

NC VFW

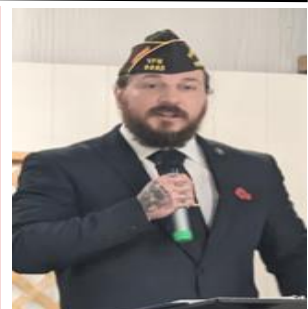


The Leader

Magazine

Fall 2023

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



DISTRICT COMMANDERS
"THE BUSIEST PEOPLE IN THE VFW"
(L to R) District Commanders
Names on Page 5



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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FOR VETERANS**

VFW National Award Winning Magazine



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CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE.

VFW of NC will not be responsible for unsolicited materials. Submission of articles 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
DISTRICT COMMANDERS

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](http://www.vfwnc.com)

STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



COMRADES COOTIES & AUXILIARY MEMBERS

As we conclude this first quarter, it is important for us as Veterans to reflect on our achievements and set new goals for ourselves.

The past quarter has been challenging, but we have shown resilience and determination in the face of adversity. Now, it is time to build on that momentum and strive for even greater success. We had a great turn out for school of instructions, where the zoom platform was made available for those who could not attend in person.

One of our primary objectives this year is to continue working toward our membership goal of 102%. This may seem like an ambitious target, but we have proven time and time again that we are capable of achieving the impossible. By reaching out to our fellow Veterans and encouraging them to join our ranks, we can strengthen our community and ensure that the voices of Veterans are heard.

However, as we pursue this goal, it is crucial to remember that our unity and camaraderie should never come at the expense of anyone's well-being. Sexual harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated within the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). We must create a safe and inclusive environment where every member feels respected and valued. Let us stand together against any form of mistreatment and

ensure that our organization remains a beacon of integrity and honor.

As the holidays approach, it is also important to remember that this time of the year can be challenging for many individuals. The festivities may bring joy and happiness, but they can also amplify feelings of loneliness and isolation. Therefore, I urge each and every one of you to look after one another. Reach out to your fellow Veterans, check in on their well-being and offer a helping hand if needed. Remember, mental health assistance is available, and seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness.

In the spirit of unity and support, let us uplift and be there for one another. We are a team; bound by our shared experiences and the sacrifices we have made. Together we can overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness. As we embark on this new year, let us remember our moto:

“ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL”

Respectfully

Helen Nelson

State Commander



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

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Tab Brown 252-933-2040 (East) tab.brown318@va.gov
Brad Blackburn Assistant Dept. Service Officer (Coastal)
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. 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 | |



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

SURGEON'S REPORT



Johnny Taylor
Dept. Surgeon

First, I would like to thank all the Comrades for electing me as the State Surgeon for the 23-24 term. I am honored to help our Veterans.

Nothing is more important than our Health.

September is Suicide Prevention Month. For Some Veterans, it can be hard to reach out for help. If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the **Veterans Crisis Line** by dialing 988 then press 1 for 24/7 confidential crisis support. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Please keep your appointments with the VA. Try to keep updated with all the benefits you are entitled to.

Fall is almost here and that means Flu Season. The Good News is that you can get your shot in many ways. Walk-in, appointment, drive through, outside vendors or CBOC.

If you use Walmart or Walgreens, or some other source outside the VA system, you will need a form to give to your Primary Care Doctor.

Yours in Comradeship,

Johnny Taylor

VFW Department of NC Surgeon

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



GREETINGS COMRADES!

The 2023-24 year is off and running under the leadership of Department Commander Helen Nelson. Commander Nelson was elected and installed on June 10, 2023, at the 93rd Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Department of North Carolina. Congratulations Commander Nelson!

The first three months of the new year have already been busy with a lot of VFW work and activities. The VFW National Convention in Phoenix, AZ; the schools of instruction held at several locations across the Department; recruiting efforts Labor Day Weekend in Darlington, SC; the Fall Legislative meetings and National COA in Washington, DC; the Billy Ray Cameron Golf Tournament; and the successful Council of Administration meeting held at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC are just a few of the many events that have already taken place in the Department. Upcoming events before the holidays are upon us include the Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests. Entries are due to Posts no later than October 31st. Shortly after that we have the Southern Conference meeting in Tulsa, OK, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Lots of good stuff in a short period of time!

Congratulations also go out to our newly elected National Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento of the Department of New Jersey, his newly elected staff, and all the newly elected National Representatives. They were elected at the July 27th "Smoking Hot" National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Let's all support Commander Nelson's "A Vision For Change" and Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento's "Meet The Challenge" year!

Movin On!

