Post 5352 KERNERSVILLE, NC

LIFE MEMBER MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIES

DEPARTMENT PATRIOTS PEN CHAIRMAN 2016-2017/2023-24

DEPARTMENT HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN 2019-24

DISTRICT COMMANDER 2003-2008/2023-24

POST QUARTERMASTER 2012-2014/2017-24

NATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE 2020-24

CO-CHAIRMAN NC SOUTHERN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT VOD CHAIRMAN 2017-18/2020-22

ALL-AMERICAN POST QUARTERMASTER 2020-21

NAT. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMM. 2011-12/2016-17/2019-21

DISTRICT JUNIOR 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 CHIEF OF STAFF 2012-13

DEPARTMENT STATE INSPECTOR 2008-12

NATIONAL ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL 2010-11

NAT. SECURITY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 2008-2011/2020-24

NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF 2009-10

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN 2005-08

POST COMMANDER 2004-07

POST SENIOR VICE COMMANDER 2002-04

POST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2000-02

"ALL VETERANS ARE PRIORITY ONE"

HONORING ERIC

Our Comrade Eric Cantu has left behind a legacy of dedication to service, devotion to family and memories of his VFW activities. Eric served in the US Army with an assignment in Vietnam, was a member of American Legion Post 43, a founding member of AmVets Post 1111, Commander of VFW Post 2771 for ten years, served on the North Carolina Color Guard for six years, president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 892 for six years and served on the North Carolina State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America



He was a charter board member of the CSS Neuse Foundation, served on the Salute!, a tribute to America's Veterans committee for 21 years and was the founder of GI Joe's Living History Museum in Kinston, NC. With his wife Carol of 32 years, Eric touched many lives and was called Grandpa by many others who did not have a relationship with their own family.

(GI Joe's Museum, Kinston, NC Is Open Tuesday - Saturday 9am-4pm)

PROUD OF OUR COLOR GUARD



**(L to R) Brandon Carson, XO: Glendale Young, CPT: Rose Quasebarth
Derwin Ellis, Bill Hertline, Sergeant of Arms**

DATES TO REMEMBER



2024

JUNE 6-9

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
EMBASSY SUITES
GREENSBORO, NC**

JULY 27-AUGUST 1

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
LOUISVILLE, KY**

AUGUST 22-25

**COMMANDER-IN- CHIEF
HOMECOMING
SAVANNAH, GA**

SEPTEMBER 9-12

**FALL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC**

OCTOBER 4-6

**COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
EMBASSY SUITES
GREENSBORO, NC**

NOVEMBER 7-9

**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
NASHVILLE, TN**

RALEIGH SEA CADETS



Pictured above is Jacin Suskin, Commanding Officer, Raleigh Battalion with Sea Cadets.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps located in Raleigh, NC is a youth leadership program built around our highest values of Honor, Respect, Commitment and Service.

Our mission is to build Leaders of Character who will be responsible citizens and future leaders of our country. Our cadets learn life skills, leadership, teamwork and self-discipline through a variety of activities and training programs.

Our program provides a unique opportunity for young people to develop leadership skills and gain hands-on experience in various fields such as aviation, engineering, seamanship and more. Our cadets participate in local and national training events, community service projects and international exchanges.



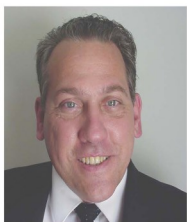
Get local help with your Medicare questions.

I'm Richard A King, a licensed sales agent in Cumberland County. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Take advantage of my knowledge and experience to:**

- Take the confusion out of Medicare
- Receive one-on-one service
- Get help comparing plans
- Make enrolling in a plan easier

I look forward to helping you explore your Medicare options so you can enroll in a plan with confidence.

It's time to take advantage.



Richard A King

Licensed Sales Agent

CMSgt (E-9), USAF, 26 years served

910-977-3118, TTY 711

raslking70@gmail.com

www.MyUHCagent.com/richard.king

**United
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WINTER COA

The Winter Council of Administration was “Puttin On The Ritz” as it’s theme which included a banquet, with formal attire, honoring the winners of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Buddy Poppy King and Queen. With a great hospitality room, the weekend was enjoyed by all.

