

THE LEADER MAGAZINE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

WWW.VFWNC.COM



"A-TEAM"

24/25





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

licensed insurance agent
Advocate Health Advisors

(336) 416-3320 TTY:711

Doug.Marshall@advocatehealthllc.com

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Features: The Election Edition

On the cover: 2024-2025 Commanders Logo, & pictures from the summer convention

Inside Cover: Doug Marshall, Advocate Health Advisors

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10. Fourteen Battle Stars; Dist 6 Day of Service
- 11/12 NC District Commanders & Locations
13. Gov. Cooper Declares Female Combat Veteran Day
14. Cooties: 75th Anniversary of Pup Tent 24 ;
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16. Wake Forest Purple Heart Banquet; 40th Anniversary of Grenada
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18. WWII Veteran visit; Happy Birthday John "Gourd" Englund
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Back Cover: Richard King, United Healthcare

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

We would love to share your stories, pictures and events, at post and district level,

for comrades & auxiliary. Send correspondence to leaderinfo@vfwnc.com

Submission of articles and photos implies the right to edit and publish all or in part.

Deadlines are 15th of June, September, December & March.



DATES TO REMEMBER

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



The Leader Magazine



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades!

We are off and running for 2024-2025 year and all that lies ahead for us. We should do what we believe in, and believe in what we do!

I sense a real buzz in the air, and excitement about doing some things a bit differently than in the past and taking a fresh look at how we can continue to find new ways to get remarkable results.

I once had a great leader and mentor that said to our team “WE ARE THEY.” What he meant by that, was good or bad, whatever your circumstances are when you accept the leadership roles, its on you.... No ifs ands or butts. The finger pointing can only go one way and it is right back at ourselves. We will accept all responsibility, and determine what actions are needed to improve and achieve continued success, and we will display a great attitude while doing so. If you have an axe to grind, grind it with your District or Department leadership, if you have praises, pass them out everywhere, with sincerity, because people love to be getting caught doing something right. And if you just are not sure, do not be too prideful to ask... I am certain we can find someone who will be happy to tell you where to go get the answers.

Okay, in all seriousness, this is our time, our year, our programs, and our efforts to do the right thing. We are all leaders, where managers do things right, leaders do the right things. While there have been impressive accomplishments around the state from last year, it is a new cycle, and we must start over and do it again this year. We must mentor other comrades to find new leaders to follow us, for we never know when another footstep may not come.

Consider everyone and choose your teams wisely. Remember, anyone can be elected, but not everyone should. It is not the team with the best players that wins, but the players with the BEST TEAM. Be pulley not pushy when you need help to reach goals and complete tasks. You only get to borrow your role for a brief time, you do not own it. Coach new members and cheer them on to proliferate our core values and achieve our mission, every single day, every week, every month, and every year.

We can and we will have times where we can agree to disagree, but do it respectfully. Just because we see something differently, does not make it wrong. Discuss it, share your ideas, and you might just find common ground to improve both sides of the equation. Communication, consideration, and cooperation will go a long way in reducing any ripples in the air. Listening is a two-way street, and it is okay to admit you're wrong, or produce a compromise. Sometimes it can lead to new ways of doing things you never thought of before. Being right does not always lead to a good outcome.

If you are having a miserable day.... Smile at someone and make them feel better. Surprisingly, it might make you feel better too! Attitude is everything so please pick a good one. Take any negative energy and leave it behind when you come out in your VFW mode. If you have an issue, push those negative issues up in the chain of command, and for anyone else beside or below you, always positive. We have an amazing team here in North Carolina, tell them often.

