

NC VFW

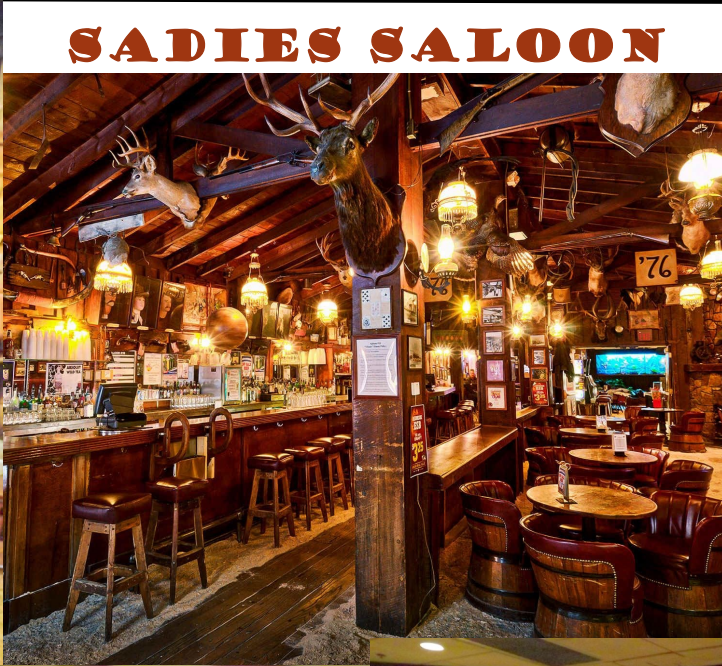
# The Leader

Magazine Winter 2022/23



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

## SADIES SALOON



COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OCTOBER 2022



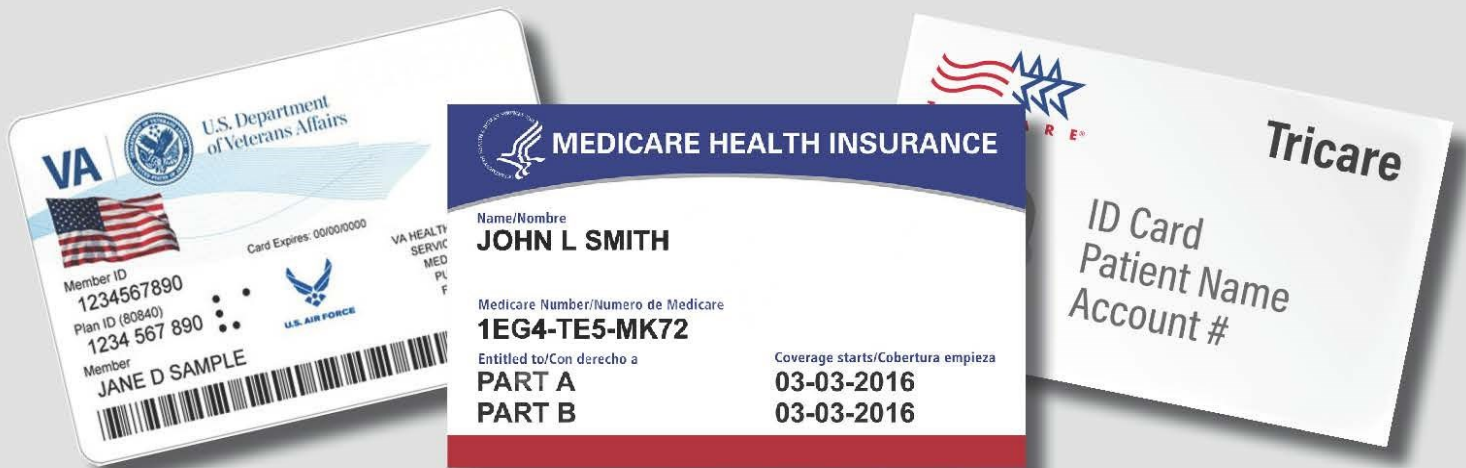
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**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Letters, stories, materials or photographs  
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less sender provides SASE.

