

NC VFW

The Leader

Magazine

Fall 2022



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



VFW SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2022

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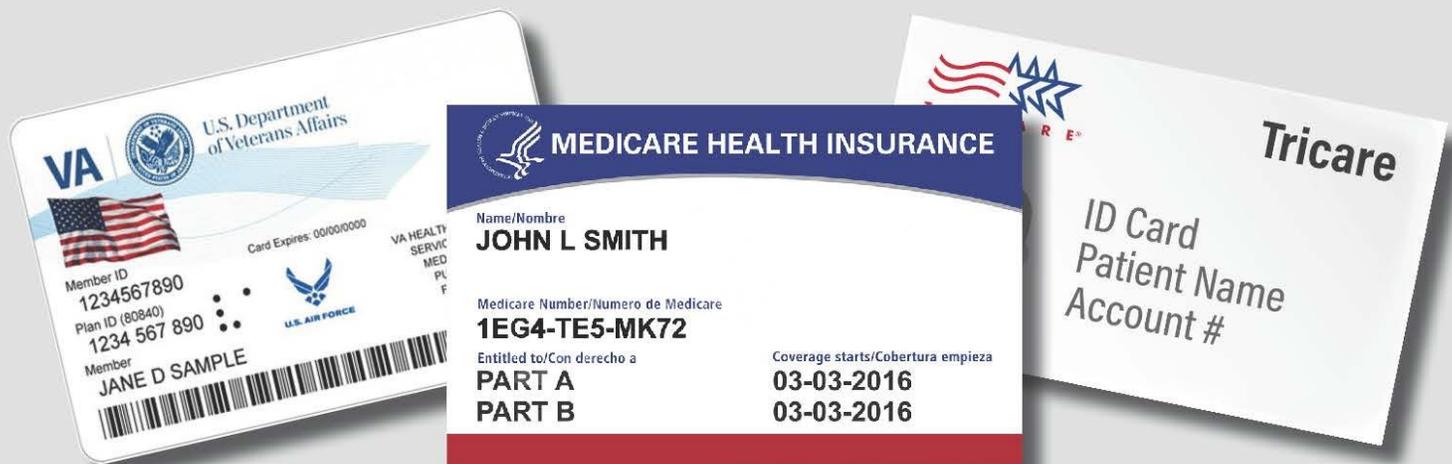
VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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VFW of NC will not be responsible for un-
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publish all or in part.

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

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editor@vfwnc.com

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ON THE COVER
VFW Southern Conference 2022

DEDICATION
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

I would like to welcome all the **Southern Conference** Comrades, brothers and sisters to Asheville, North Carolina October 27-30. Also, as this magazine is being distributed, we will be gathering at our Fall Council of Administration in Greensboro, North Carolina. As we all know now is the time of year to get most of the VFW programs like Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year and take them all to the next level. We had four great training sessions at the end of July and the beginning of August and say thanks to the to the following posts at Cedar Point, Cary, Gastonia, and Asheville for hosting and welcoming us into your posts. As we trained, we learned a lot for from one another. I enjoyed all the comradeship from all who attended.

I hope by now many of you have visited **VFWNC.COM** and have seen the upgrades we have made to our website; many of the forms are fillable online and we have added more links and continue to move full speed into the future. The Department is here to help all of our posts and its members to make it as successful as possible. We are open to all ideas and suggestions to make the Department the very best in the organization.

We have a great award-winning publication for the Department in the Leader Magazine and with Veterans and holiday events coming up

please send pictures and articles to Clark Hunter to publish what our posts and districts are doing throughout the state. Take pride of your accomplishments! Clark will gladly help you out in anyway. Also if you know of any business that may want to advertise in the Leader reach out to them. The more advertising we get helps with publication costs.

Again, Comrades I wish all post and districts the utmost success for the rest of the year. The Department is here to help and work with your auxiliaries on post and district levels with recruiting, buddy poppy drives and support of Veterans in your areas. The Auxiliary is a great asset for the organization, and we must work as one ship, one team.

Let's make 2022-2023 the best year for the Department of North Carolina.