RUSS CHAMBERS, Editor



The Veterans Foundation of NC is a non-profit, 501-3, which enables other NC non-profits who have programs that help Veterans and their families to fulfill their mission. Whether it is providing student scholarships through the VFW of NC, providing free dental care, or helping Veterans suffering from PTSD, The Foundation is committed to looking for ways to help other Veterans and their family members in our state. We will continue to do whatever we can to help make a difference.

One of the newer non-profits, Honor Flights of North Carolina, is part of a national network that has as it's mission "GRATITUDE" to Veterans for their service. Each year flights from four different sites all over NC leave with up to 100 NC Veterans on board for our Nation's capital. It is to celebrate America's Veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our Nation's memorials. The Trip and day in Washington, DC is provided free to Veterans by donations from generous individuals and organizations. The Veterans Foundation of North Carolina is proud to be a supporter for the past three years.

For additional information or to apply for the next flight, go to Honor Flights of NC





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"

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

The Leader Magazine interviewed two of the 17 District Commanders and asked them to share their thoughts and visions as they perform their duties as District Commanders.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER MICKEY BIGGS - I see as one of our most important challenges the preservation and protection of our Posts. We need to identify those Posts that are falling behind. The District working as a team must help them with recruiting drives and community outreach programs which will help to revive their membership. If we do not start working together to preserve and protect our most valuable resource, the local post, we will continue to lose our connections with our many rural communities. Remember: "Together We Can!"

DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER BOBBI SHEETS - Since I have been District Commander, posts have been receptive to working together to help each other achieve goals that individually they could not have achieved. I would like to see the posts participate in all the VFW programs and see the post service officers track what they recover for Veterans from claims that they submit. I would also like to see at least 5 out of 8 Posts achieve All-American. A DC needs to know what services are available for Veterans in their communities, be able to answer questions that are in the By-Laws and make a firm commitment to attend Post meetings.

WE EXTEND A SPECIAL SALUTE TO OUR DC'S WHO ARE BUSY EVERY DAY!

VFW POST 5202 WAYNESVILLE, NC



(L-R) Comrade Sam Cahill & Auxiliary member Cheryl Danek raise funds for Post Honor Guard.



Post Auxiliary member & Dist. 17 President Adele Barcia speaks with community members about VFW programs.



Comrade Terry Browning (L) and Auxiliary member Joyce Browning (R) at Hillbilly Jam

VFW Post 5202 has hit the ground running to start the 2023-2024 year! The Hillbilly Jam, a local two-day music festival in Maggie Valley, NC that was successful in recruiting new members and The Summer Slam that celebrated the end of summer and encouraged the local community to learn more about the VFW.

DATES TO REMEMBER



2023

NOVEMBER 2-5
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
TULSA, OK

2024

FEBRUARY 2-4
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
EMBASSY SUITES,
GREENSBORO, NC

MARCH 2-6
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
WASHINGTON, DC

MARCH 3-7
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

JUNE 6-9
DEPARTMENT
VFW CONVENTION
EMBASSY SUITES
GREENSBORO, NC

JULY 27-AUGUST 1
NATIONAL CONVENTION
LOUISVILLE, KY

HAPPY FALL!

*"A TIME TO ENJOY
NATURE'S BEAUTY"*





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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:**

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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

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MICKEY BIGGS

**US
NAVY
VETERAN**



**IRAN/YEMEN
INDIAN OCEAN
1978-1980**

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2024-2025

**Gold Legacy Life Member VFW Post 8969, Lumberton/St Pauls
Red Star Life Member Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 24
VFW National Home Life Member**

National Assistant Inspector General NC 2021-2022

Nat. Comm. Veterans Service Resolutions 123rd Nat. Conv. 2022

Nat. Comm. On General Resolutions 120th National Conv. 2019

Department of North Carolina Inspector 2020-2024

Department Long Range Planning Committee 2023-20224

Department By-Laws Committee 2020-2023

Department Commander's Liaison Officer 2018-2019

Current District 8 Commander 2023-2024

District 8 All-American Commander 2019-2020

Commander VFW Post 8969 Lumberton/St Pauls 2014-2019

All-American Post Commander 2017-2018

VFW Post 8969 Junior Vice Commander 2013-2014

Current VFW Post 8969 Judge Advocate 2023-2024

Life Member American Legion VFW Post 545 Wilmington, NC

Wreaths Across America Site & Sponsor Coordinator 2018-Present

TOGETHER-WE CAN!

FALL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION





What veterans need to know about Medicare coverage

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

During the Medicare Advantage Annual Election Period, which runs each year Oct. 15-Dec. 7, individuals eligible for Medicare can select their health insurance plan for the following year. For veterans, this can be confusing, as many receive benefits through Veterans Affairs or have coverage through TRICARE for Life or CHAMPVA.