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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**ON THE COVER**  
October 2022 COA Sadies Saloon

**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://vfwnc.com)

# STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



## COMRADES COOTIES & AUXILIARY MEMBERS

First off, greetings and happy holiday season to you all. The Department hosted a successful

Southern Conference in Asheville at the end of October. Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended. Through our hard work we had a great conference.

Now that the year is halfway through, we are looking toward our Winter Conference in Greensboro in February. There we will be honoring our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year winners along with our Buddy Poppy King and Queen and Prince and Princess.

We will be changing up the banquet dinner this year with a 1940's theme with themed USO attire. If you can put something together or have your military uniform please wear for the event.

As always, recruiting is a big topic this year and we want to make sure we are recruiting at all times. Also ensure that your posts are logging on to [vfwnc.com](http://vfwnc.com) and updating the Department dashboard, as well as updating the National dashboard on the On-Line Membership System (OMS).

With the colder weather coming let's make sure to check in on our shut-in Veterans and their families. Call, drive by and pay them a visit, also help a homeless Veteran if you are able to do so.

Comrades, for this New Year I am wishing for the utmost success to our Posts, Districts and Auxiliary.

The Department is always here to assist in any way possible with membership, recruiting and other forms of support to make our Department Strong and Successful.

Sadie and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season and New Year.

**"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



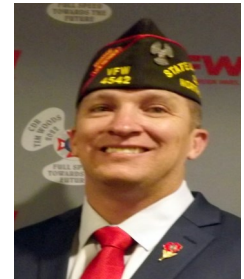
Senior Vice Cdr.  
Helen Nelson



Junior Vice Cdr.  
Annie Cummings



Adjutant/QM  
Joe Horn



Judge Advocate  
Josh Holt

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



**The VFW Foundation** has had a busy year! More and more, groups who aid Veterans and their families, are coming out of the “covid slump” and beginning to become active again. The Foundation is proud to support a number of programs of the Department of North Carolina VFW. Those programs include NC Disaster Relief, Veterans Relief Fund, and Voice of Democracy. For over 3 years the Foundation has fully funded the Voice of Democracy Essay Scholarship Program, guaranteeing that each District winner will receive a minimum of **\$1,000** in scholarships to help further their higher education. Over the next 3 years, we have **\$150,000+** designated for these VFW programs, and just recently the Foundation voted to increase our contribution for NC Disaster Relief by an additional **\$16,000+**, making our total commitment to NC Disaster Relief approximately **\$60,000**. These totals do not include the thousands of dollars the Foundation has already given to NC VFW programs over the past 5 years.

In addition to Department of North Carolina programs, the Veterans Foundation of NC is always looking for new ways to support needy NC Veterans and their families. We fund Guitars for Vets which provides lessons and a free guitar to each NC Veteran who completes the 1-10-lesson course. Veterans Healing Farm in Hendersonville, NC provides NC Veterans the opportunity to work on an actual farm as well as attend numerous workshops on topics as diverse as “Starting Your Own Farm”, working on an active farm, partnering with Warrior Canine Connection to train service dogs for NC Veterans, and “Depression and How to Deal with It”.

Produce grown on the farm is distributed to NC Veterans at the VA in Asheville and other locations in Western North Carolina. This year the farm grew and donated over **5,000 pounds** of vegetables and a variety of flowers to Veterans and produced approximately **220 bottles** of honey from their bee hives.

The Foundation also supported Footbridge Free Dental Care for Vets in NC providing exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions and crowns. In 2022, Footbridge held 2 Dental Clinics and served **580** patients all at no charge.

In 2023 the Foundation will help support 4 Honor Flights in NC to Washington, DC to visit the memorials at no cost to the Veterans.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ken Sellers, Board President





## EDITOR'S COMMENTS



### GREETINGS

### COMRADES!

Congratulations are in order for the Co-Chairmen of the Southern Conference meeting, the Southern Conference committee and all the volunteers who worked so hard to ensure the meeting was a success. Held in Asheville, North Carolina and hosted by the Department of North Carolina. Comrade Steve Amos and Department Commander Tim Woods put together an awesome event which hosted the 14 Departments of the Conference and over 500 comrades and Auxiliary members. Hosted on a rotating basis by all the Conference Departments, North Carolina will host again in 2036.