"FULL SPEED TOWARDS THE FUTURE"
YOURS IN COMRADESHIP

Tim Woods

VFWNC Commander

(Sadie Approved)



2022/2023 Department Officers



VFW of North Carolina

State Commander.....Tim Woods
Senior Vice Cdr.....Helen Nelson
Junior Vice Cdr.....Annie Cummings
Adjutant/Quartermaster....Joe Horn
Judge Advocate.....Josh Holt
Surgeon.....Johnny Taylor
Chaplain.....Alicia Judd
Chief of Staff.....Pat Tompkins



Commander Tim Woods



Senior Vice Cdr.
Helen Nelson



Junior Vice Cdr.
Annie Cummings



Adjutant/QM
Joe Horn



Judge Advocate
Josh Holt

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

District Commanders

DISTRICTS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Graham Leaver | 10. John Marion |
| 2. Robert Brock | 11. Dolphus Troy |
| 3. Jimmy Baughman | 12. Bobbi Sheets |
| 4. Barbara Chance | 13. Robert Pate |
| 5. Bradley Lauver | 14. Art Gordon |
| 6. Christopher Brown | 15. William Carter |
| 7. David Martin | 16. Robert Sumner |
| 8. Mike Baker | 17. Robert Morrow |
| 9. Donald Cochran | |



Surgeon
Johnny Taylor



Chaplain
Alicia Judd



Chief of Staff
Pat Tompkins



Dept. Mascot
Sadie



Greetings Veterans

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

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

VETERANS RELIEF FUND

NC CHILDREN'S HOME

GUITARS FOR VETS

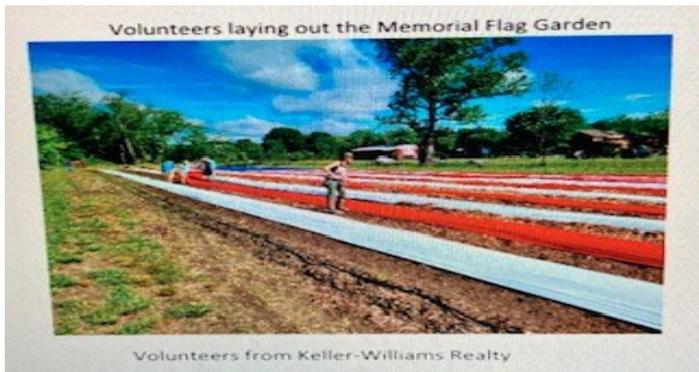
VETERANS HEALING FARM

FOOTBRIDGE DENTAL CLINIC

The Veterans Foundation continues to be busy by extending our financial support to many nonprofit programs to help Veterans of NC. These include: Voice of Democracy which provides scholarships to high school seniors through competing in a patriotic essay contest, Department of NC Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars Relief Fund, which assists needy Veterans by providing relief for their families, Guitars for Veterans, a program that provides free guitar lessons for Veterans suffering from PTSD which includes a free guitar. The Veterans Healing Farm, a program that provides a working farm environment for Veterans who need to connect with the civilian world through working with their hands and learning how to farm and Footbridge Dental Care which offers Veterans free dental care from routine dental cleaning and x-rays to extractions, fillings, and crowns at no cost to Veterans and their families.

We continue to look for more ways to help Veterans in NC. If you know of a worthy nonprofit program the Foundation should consider supporting, please contact Ken Sellers at 336-253-1113 or email at taikijorsel@gmail.com

Volunteers work at the Healing Farm Flag Garden



A Guided Fishing Trip



Family Night at the Farm



KEN SELLERS, President/DEAN HARRIS, Chief Financial Officer/GREG STAFFORD, Executive Director

VFW POST 6088 RECEIVES CHECK



District 2 Commander Robert Brock and VFW Post 6088 Commander Terry Townsend accept a \$2,000.00 check donation from Washington International Order of Red Men. The donation will be used for the post building fund. The post is located in Washington, NC.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

GREETINGS COMRADES!



After all these years the so-called Pact Act is now the law of the land and, if you are a Veteran, all your troubles have been solved.