*Respectfully,
Annie Cummings*



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



Commander
Annie Cummings



Sr. Vice Commander
Edward Beard



Jr. Vice Commander
Mickey Biggs



Quartermaster
Jenn Hutt



Adjutant
Alecia Judd



Chaplain
Dolphus Troy



Judge Advocate
Josh Holt



Inspector
Bud Stauffer



Surgeon
Dave Martin



Chief of Staff
Tab Brown



Asst. Quartermaster
Charlie Cable



Aide De Camp
David Long

Not Pictured: Victor Letourneaut, National Council Representative

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS



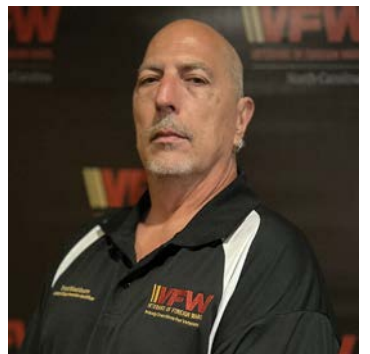
Tab Brown
252-933-2040



Michisa Zahorski
919-616-1223



Cindy Hathaway
336-631-5457



Brad Blackburn
910-740-2285

VFW Department of North Carolina

All State Requirements

2024-2025

Membership

102%

Billy Ray Camron/Otis Brown Scholarship Golf
National Day of Service 1st Weekend May

Comrade of the Year Due District April 5
Must Pass All Required Inspections.

Public Safety Officer Due to Department January 1

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, & Teacher of Year
Due to District November 15

Post Inspections, 1st Canteen Inspections, & Bingo
Inspections Due By Fall Council of Administration.

Create New Member Orientation Package
Ensure Bylaws & SOPs Are Current (Past 5 Years)
Ensure NC Secretary of State Registered Agent
is Current

Commander or Sr Vice or Jr Vice Must Attend
All District Meetings

Quartermaster or Adjutant Must Attend All
District Meeting



Department Convention 2nd Week June-Pay Department
Delegate Dues. Must Have the Commander and/or one
Delegate at the Department Convention

3rd Quarter (Jan-Mar) Trustee Report April 30
Election Report Due National April 30

2nd Quarter (Oct-Dec) Trustee Report January 30
Winter Council of Administration 1st Weekend February

Raffle Ticket Due Department January 15

1st Quarter (Jul-Sept) Trustee Report October 30

Fall Council of Administration 1st Weekend October

Bond Paperwork August 31

4th Quarter (Apr-Jun) Trustee Report July 30

Post Buddy Poppy Order

VMS Donation to National \$125

National Convention Delegate Registration & Dues
July

Post Officers Must Maintain Current Membership

Must Have Proof of Current IRS 990 Tax Filing



DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY MESSAGE



Comrades, Brother and Sisters,

Let me start off with personally thanking everyone for your genuine love and support during my climb to becoming Department President. The time is finally here and WE have worked hard the last few years in the Department of North Carolina to establish ourselves, to become further educated, and find new methods and ways to love and take care of our Veterans and their families. I have heard it said that without a vision the people will perish but we are far from that. As your New President, I want to share with you the following information: My 2024-2025 Theme is: “Serving Those Who Have Served with Love”.

Due to my own personal experiences, I have chosen as my Special Project: Brain Injury Association of North Carolina. We have so many veterans and their family members living with TBIs and PTSD as a result of their service. And I have been challenged by PDP Connie Holt to exceed the her established goal made this year.

Here is a list of my 2024-2025 Department Goals:

- (1) To push for better morale of the members and their families
- (2) To develop genuine relationships with Auxiliary (including Post) members
- (3) To obtain a better understanding of the needs of Veterans and their families

This year Commander Annie and I want to work as a unified family with the VFW and the Auxiliary. Membership is important and as we recruit we will also attempt to recruit for the VFW as well. Teamwork is removing of the “I” and to include the “WE”. Together we can accomplish more.

You will recall over the years that as you passed me in meetings or at conferences and conventions, I made it my business to always smile. I love this organization and I love you too. Our Veterans have worked hard to make our lives great and let’s attempt to do all that we can to return the favor. No volunteer hour or dollar that you give is too small. Just remember that I am just one person, but you are many and I need everyone of you to help make this year successful. We are “Serving Those Who Have Served With Love.”

Loyally Serving,
Sandra A. Jeffries Auxiliary President 2024-2025



Dear Brothers, Sisters and Comrades:

I have been so honored to serve as your Department President and to meet with many of you. I want to thank you for your hospitality; you have helped make memories I will cherish forever. I commend you for your service to our organization. Through your dedication you have ensured the continuation of unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of veterans, their families and our communities. You should all be very proud of a job well done!