Lots of activities going on this Fall, as usual. Training new officers throughout the Department, putting together necessary paperwork at the post and district levels, conducting our core programs in our communities, celebrating and honoring major holidays both in our Veteran's community and the community at large. With all of these activities going on, let's not lose focus on helping Veterans, especially those in need of support.

Finally, the midterm elections have come to an end with only a handful of runoff elections remaining. Regardless of your political affiliation, I hope that you exercised the most important right you have - to vote. Secondly, I hope that you voted for those who will have your/our back (s) as Veterans. I hope that you will be vocal with your elected officials at all levels in expressing the needs of your brother and sister Veterans going forward. Without our input and our voice our benefits will be lost.

### KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

One of the most iconic New Year's traditions is the ball-drop at New York City's Time Square. Why do we watch this huge ball slide down a pole at midnight? According to tradition we have been watching the ball drop since 1907, with the first ball being a 700 pound sphere made from iron, wood and 100 light bulbs. The custom stems from an old maritime tradition when "time balls" were dropped at noon so sailors could adjust their clocks to local time.

Today the ball has evolved into a brightly patterned orb covered with LED lights and Waterford Crystal panels that weighs nearly 12,000 pounds.

The celebration of New Year's has a long dated history back to ancient times some 4,000 years--in 2,000 B.C--to ancient Babylon.

So when you are making your New Year's resolutions and celebrating our New Year's traditions, remember that millions of people around the world will be celebrating with you.

When the ball drops this year, ringing in 2023, we might like to jump off chairs, as the Danes do at the stroke of midnight, to literally "leap" into a luck-filled new year.

# VFW POST 7288 AUXILIARY SUPPORTS SCHOOLS



**Calabash VFW Post 7288 Auxiliary President Wayne Weszka presents a check to Waccamaw School Assistant Principle Jane Grey Browning while School Counselor, Mary Chestnut (L) and VFW Auxiliary Vice President Cathy Milstead look on.**



**Principle Sam Jennings of Union Elementary School in Shallotte accept a check for \$500 to assist in supplying school needs. Auxiliary President Wayne Waszka and Vice President Cathy Milstead made the presentation.**

**VFW Post 7288 Auxiliary, Calabash, NC** actively supports Veteran and community charities with on going charitable activities throughout the year such as the ever popular, and open to the public, BINGO which is held at the post every Thursday evening. The post is located at 900 Carter Drive in Calabash. The post also hosts special events throughout the year, like dinners and the Chinese Auction.

As a note, the contribution to the Union Elementary School in Shallote, will be used to buy Winter coats, shirts and pants for students in need at the school. As colder weather approaches, students sometimes show up without a coat or have older clothing that does not fit. Charitable funds like this help make sure all students are clothed appropriately. Principle Jennings told the Auxiliary that gifts like these are truly a blessing to so many students.





# COME FLY WITH US.



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**Kyle Corgan is a ten-year veteran of the United States Army. Kyle served as a forward observer with the 2nd Infantry division and 82d Airborne Division during his tenure of service. Kyle successfully completed numerous schoolings while he served but is most proud of completing Ranger and Jumpmaster training during his service. Kyle's focus is now taking care of his Veteran comrades via their essential insurance. Kyle is a 22-year veteran of the financial services industry and wants to help you determine how he can save you on insurance premiums. The best coverage with the best company suited to your needs. Kyle is an insurance broker, and his mission is to keep the money in your pocket not the pocket of the insurance company!**

**Reach out and kick the tires. Should Kyle not have the ability to save you money on insurance premiums. He will tell you that you already have sufficient coverage.**