As someone who works closely with veterans to help them understand the role Medicare plays in their health care, I am sharing some of the questions I often receive from those contemplating their options.

If I have health care benefits through Veterans Affairs, do I need to enroll in Medicare when I become eligible?

Yes, the VA encourages you to enroll in Medicare to complement your VA health care benefits. If you need care from a non-VA hospital or doctor, Medicare can provide coverage. Having Medicare coverage ensures you are covered if funding for VA health care changes. If the VA only authorizes certain services at a non-VA or VA authorized care facility, Medicare may cover additional services the VA isn't able to provide. With Medicare Part D, available through private insurers as a stand-alone plan or part of a Medicare Advantage plan, you will have the option to get medication prescribed by non-VA doctors and use your local pharmacy.

How does Medicare Advantage work with TRICARE or CHAMPVA?

If you have TRICARE for Life or CHAMPVA, you may consider a Medicare Advantage plan for additional benefits – such as dental, hearing and vision coverage, prescription drug coverage, fitness

programs, or even Part B givebacks – depending on the plan you select. The Medicare Advantage plan will become your primary coverage and may require that you see in-network providers and file claims for reimbursement of TRICARE-covered services.

What should I consider when looking at plan options?

It is important to evaluate the costs of either government-administered Original Medicare or the Medicare Advantage plans available in your area, including monthly premiums, deductibles, copayments, and maximum out-of-pocket amounts. You should review your total health care expenses from the past year and try to anticipate what you may spend in the coming year, for example, if you are expecting any surgeries or procedures.

Original Medicare provides coverage through any provider that accepts Medicare; however, it typically only covers about 80% of the cost, and there are no limits for your portion. Medicare Advantage plans include maximums for out-of-pocket costs, but they do operate with provider networks, so you should verify your health care providers participate with the plans.

Where can I go to get more information?

Look to credible sources, such as Medicare.gov or Humana.com, to compare plans and estimate costs. To help determine the best combination for you, be sure to leverage available resources, such as, education events and one-on-one meetings with licensed sales agents. You can also call Humana's veteran-specific line at **833-585-VETS** for assistance.



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 a stand-alone PDP prescription drug plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. The Part B Giveback Benefit pays part or all of your Part B premium and the amount may change based on the amount you pay for Part B.

VFW NATIONAL HOME BUDDY POPPY CHILD

Introducing the 2023-2024 VFW National Home Buddy Poppy Child! Layla is 12 years old and lives in the Illinois House with her mother and four brothers. Layla just completed 6th grade and is looking forward to 7th grade in the Fall. “When I grow up I want to be an entrepreneur, so I can be my own boss.” says Layla.

Her hobbies are playing video games, building things from cardboard, playing the keyboard and taking her dog Potato for walks. She loves living at the National Home “because we have a home that is safe and beautiful. “We wouldn’t have had this opportunity If it wasn’t for my Mom and her military service.

She served in the World’s Finest Navy in Aviation Ordinance. She deployed 4 times and loved serving her country. I am proud of my mom, and of all the men and women who have given their lives, who have served and who continue to fight to keep America safe.”



Layla playing keyboard



Layla with her mother, Luisa and brothers Noah & Jaxon

FOR INFORMATION ON THE VFW NATIONAL HOME VISIT

info@vfnationalhome.org

COOTIES



The Grand of North Carolina is working hard in Hospitals and Nursing Homes throughout the State doing what we do best, which is making sure our Veterans are taken care of while making them smile. We have welcomed a new Pup Tent into our crummy fraternity in Elizabeth City, Pup Tent 1, "Swamp Rats". We would like to say Big BOO (Our version of cheering) to Mark Larkin as being elected as our Supreme Seam Squirrel (National Commander) in cootie talk. One of his programs is Veteran suicide awareness. To aid in this cause that affects us all, we as a Grand are hosting an event called "Supreme Strides" in April 2024 in the Triad area. There will be more information to follow. In November the Grand of NC will be in Washington, DC at Arlington Cemetery to place wreaths for all of our cooties in NC.

If you are interested in learning more about the cooties please contact us so we can set up meet and greets in your area. We always love spreading the word and have cootie milk and cookies. As always we are going to keep doing a lousy-crummy job as cooties and never have fun. We are all VFW first and foremost and are here to benefit your post.



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FAYETTEVILLE VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES



VFW Post 6018 and Auxiliary served 125 soldiers and family members of 108th ADA Organizational Day. We are glad to be of service to our active service members and their families. Again, our involvement and commitment to our community is of great importance.