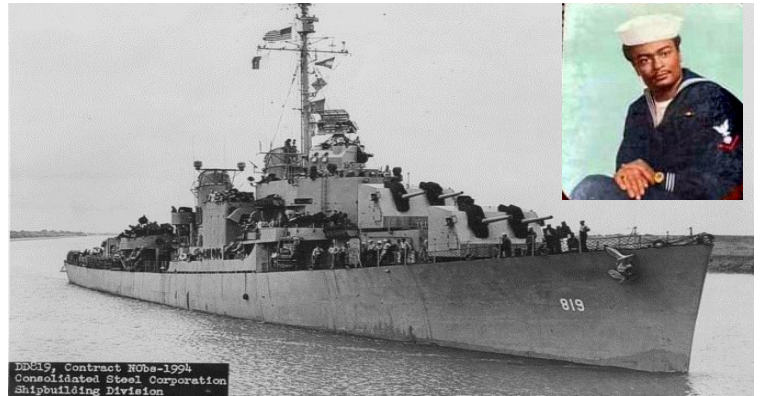


"IN THE NAVY"

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED



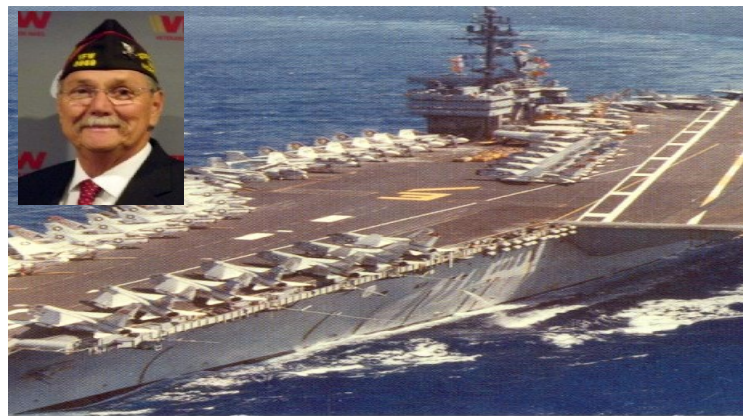
**USS VELLA GULF
JIM PAYNE SERVED ONBOARD
USS YORKTOWN, USS MITSCHER, USS
NASSAU, USS SAIPAN**



**USS HOLDER
WILLIAM HENRY HUGHES SR. (Deceased)
SERVED ONBOARD**



**USS ENTERPRISE
DOUG BLEVINS SERVED ONBOARD
CUBAN MISSILE CRISES-BAY OF PIGS**



**USS CONSTELLATION CV-64
MICKEY BIGGS SERVED ONBOARD
IRAN, GULFS OF ADEN & OMEN**



**USS IOWA
GREG STAFFORD SERVED ONBOARD**



**USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN-73
JEFF GOLDBERG SERVED ON BOARD**



Uniting to Tackle Food Insecurity for Veterans

By Andy Zinkievich, U.S. Army Veteran and Humana Veterans Community Engagement Executive

As part of the **Uniting to Combat Hunger Campaign** to fight food insecurity among veterans, Humana and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) exceeded their 2023 goal of providing 1 million meals.

The 2023 milestone brings the total to more than 4.5 million meals provided since the two organizations established the campaign in 2018.

“Our veterans have already sacrificed so much – they should not have to be concerned about where they will get their next meal,” said Stephanie Muckey, who leads Humana’s health equity and social impact work focused on the veteran population. “Food insecurity is impacting the everyday lives of many veterans in communities across the country. We must face this issue together to ensure any veterans, active service men and women, and their families who are struggling have access to healthy meals.”

Last year alone, Humana and more than 150 local VFW Posts and Auxiliaries teamed up to lead activations in support of the Uniting to Combat Hunger Campaign in 40 states, totaling more than 111,000 pounds of food and more than \$171,000 donated to local food banks.

“The continued support for Uniting to Combat Hunger is inspiring, but it’s important to remember this fight is far from over,” said VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento. “We have made great strides

over the last six years, but with veterans and military families still facing hunger and food insecurity every day, we must continue to come together as a nation to address this very real issue.”

For veterans, **regular access to healthy food may mean:**

- Spending less on healthcare. Food insecurity leads to an unhealthy diet. Having access to healthy foods can help prevent health problems from developing, which means fewer trips to the doctor.
- Missing fewer days of work. Healthy foods lead to healthier bodies and minds. Healthy people who thrive have fewer sick days.
- Improving health. Regular access to healthy foods can help decrease the risk of common health problems, such as diabetes, depression, hypertension and congestive heart failure.
- Staying active. Eating low-cost, filling foods that are less nutritious can impact health and energy levels. Access to nutritious food can help you feel better and stay active.

Humana and the VFW have worked together to support veteran health and well-being for 12 years. To learn more about the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign, visit **www.vfw.org/uniting-to-combat-hunger** or reach out to your local Humana representative.