NOT! Unfortunately, until there is a major overhaul of the Veterans Administration not much will change. We will still be considered healthy until proven otherwise. Wouldn't it be something if all our claims were accepted at face value and only reduced when the VA could prove otherwise. We know that will never happen and that is why, as a Veterans Service Organization, we must be ever vigilant in dealing with the VA. Along those same lines, we need to continue to reach out to our elected representatives of Congress, both as a VSO and individually, to let them know who we are and what our needs are. We must hold accountable, through the ballot box, senators and representatives who do not support our cause. It should be noted that the two North Carolina Senators split their deciding votes on the recent Pact Act, with retiring Senator Burr voting in favor of the act while soon to be senior NC Senator Tillis voted against it.

I hope you have made plans to attend the annual Southern Conference meeting in Asheville in October. The Conference leadership and the planning committee have been working hard to put together a great weekend in Western North Carolina and you don't want to miss it, for sure!

Congratulations and thanks to all the elected officers at post, district, department and national levels for 2022-2023.

Hope to see you in October!! On the road again!
Russ Chambers, Editor

CHAPLAIN

I would like to take this opportunity to first acknowledge Past Department Chaplain Richard Rice. Chaplain Rice is a friend, comrade, and brother to all. He served as Chaplain for the Department of NC for many years and did the job with honor and purpose. He loved being your chaplain. Please lift him and his family up in your prayers as he is in the battle for his life.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is essentially a volunteer organization made up primarily of unpaid people who share a common bond. We have gone to war on foreign soil and this experience unites us as brothers and sisters. Complete strangers become family when we learn of each other's service.

I served in the Air Force from 1990-2010 as an In-Flight Refueling Specialist. During that time, I participated in many campaigns and humanitarian missions. I served in many leadership positions in the military and have earned many medals including the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and several Air Achievement Medals. After I retired, I joined VFW Post 9134 in Rockwell, NC. I have a masters in human services and a masters certificate in special education. I have crisis counseling training and was certified to teach mental health first aid. My human services degree directly relates to the Chaplain position where I am able to connect Veterans and their families to resources inside and outside the VA. Throughout all of the positions within the VFW, my heart is in the Chaplain position.

The VFW has many long-standing traditions that the Chaplain performs, and I value and honor each and every one of them. More than that though is my desire to minister to all Veterans regardless of religious affiliation. I pray for the military, Veterans, their families and the VFW daily. My hope as the Department Chaplain, is to deepen relationships with comrades and be available to those that need counseling and prayer. My goals for this year is that I make contact with all of the VFW chaplains in NC to support and train them so that they are ready for their members when the need arises. As Chaplain, I want to be available to you not only for your hardships but also for your celebrations.

Thank you for your support.

Alicia Judd

VFWNC Chaplain



MR. VICTOR R. LETOURNEAUT,

20-year active-duty United States Marine Corps Veteran and Past Department Commander for the North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), founded and incorporated Up-Side Management Company (U-SMC) in 2007. Headquartered in Hubert, NC, Up-Side Management Company's primary focus is the Federal Government and DoD construction markets. U-SMC is an SBA certified Small Business and VA CvE Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned (SDVOSB), and Minority-Owned General Contractor. Under Mr. Letourneaut's leadership, U-SMC has successfully performed more than 250 projects valued at over \$125M in the last 10 years for multiple federal and DoD agencies located within the Southeast, Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Caribbean regions. Married to Michele for over 35 years, not only a High School Sweetheart but fellow Marine supporting him throughout their journey. They are the proud parents of Nichole and Son-in-law Matt (Sgt USMC Ret.) and grandparents of Damon & Ronan.



U-SMC is currently working with local VFW Posts to help make a difference to veterans, their families, and their communities. "To me, it's not enough just to make a financial contribution... I'm a Gold Legacy of the VFW and Life Member of the Cooties (Regret that a lot!)." When I joined, the VFW motto was 'Honor the dead by helping the living,' and the VFW is my way of giving back to our veterans and our military." (*Victor Letourneaut, President, U-SMC*).