# DATES TO REMEMBER

# WINTER WONDERLAND



**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**

**JULY 22-27**

**VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION  
PHOENIX, AZ**

**NOVEMBER 2-5**

**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE  
TULSA, OK**







**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**

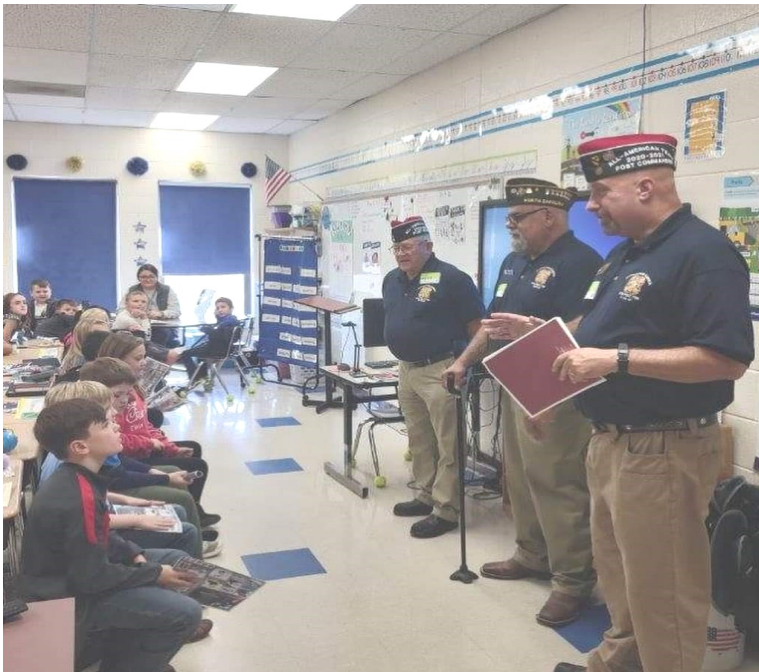
**Past Public Affairs Officer Central Representative**

**Current Chairman Past District Commanders Club**

**Current Veterans & Military Support Chairman – 5 years**

**“Less Talk, More Action”**

# VFW POST 7794 HEADS BACK TO SCHOOL



As Veteran's Day approached, members from the **Captain Mark Garner VFW Post 7794** found themselves returning to school. They were invited into Elkin Elementary school by teachers, Jennifer Hudspeth and Denise Cordovato to speak with students on the meaning of Veteran's Day. Nine members from VFW Post found themselves bombarded and nearly overrun with questions by a jubilant group of second and third graders who wanted to know what it was like to fly helicopters, be in a submarine or crawl in the mud. Well now they know, thanks to our Veterans like Jon Garing (photo top right), an Army Vietnam Helicopter pilot who told the young students kinda what it was like to fly in that war. Quickly shifting gears and making the children laugh, was Navy Vietnam Veteran Meade Lott (photo top right), who served on several submarines. Mead told his story of how they would often go to sea for several weeks at a time. According to Meade, a crew of 74 men and 10 officers had only one bottle of water per man to wash with ....which meant no showers.

Air Force Veteran Tim Hurst (photo top right) is shown helping a young student read from the article that VFW Post 7794 created to teach students about Veterans Day using photos of Veterans, many of which are members of the post.

The photo on the top left shows Commander John Hawkins, Senior Vice Commander Darell Holloway and Lenny Castro, three Army Veterans who shared their stories of what it was like crawling in the mud.

Truly a great day thanks to our Veterans, Elkin Elementary School and teachers Jennifer Hudspeth and Dense Cordova.



# COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OCTOBER 2022







# Humana Welcomes Home Vietnam Veterans with Pinning Ceremonies

From small towns to large cities across the nation, 2.7 million young Americans were sent more than 8,000 miles from home to serve in the Vietnam War. After returning to the states, many Vietnam veterans weren't welcomed home publicly or recognized for serving their country.

Humana works to make sure all Vietnam War-era service members receive the warm welcome and recognition they deserve. For several years, Humana has conducted pinning ceremonies nationwide to honor and thank Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice.

In 2012, President Barack Obama and Congress established the Vietnam War Commemoration program to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The 13-year-long Vietnam War Commemoration enlists Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct pinning events and activities that honor 6.2 million Vietnam War-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of duty location, and their 9 million family members.

Humana is a Commemorative Partner and has participated in pinning ceremonies nationwide to provide veterans with a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin as a thank you from our nation.