Humana®

Joshua S. Holt-Gold Legacy Life Member

Candidate for 2024-2025 Department Judge Advocate

Active Duty Army with 21+ Years of Service



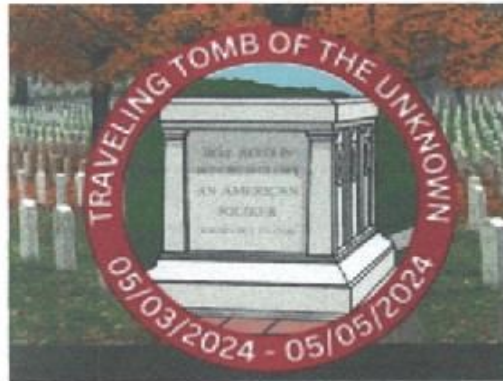
Positions Held:

Department Judge Advocate – 2022-Present
Department Bylaw Committee – 2022-Present
Department Rules Committee – 2022-Present
Department Buddy Poppy Chairman – 2016-2021
District Commander – 2020-2022
District Senior Vice Commander – 2019-2020
District Trustee – 2017-2019
District Junior Vice Commander – 2015-2016
Post Commander – 2013-2015, 2017-2019, 2021-2022
Post Senior Vice Commander – 2013, 2019-2021
Post Junior Vice Commander – 2013

Accolades:

National Assistant Inspector General – 2022-2023
National Special Aide de Camp – 2021-2022
All-America District Commander – 2020-2022
All-State District Commander – 2020-2022
All-American Post Commander – 2018-2019, 2021-2022
All-State Post Commander – 2017-2019, 2021-2022

TRAVELING TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN



A CALL TO HONOR

"The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument dedicated to American service members who have died without their remains being identified. It is located in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Fort Myer just across the Memorial Bridge from Washington, D.C. This replica is owned and managed by the Americanism Committee of the Exchange Club of Rome, Ga. It was constructed by Philip Burkhalter Builders of Rome, which is owned by a member of our club. It was constructed after their regular work hours. The materials involved in its construction were pine, composite materials, carbon-fiber sheets for added strength, aluminum framing, and retractable wheels for ease in moving. All of the artwork was carved with a hand Dremel, and it was painted to resemble the marble of the real one at Arlington National Cemetery by Mr. Chuck Schmalt, a well-known and extremely talented Rome, Georgia artist. It is the hope of the Exchange Club of Rome and the National Exchange Club that the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform are never forgotten, for without their supreme sacrifice of their lives, and in the case of the unknowns, their identity, our way of life would not be possible!" The VFW Post 5352 is fortunate enough to bring A CALL TO HONOR: The Traveling Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to Kernersville and share the experience with all of you.

Opening Ceremony

We invite you to attend the
opening ceremony on May 3, 2024
at 11:30am

Visiting Dates and Times

Friday, May 3 – 12:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5 – 8:00am to 8:00pm

It will be on display inside the front building at



VFW Post 5352
618 Edgewood Street
Kernersville, NC 27284



There is no fee to visit the Tomb of the Unknown; however, if you would like to contribute to the VFW for the Traveling Tomb fund you may send it to: VFW Post 5352, P.O. Box 792, Kernersville, NC 27285.

In Addition:


WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA
MOBILE
EDUCATION EXHIBIT

OPEN DAILY
FROM 8:00AM TO
8:00PM

Questions?

Contacts:

David Long	704-441-0067
Stephen Amos	336-462-2024
Lin Moore	336-971-0559



**FIGHT FOR VETERANS
INVOLVE FAMILIES
MAKE SUCCESS FUN**

We Can Do It
AND HAVE FUN

**WHILE ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS
REWARDING THOSE WHO FIND NEW
WAYS TO DO THINGS**

PROVEN LEADERSHIP

ALL-AMERICAN POST COMMANDER

ALL-AMERICAN DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

GROWING MEMBERSHIP

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

20 YEARS LEADERSHIP IN AIR FORCE

CHAIR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2021-2023

PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION CHAIR 2017

NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF 2017

NOBODY WORKS HARDER FOR THE VFW



COOTIES



The COOTIES are hard at work visiting Veterans and putting smiles on their faces throughout the state. We had a great time and turn out at the Winter Council of Administration banquet dinner where we sponsored the Department Patriots Pen. We have a big push for Veterans Suicide Awareness April 27th in Salisbury, NC called Supreme Strides. Supreme is the national level for the Military Order of the Cooties and we are hoping for a big turnout. We are looking for sponsorships and walkers to support this event. It will be a great day for comradeship and education to help out our Veterans locally and globally. As always, we are looking to increase and multiply in our ranks. We currently have 11 pup tents and around 300 Cooties in North Carolina. In the past we have had 25 pup tents and close to 1000 Cooties. I would love to see the state hit these numbers once again. If you are interested in starting a new pup tent or wanting to join please reach out to the Grand for more information.