Up-Side Management Company is committed to making a lasting and positive impact on the communities we serve. In our eyes, spreading goodness is always worthwhile, big or small. We're proud to help organizations and individuals create positive change every day. U-SMC values veterans and salutes them in recognition of their service and dedication. We pride ourselves on having built a solid foundation for our employees to excel and build rewarding careers in construction and are always looking to add highly-valued veterans to our team of dedicated staff.



www.up-sidemanagement.com

211 Middleridge Drive, Hubert, NC 28539 * 904.423.0989 (ph.) * 904.339.9859 (fax)

In addition to the Hubert, NC office, U-SMC's principal business office is in Jacksonville, FL with additional offices located in Pace, FL; Velpen, IN; New Orleans, LA; Harvest, AL; and a Warehouse facility in Fayetteville, NC.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HAPPY FALL!



2022

OCTOBER 27-30
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
ASHEVILLE, NC

2023

FEBRUARY 3-5
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
GREENSBORO, NC

MARCH 3-8
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
WASHINGTON, DC

MARCH 5-9
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

JUNE 8-11
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
GREENSBORO, NC





Edward Beard
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander
2023-2024

Silver Legacy Life Member
US Army Retired (23 Years)

Desert Shield / Desert Storm Veteran

Commander, VFW Post 6018 (Largest Post in North Carolina with over 1100 members)

5 Time All American Commander

5 Time All State Commander

District 8 All American Commander

District 8 All State Commander

2020-2021 Post Community Service Award Winner

2020-2021 / 2021-2022 National Recruiter Award Winner

3 Time National Aide-De-Camp

Past Department of North Carolina Chief of Staff

Past Convention Council Committee Member

Past Public Affairs Officer Central Representative

Current Chairman Past District Commanders Club

Current Veterans & Military Support Chairman – 5 years

“Less Talk, More Action”

GREETINGS FROM SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

Welcome members of the VFW and its Auxiliary to the 2022

Southern Conference

It is an exciting time for our Conference as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always adaptable, motivated and responsive and looking for ways to bring FUN back to the Conference meetings and conventions. Our organization is confronting a time of many changes and we are meeting these changes during a time of larger nation-wide and global change. The National Organization is creating an exciting element of growth and recognition for its members to help embrace the changes that are needed to move forward.

I would like to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over the next few days. **We will hold our Joint Memorial Service on Friday with an activity planned by the host committee afterwards. Saturday we have training and business meetings with an entertaining banquet to close out the Conference.** Thanks to the 2021-2022 Department Commanders for their recommendations for training topics. A very heartfelt Thanks to the North Carolina VFW and Auxiliary members who have worked very hard to make this event happen.

We are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to increase membership, find ways to bring fun back to the conventions and conferences and be as transparent as we can with our Departments. Our Department Commanders and partners have continued to meet the challenges and find ways to excel despite setbacks. We should all be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed.

I would like to Thank each of you for attending our Conference and bringing your expertise to our gathering. You, as organization leaders, have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership. Throughout this Conference I ask you to stay engaged, keep us proactive and help us shape the future of the Southern Conference of the VFW. My personal respect and thanks goes out to all of you.

Yours in Comradeship,

Robert “Bobby” Lovergne Jr.

Chairman, Southern Conference

Department of Louisiana

VFW HOSTS SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2022

It has been sixteen years since North Carolina has hosted the VFW Southern Conference. Being held in Asheville, NC, it is one of four conferences in the National Organization and represents the fourteen states stretching across the United States from Texas to Virginia. The overall goal is to foster an online community of service men and woman (active and retired) their families, friends, and our valued donors. We also aim to administer support to Veterans and their families, providing resources both locally and nationally. Our Southern hospitality extends beyond just being from a southern state, it's about the values, patriotism and shared memories and stories with a community that understands.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

VFW POST 4309 LEWIS EARL JACKSON

USMC DeMARIA JVA

GUIDON BREWERY

VFW POST 670

HUMANA

VFW POST 7313

SOUTHERN GRACE DISTILLERY

ON THE COVER

Standing in front of Crowne Plaza in Asheville, NC are Tim Woods, State Commander and Co-Chairman: Ginger Amos Past Dept. President and Committee Member: Stephen Amos Co-Chairman: and Farris Upton past Dept. President and Committee Member.

(Missing from photo is Victor Letourneaut Conference Co-Chairman)





Military Veterans, Here's What You Need to Consider About Medicare

by Andy Zinkievich, Humana Veterans Engagement Executive.

The Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan Annual Election Period (AEP) runs from October 15 through December 7. Veterans who have the option to select a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan to complement their Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits should consider some key factors as they research plan options:

- **Understand how Medicare Advantage works with VA benefits:**

A Medicare Advantage plan may help reduce gaps in your healthcare coverage and provide access to additional services and benefits that may not be covered by VA health care. For example, Humana Honor Medicare Advantage plans were designed with Veterans in mind and provide additional benefits such as dental care and \$0 monthly plan premiums. In addition to these plans, Medicare-eligible Veterans can select from any Medicare Advantage plan in their area.

- **Understand how Medicare Advantage works with TRICARE and/or CHAMPVA:**

If you have TRICARE for Life or CHAMPVA and decide to enroll in a MA plan, the MA plan will become your primary coverage and may require that you see only in-network providers. TRICARE for Life or CHAMPVA beneficiaries may consider enrolling in a MA or MAPD plan if they can coordinate billing and do not mind being limited to a network of providers.

- **Know the process for prescription drug coverage:**

When you add a Medicare Advantage plan, your VA prescription drug coverage would continue to cover prescriptions written or approved by a VA doctor. However, a Medicare Advantage plan would cover certain Part B medications, like injectable drugs and infusions. If you sign up for a plan with Medicare prescription drug coverage, certain medicines from non-VA doctors would be covered and can be filled at local network pharmacies instead of through the VA.

As you research health plan options, use credible sources such as Medicare.gov to compare plans and estimate costs based on your needs. You can also enroll in online educational events or coordinate a meeting with a licensed sales agent to review 2023 Medicare Advantage plan options. Additionally, you can learn about the reputable organizations that stand behind Medicare plans. For example, Humana Medicare Advantage plans – such as its Honor plan – are recommended by USAA, a company known for its customer satisfaction and commitment to the financial security of current and former members of the U.S. military.



For more information, visit www.Medicare.gov or call **1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can go to www.Humana.com or call **1-800-213-5286 (TTY: 711)** from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time, seven days a week. You also can call the dedicated VFW toll-free number at Humana at 1-800-213-3404 to talk with a specially trained agent or arrange an in-person consultation.

Humana®

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Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and PFFS organization and stand-alone prescription drug plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana Medicare plan depends on contract renewal. USAA and the USAA logo are registered trademarks of the United Services Automobile Association. All rights reserved. USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022



**Commander-in-Chief
Timothy Borland**



COOTIES



**Grand Commander
Helen Nelson**



**Grand Senior Vice Cdr
Tim Woods**



**Grand Junior Vice Cdr
Jeff Friar**



**Grand Quartermaster
Arthur Erhardt**



**Julia Stancil Warren
President (MOCA)**



**Grand Adjutant
Barbara Chance**

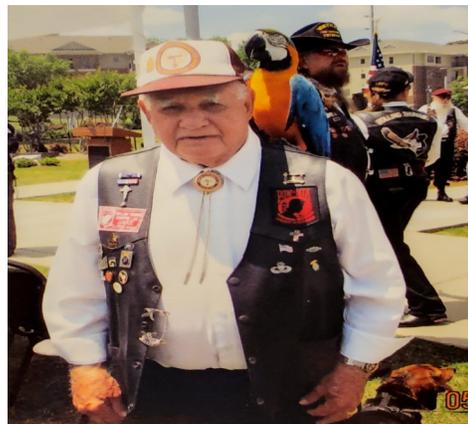


VFW's Military Order of the Cootie is known for comforting hospitalized Veterans and residents of Veterans' homes across the country. It is the Honor Degree within the VFW and members are comprised of its officers and leadership. Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep them smiling in Beds of White." Each year the cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. We like to bring many smiles while doing things a little backwards. We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety.

VFW POST 10630 HOPE MILLS, NC

We regret to inform everyone of the recent passing of SGM Jacob Roth on June 30, 2022. Jake was 90 years old. Born on Veterans Day 1931, Jake honorably served this great nation for over 30 years. Jake was our last surviving member who was an ex-POW from the Korean War.

Jake served the Veteran Community in Hope Mills for many years after his retirement which included 5 years as Post Commander and Commander of the American ex-Prisoners of War Greater Fayetteville Chapter. Jake will be missed by all.