The Post and Auxiliary partnered with the Fayetteville Woodpeckers for the Back-to-School Supply Giveaway. Our Post donated 20 boxes of school supplies for this event. We gave away supplies to over 1500 area students. Commander Beard and President Barbara Beard distributed Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Essay Packets to eligible students. The parents and students were very appreciative. We are honored to be a part of this community event.



VFW Post 6018 & Auxiliary participated in the 82nd Sustainment BDE Retention & Awards Day.

We even picked up a few new members in the process. Recruitment and membership retention are so important to the success of our Post.



It takes a small army to prepare and serve lunch to over 1200 3rd ESC soldiers and family members for their Back-to-School Celebration. The Post accepted the challenge and accomplished the mission. There is strength in numbers and I am proud to say that the Post & Auxiliary had a strong showing. We are blessed to have this opportunity to serve our troops and their family members.

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

SGT WILLIAM E. ROBINSON VFW POST 7775



The Post received the Outstanding Community Service Award for 2022-23. SGM (Ret) Bridget Lightner/Post Commander and Service Officer Seenie Lawson-Shabazz accepted the award from Past Commander Tim Woods on behalf of the entire Post and Auxiliary members at the Fall CofA. This was a Team effort.



The Post & Parkwood CME Church partnered with Novant Health Community for free Back-to-School immunization for youth K-12. Novant mobile truck called the Cruiser, was well staffed with admin, nurses and police officers. Over seventeen youth were served and the parents were happy about the event.

VFW POST 6060 DONATES TO FOOD DRIVE

The Department Commander threw down the gauntlet stating that she wanted to conduct a food drive to donate to a local Food Bank. In true VFW style Post Commander Robert Snook and Auxiliary President Mary Coatney created interest in the program and donations came rolling in and the food was transported and off loaded in Greensboro. When the dust settled, Elizabeth City VFW Post 6060 ended up donating 1,160 pounds of food, and the Department donated over 2,200 pounds to the local Food Bank. Post Commander Snook acknowledged that “helping the community is a crucial part of the VFW’s mission. Now we can see if we can top these numbers in the Spring as Cdr. Nelson wants to continue the event.”



LEWIS EARL JACKSON VFW POST 4309

Chartered in August 1945, VFW Post 4309 has received an award for their 75th Anniversary. The Post celebrates holidays with the community. Visits from Santa, Easter egg hunts and plenty of trick-or-treaters. They host poker runs to benefit Canine Warriors, have post member picnics with corn hole, horseshoes, music and food. The Post grounds are open to the Boy Scouts for weekend camping and they are home to the Transylvania Honor Guard. The Post Canteen is open 364 days a year and welcomes the community to Trivia Nights and other games. VFW Post 4309 is proud to be a part of the Brevard, NC community.



Poker Run for Canine Warriors



Our Post Home



Enjoying Post Picnic



Canteen Mgr. Francis & Santa



Christmas Time



Senior Vice Steve Powell receiving 75th Anniversary Award from Past Cdr. Victor Letourneaut



Induction of 2023-2024 Post Officers



Ray Pavlik at Halloween Fest



Easter Egg Hunt

PURPLE HEART BANQUET



**100 year old James Deal
Receiving Quilt of Honor**



**South Stokes High School
JROTC Color Guard**



**Post Auxiliary member Beth Caudill,
Post 5352 Cdr. Josh Hunt and 7 time
Purple Heart recipient Steven Sorrell**

The North West Piedmont Heart Foundation held its 9th Annual Purple Heart Banquet on Saturday August 19th at Richard Childress Racing in Welcome, NC. Over 650 Purple Heart Recipients, families of Gold Star recipients and guests enjoyed an evening of recognition, awards and a delicious banquet.

The oldest Purple Heart recipient was James Deal who was 100 years old and served in the Army during WWII. James was presented a Quilt of Honor made by Vietnam Veteran Chuck Hoover. The youngest Purple Heart recipient was Alan Nelson, a 36 year old Army veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alan was also presented with a Purple Heart Plaque.

The Aisle of Honor and Presentation of Colors was provided by South Stokes High School Marine JROTC Color Guard under the command of CWO-3 Rafel Jurkiewicz and MSgt Brian Grogan.

Award presenters were Past VFW Department Commander Tim Woods, VFW Department Chaplain Alecia Judd, Military Order of the Cooties Supreme Historian Rob Caudill, Department VFW Auxiliary President Connie Holt, VFW Post Commander Josh Hunt, District 11 Adjutant Dolphus Troy and Purple Heart Board members Stephen Amos and Beth Caudill.

Purple Heart recipient and Army Veteran Steve Sorrell was recognized as receiving 7 Purple Hearts and was also a POW. He was presented a poem entitled "Bless Our Veterans" by Nancy Sherman.

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