The Supreme Seam Squirrel Mark Larkin is having his homecoming in Havelock, NC. I hope you will plan on attending this event to support one of our own comrades as we as Cooties are comrades first. This is an honor to have the highest ranking Cootie from our home state. In true Cootie form I hope everyone has a lousy rest of the year. If you need any assistance from the Cooties please reach out to any cootie. *Regards, Tim Woods, Grand Commander*

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A LEGAL CLAIM UNDER THE CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT IS AUGUST 10, 2024

If you believe you are eligible and have not filed a claim, do not wait any longer. If you are not eligible, spread the word. Veterans take care of their fellow Veterans and their families.



Under the CLJA an individual may qualify if: They resided, worked, or were otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) to the ground water at Camp Lejeune for not less than 30 days. During the period between August 1, 1953, to December 31, 1987, and were diagnosed with cancer, serious illness or numerous other health conditions including neurological, kidney & liver diseases, miscarriages, infertility, and birth defects/cognitive disabilities in children. Your condition does NOT have to be on the VA presumptive list to file a claim.

Surviving family members may pursue a claim on behalf of their deceased loved one.

VA claims and CLJA legal claims are two separate lanes, and you should pursue both. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has issued guidance stating the amount of any disability award payment or benefit received **for a condition related to Camp Lejeune** will only reduce the amount of the award and will:

***NOT reduce rating percentage or monthly compensation**

***NOT affect eligibility for other VA benefits or services**

***NOT affect benefits or healthcare the VA provides to you now or in the future**

If you have not yet initiated a VA claim, be sure to talk to a VFW accredited service officer and reach out to me and the BMBF team **TODAY!** Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico (BMBF) is entrusted by the VFW, Marine Corp Reserve Association, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and the Reserve Association of America to represent Veterans and their families who were harmed by the toxic water at United States Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

BMBF offers a 25% contingency fee, and our clients will not pay any out-of-pocket costs or fees EVER. Collectively the BMBF team of litigators have decades of experience and success in groundwater contamination mass tort cases. We know what is involved and understand what it takes to successfully represent lawsuits under the CLJA.

If you have any questions please give me a call at (608) 209-0805 or email me at jason@johnslaw.biz



I am always standing ready to help my fellow Veterans and their families.

You may also find more info about our mission at www.camplejeunegroundwater.com

(Submitted by Jason E. Johns, Past Commander VFW Dept. of Wisconsin and Lejeune Water Attorney)

MICKEY BIGGS

**US
NAVY
VETERAN**



**IRAN/YEMEN
INDIAN OCEAN**

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2024-2025

Should you elect me as your Department Junior Vice Commander, I have a two part platform. This platform would consist of outreach to all Veterans, especially those who have served during the Gulf Wars and Conflicts of the past thirty-five years, as well as focusing on the health and welfare of our posts.

The Gulf Wars have produced over 3 million new combat Veterans. We need to identify what is important to this generation of combat Veterans and what our organization can do to help them and their families. The Gulf Wars have provided the largest number of female combat Veterans ever seen in this country. Special focus should be made in identifying new and unique challenges that our female combat Veterans may be facing. We need to ensure that all the needs of these combat Veterans are met. In finding better ways to serve the Veterans of the Gulf Wars, we will need to find new members for our posts. If we can recruit more members through providing support, this may create members who have a stake in our organization and are willing to become active lifetime members.

We need to take a long hard look inward. During the past few years, the Department of North Carolina has lost approximately ten posts. These posts have been lost due to reasons, such as surrender of charter due to dwindling membership, charter revocation due to administrative issues and mergers between small posts. Districts and their posts need to help identify weak and struggling posts. Working together with the Department we can develop plans to support and revitalize these posts. Once a post is lost, we lose a relationship with that community that has taken many decades to build.

REMEMBER-TOGETHER WE CAN!



107507

For those who served

Get the care you deserve.

Like all of our patients, we offer Veterans:

- Same-day, walk-in and virtual appointments
- Tests, screenings and medication services on-site
- Doctors who take the time to get to know you

Remember, you **WILL NOT LOSE** your existing coverage or VA doctor if you choose an MA plan and select a Dedicated provider as your primary care physician (PCP). Our services complement your existing VA benefits.

Find a Dedicated Senior Medical Center in:

Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Burlington.

Call Us Today! 1(800) 832-5558



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