Recently, members of VFW Post 10630 along with District 8 Commander Mike Baker, assisted George Stump in acquiring a motorized scooter to help him get around easier.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are VFW Post 10630 Senior Vice Commander Doug Willis, District 8 Commander Mike Baker, VFW Post 10630 Junior Vice Commander Mike Vazquez, George Stump and wife Glenda.



Chartered on March 11, 1989, VFW Post 10630 is named after SGM Bryce H. Swindle who was a Vietnam Veteran, member of the Famed Golden Knights and a staunch supporter of education championing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay competitions at our local schools. The post hosts two marquee events; Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies which are widely regarded as the "Best" in the area.

Special thanks to Post Commander Jim Morris for this contribution

FAYETTEVILLE VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES



Great Day for Juneteenth Jubilee at Festival Park in Fayetteville, NC. We had the opportunity to get a jump start on our new year in the VFW. We also got to celebrate history. A big shout out to our members who worked and showed their support.



On behalf of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cooties, and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary of Headhunters PUP Tent 78, VFW Post 6018 made a generous donation to the Vet Center and Veterans Home Bridge in support of their upcoming Back to School Drive. We were honored to be one of the sponsors for the event. Thank you to SVC Pat Blalock for presenting.



Congratulations to VFW Post 6018 Comrades Yvette Campbell and Dale Harris for receiving the Iron Mike Gold Star Award for Volunteer Service. To win this award you must have volunteered over 700 hours and gone above and beyond your assigned duties. We are so proud of our members for their outstanding volunteer service.



The Post and Auxiliary supported the 403rd Transportation Company Organizational Day held at Smith Lake, Fort Bragg, NC. Commander Beard was awarded a citation from the Unit. We are so blessed to serve the soldiers and family members. We look forward to doing this again soon.

VFW POST 7775 "THE POPCORN POST"



Top Sellers from left to right: Comrade Zarita Dickey, Past Commander Ron Walker, Comrade Lisa Tolufashe, Comrade James West present commander Bridget Lightner and Comrade Preston Jenkins

Everybody Loves Popcorn! With that in mind **William E. Robinson VFW Post 7775** of Charlotte, NC embarked on a creative journey to sell popcorn via the internet. Realizing that fundraising is a way to raise money which in turn allows a post to fund its mission no matter how big or small the post is. This fundraiser, initiated by past commander Ron Walker, did extremely well. The virtual company that was used is called Double Good Popcorn. There is no cost to start, no money to collect or product to ship. The company does all the work. You just sign up online and set up an account. Each participant is sent a link to set up their individual pop-up stores. After the set up a link is sent out to anyone. Supporters order directly from the company who sends 50% of sales to the organization. The post earned \$4,146.50 which supports the mission of the post.

KENTUCKY FLOOD RELIEF

In times of emergencies, **We Answer The Call!** Such is the case when our comrades in Kentucky are in need of flood relief in areas of their state. The Call went out and the response was overwhelming. The VFW Department of North Carolina and associated VFW Posts jumped right in with a plan to offer assistance where needed. Emergency goods were gathered and transported as quickly as possible to our comrades in Kentucky to assist with the devastation they were facing.

Over 19 VFW Posts, 2 American Legions, multiple towns and communities, Army National Guard, Volunteer Fire Departments, Sam's Club, Walmart and more answered the call with organized response teams and collection points that coordinated the necessary supplies and generous money donations.

At the time of our notification to the Department by Commander Tim Woods, Kentucky was already in full swing with distribution of emergency goods, but had no storage available, which allowed us to extend the collection time and deliver at a date that would be right on time for further assistance.

Junior Vice Commander Annie Cummings served as Disaster Relief Coordinator for the Department to assist with collection and transportation of goods to the disaster areas in Kentucky. Delivery of goods is scheduled after September 10th and will be directed by the NC Department Commander as the needs are continuously assessed.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO ASSIST OR MAKE DONATIONS CONTACT:

VFWNC 919-828-5058/ adj@vfwnc.com

ANNIE CUMMINGS 703-209-1986/ acummings@vfwnc.com



FILL THE TRUCK

ITEMS ACCEPTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10TH
ITEMS ACCEPTED
(ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE NEW IN THE PACKAGE)

- Underwear (men's, women's & children)
- Socks (men's, women's & children)
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, etc...)
- Toilet Paper, paper towels
- Feminine supplies
- Non-perishable canned food items

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Please help Kentucky flood victims who have lost everything.