This year, Humana has distributed the commemorative pins to hundreds of veterans across the country at many events, including:

- Oklahoma History Center pinning ceremony on March 29 in Oklahoma City
- Rolling to Remember in Washington, D.C., during Memorial Day Weekend
- Heroes Honor Festival on May 28 in Daytona Beach, Florida
- Pinning ceremony at Jim Taylor VFW Post 8845 on June 16 in Fort Smith, Arkansas
- Commemorative ceremonies on Aug. 20 in Gulfport, Mississippi, and on Sept. 16 in Honolulu
- Stockton Ports Hats Off to Heroes Night on Sept. 3 in Stockton, California

Humana has conducted more than 80 pinning and proclamation ceremonies since 2017, and it will continue to sponsor these events to show its appreciation to Vietnam War-era veterans and provide the welcome home they have waited years to receive.

The Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Nov. 11, 2025.



For more information, visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://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](http://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**<sup>®</sup>

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# COOTIES

## 87th Tomb Trek 2022 Arlington National Cemetery

This year the North Carolina Military of the Cootie and Auxiliaries participated in the ANNUAL SOLEMN TREK to the Argonne Cross and Tomb of the Unknowns on November 4-5th 2022. We had a great time conducting business at the Tomb Trek COA. On Sunday we had a memorial service followed by the wreath laying ceremony. NC had the privilege to lay wreaths for departed Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery.





# VFW POST 670 FAYETTEVILLE, NC



VFW Post 670, Fayetteville, NC has been busy hosting community events, dinners and fund raisers. The Annual Gold Star Family Dinner, held during the Cumberland County Welcome Home Heroes Week, was attended by 50 people and 12 Gold Star families were recognized for their families sacrifices to our country.

District 8 Comrades and Auxiliary members hosted a Buddy Poppy Membership Drive at



the annual Welcome Home Heroes Chili Cook Off Community fundraiser.

Posts 10, 670, 2843, 4542, 6018, 8969 and 10630 participated.

District and Post Commander Mike Baker and various members from the posts and auxiliaries raised over \$400 for the Buddy Poppy Relief Fund and gained 4 new members.



# FAYETTEVILLE VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES



The Post participated in the Downtown Fayetteville Fourth Friday. Several Members came out to support the event including our very own Senior Vice Commander Helen Nelson. The Post recruited several new members. Way to go SSG James B. Dennis of VFW Post 6018.



It was nice seeing VFW Post 10 hard at work at the Raeford Fall Fest. Thank you for being out in the community spreading the word about the VFW. Great job! Good to see Past District Commander John Henry who I have not seen in a while.



To commemorate Veteran's Day VFW Post 6018 and Auxiliary assisted with the placing of over 1500 flags at the gravesites of our Fallen Veterans at the Fort Bragg Post Ceremony.



Members of the Post participated in the Color Closing Ceremony for the 82nd Finance Battalion "Diamond in the Sky". The essence of the Closing Ceremony is an event marked by tradition, honor, respect and sacrifice. The Post provided the food for the day and we were honored to be a part of this historic event. We look forward to doing more in the future.



# VFW POST 7775 - CHARLOTTE, NC

VFW Post 7775 has a first in that they have their first female commander in Bridgette Lightner who took command in June 2022. The Post has been very busy with a Family Day Event, Community Open Houses, Donating socks to homeless Veterans in Charlotte and various other community events.



**Commander Bridget Lightner, Quartermaster Hillary Gaston Sr., Jr. Vice Barbara Ray and Comrade Andrew Newman assist with back to school supplies collection.**



**VFW Post 7775 was honored to be invited to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade. Carolina Freedom organized the event. This was a day to Honor all Veterans who died for this country.**



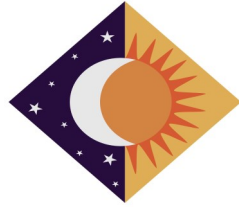
**VFW members, a volunteer and Chick-Fil-A staff participate in the Veterans Benefit Lives Event.**



**In September a Family Day was held at the Post to show our appreciation to our Comrades and their families.**



# EQUINOX RANCH



**Helping Warriors Heal**



Here is a great Veteran Charity that Dr. Margo Capparelli and her talented team are doing amazing things with at Equinox Ranch located outside of Asheville in Cullhowee, NC. Equinox Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 2015 to embrace the mental, emotional and physical well-being of Military Veterans through a customized therapy program conducted on a 23 acre Mountain Ranch including a huge 5000 square foot custom-designed Mountain Lodge. Most impressive is that Dr. Capparelli has funded a large majority of this Veteran Support Initiative with her own vision, her own pocketbook and the assistance of a few key volunteer organizations. Margo has a clear, precise and well organized vision which is directly supporting our Military Veteran Community.

Veterans who served in combat, regardless of type of discharge or combat era, are eligible to apply for this no-cost program. The goal of Equinox Ranch is to provide an environment and support for Veterans who are ready for change and willing to seek help from others.

***Information: [equinoxranch.org](http://equinoxranch.org)/Email: [equinox.ranch@yahoo.com](mailto:equinox.ranch@yahoo.com)/Phone: 828-356-8370***



Meet Floyd Lindel (Lin) Davidson a retired USAF Security Police NCO who has worked with a team of volunteers over the past 5 years renovating the ranch and the beautiful surroundings. Lin is a dedicated volunteer who has helped make this original dream a reality. Lin sees himself as a simple force multiplier who is there to provide some instruction and expertise to get the job done.



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- 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](mailto: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.

# BILLY RAY CAMERON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Billy Ray Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament was held Saturday August 27th at Twin Oaks Golf Club in Statesville, NC. VFW Post 2031 hosted the very successful event.

For those new to the Department of North Carolina VFW, Billy Ray Cameron was born in Lee County, NC. He served his country from 1966 to 1969 in the U.S. Marine Corp, served as NC State Commander from 1975-1976, and was the very first Vietnam War Veteran to be elected to the position of National Commander-in-Chief in 1984.

The two day memorial event began on Friday with a golf practice round. Saturday morning started with the Statesville local American Legion Post 65 present the colors followed by taps. A four-man Captain's choice format was played on Saturday with closest to the pin, putting contest and a 50/50 draw after the round. Food was served before and after the round at the clubhouse and a "Pig Pickin" and "Chicken Pluckin" was held at the Post picnic area that evening. Several districts and numerous posts sponsored the two-day event as well as 41 sponsors ranging from \$100 to \$500. In addition, 25 teams participated from all over the State. Statesville was honored with the attendance of VFW State Commander Tim Woods, Senior Vice Commander Helen Nelson; Junior Vice Commander Annie Cummings; Chaplin Alicia Judd and VFW State Service Officer Jay Wood. Others in attendance were 14th District Commander Art Gordon, 12th District Commander Bobbi Sheets; Past State Commander Allen Payne who also served as the Tournament Chairman and VFW Post 2031 Commander Terry Dagenhart.

## **Bronze Star Sponsors**

**VFW Post 670, Fayetteville**

**VFW Post 5303 - Donald L. Drum, Newton**

**VFW Post 2031 - Statesville**

**All American Striping - Terry & Chris Dagenhart**

**VFW Post 2031 - Auxiliary, Statesville**

**VFW Post 10950 - Outer Banks**

**VW District 12, NC**

**Patriot Axe Throwing, Statesville**

## **Silver Star Sponsors**

**Angie Travis Roberts, Realtor/Broker**

**Jay & Lisa Wood, VFW Post 9010,  
Clemmons**

**WAME Radio - Billy Buck, Statesville**

**Doug Marshal, Advocate Health Advisors**

**Gary Duncan, Realtor/Broker, Statesville**

**Paul Rash, Custom Performance Roofing**



*Billy Ray Cameron*



## **Gold Star Sponsor**

**City Motors - Ed Marlowe,  
Statesville**

## **Medal of Honor Sponsors**

**VFW Post 7288 - Calabash**

**Carpet Rentals., Inc, Statesville**

**Marty's Pub & Grill, Statesville**

**VFW Post 1706, Lincolnton**

**VFW District 14, NC**

**VFW Post 4066, Shelby**

## **Special Thanks To**

**Chris & Jessica Dagenhart &  
Dean Roberts**

**VFW Post 5305 - Donald L. Drum  
Newton**

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