BRING ITEMS TO
1971 C C CAMP ROAD
ELKIN, NC 28621
ITEMS ACCEPTED MON-FRI
FROM 8AM-630PM

DUTY, HONOR, & COMMUNITY



CC Camp Volunteer Fire Department
August 16 at 6:35 PM · 🌐

Thank you!!
Trent Holbrook, store manager at the Elkin Walmart for your donation to our "Fill The Truck" campaign for the flood victims in Kentucky. Thanks also to Theresa Cooper for your help in getting us hooked up!! We are well on our way to filling this truck up!

WELCOME TO ELKIN
NORTH CAROLINA

+3

ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS

"Helping you navigate through a sea of information"

DID YOU KNOW that you can combine military benefits (VA, CHAMPVA and Tricare for Life) with Medicare?

- Veterans **will not lose** their VA or Tricare for Life benefits
- Medicare plans provide benefits that are not typically available to all Veterans and their eligible spouses.
- Our Veterans Initiatives Program specialists are trained and certified in the combination of military and Medicare benefits.

DID YOU KNOW that you could be missing out on benefits such as:

- Dental, Hearing, Vision
 - Transportation
 - Over the Counter Benefits
 - Gym Membership
 - Medicare Part B Giveback
- And more...

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

Advocate Health Advisors, Doug Marshall

336-416-3320 or 1-800-709-5513

Doug.Marshall@advocatehealthllc.com



By calling this number, you agree to speak with an independent health insurance agent about Medicare Advantage products. Medicare has neither reviewed or endorsed this information. I do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information I provide is limited to those plans I do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY: 18774862048) 24 hours/7 days a week to get information on all of your options. This is an advertisement.

PURPLE HEART BANQUET

The Northwest Piedmont Purple Heart Foundation, along with 600 guests, celebrated and recognized 89 Purple Heart recipients, 18 Gold Star Families and 35 families of deceased Purple Heart recipients during their 8th annual banquet on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at Richard Childress Racing in Welcome, NC. The South Stokes High School Marine Band JROTC, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rafel Jurkiewicz and Master Sgt. Brian Grogan provided a Walk of Honor for our honored guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carson Dennis, son of Auxiliary member Ashley Dennis and grandson of Lin Moore, Department Conductress. VFW Department Commander Tim Woods, District 11 Commander Dolphus Troy and All American VFW Post 5352 Commander Josh Hunt presented Purple Heart thermos cups to each recipient. Following the banquet and Memorial Service God Bless America was sung by Paige Fulp, daughter of Auxiliary member Tammy Fulp.

Our oldest Purple Heart recipient was WWII Army Veteran James Deal who is 99 years old and the youngest was OEF Army Veteran Jeremy Young who is 32 years old.

The mission of the Foundation is to locate Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star families, widows, orphans and other family members in the Northwest Piedmont of NC and to uplift them as a group for their sacrifices by citizens of a grateful nation.

During the banquet Lt Col Heath Freeman, USMC Quantico presented 5 Purple Heart Medals to Gilbert Williams, Army Vietnam; Bernie Schedia, Marines OIF; Jack Farris, Marines Korea; Dennis “Willy” Williford, Air Force Vietnam; and Jerry Ratledge, Army Vietnam.

PDP Ginger Amos, Foundation President, stated that this has been a rebuilding year for the Foundation because of the pandemic. We have lost over 25 Veterans that attended the last banquet in 2019. We are already working on our banquet for next year to be held on Saturday August 19, 2023.



Harold Frank, VFW Post 8718 Advance



Paige Fulp



(LtoR) Cdr Tim Woods, Rob Caudill, Dept. Nat. Home Committee Chairman, Josh Hunt Cdr VFW Post 5352 Kernersville, Michelle Hunt, VFW Post 5353 Kernersville Auxiliary, Dolphus Troy, Commander District 11

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