I ‘m extremely pleased by the outpouring of support from our members who have contributed to my special project, The Veteran’s Farm of NC. Your generosity will enrich the lives of many Veteran’s and their families who are attending the agriculture programs. You exemplified my theme of “CultiVeting the Future for Our Veterans” by exceeding our monetary goals twice, and raising over \$40,000.00 for the farm.

As we reflect on your many acts of kindness and charity over this past year, our organization draws inspiration from those who answer the call to help our veterans and communities. I appreciate you for your enduring commitment to serving our Veterans and our communities. I trust that you will continue to work for the betterment of others and an even stronger future for our organizations. It is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service, for supporting me and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great organizations. Best Wishes for a successful 2024-2025!

Faithfully Serving Veteran’s,
Connie Holt
Past Department President 2022-2024

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY OFFICERS



Senior Vice
Anna
Holm



Junior. Vice
Lin
Moore



Chaplain
Wendy
Rachels



Conductor/
Secretary
Tracy
Armstrong



Treasurer
Sandra
Johnson-Leu



Guard
Theresa
Billips

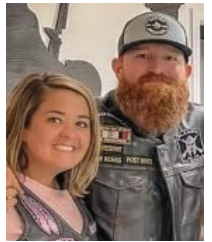
Not Pictured: Chief of Staff, Julia Stancil-Warren

WELCOME OUR NEW PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Ryan Rogers comes from a large family in southern Ohio. He enlisted in the Marines Corps in 2004. He did 5 deployments in his time, two of which were to combat. His non-combat deployments include an RFDf to Washington state, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and to Bahrain as a Quick Reaction Force for southeast Asia. He was also a member of the All-Marine Boxing team for 9 months before his re-enlistment in 2009.

His combat deployments include once to Iraq as an infantry Squad Leader and once to Afghanistan as an infantry Squad Leader. Following his deployment to Afghanistan Ryan struggled with PTSD and TBI, ultimately being retired due to his Hearing loss and his brain injury, as he was hit by 82mm mortars in Marjah, Afghanistan.

Following his retirement, Ryan went to school and graduated Magna Cum Laude with his BA in Homeland Security, published his first book "Lions of Marjah", and founded the Choices Not Chances Podcast, where he interviews veterans about their service and their transition back into the civilian world. Ryan is a retired Marine, an Author, a Public Speaker, and an Instructor and Marketing Manager or Conflict Kinetics Corporation. He lives in Eastern North Carolina with his wife Leslie and their three children. Ryan believes in the veteran community and has dedicated his life to bettering the warfighter through training and transition.

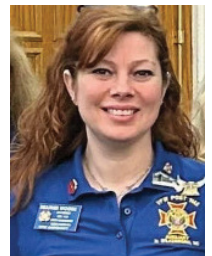


Editor
Ryan Rogers
USMC
Post 9983
Holly Ridge



Before becoming a life member of Post 1142 Auxiliary, Heather covered veterans events for her small Appalachian hometown newspaper, The Wilkes Record. She has won numerous prestigious annual awards from the North Carolina Society of Historians during the 12 years she was a reporter, the majority of these focusing on the local veteran population and their stories.

Heather has an impressive lineage of veterans in her family, most notably her grandmother, Betty H. Rowland, (Army Nurse Corps, & Army Air Corps,) who was the first female state Commander of N.C. in 96-97, as well as a member of The Military Order of The Cootie, & National Buddy Poppy Chair. Heather was always intrigued with the stories her grandmother told of nationwide conventions she attended, legislature in DC, & fighting for veterans rights; specifically for women like her who served in WWII to be federally recognized as a Veteran. These molded her to want to serve the veteran community as she grew up. It wasn't until the swearing in, when Heather stood beside her grandmother & watched big name politicians from D.C. ask for her autograph & picture, what a history making hero her 4 foot 11 "Ma's" actually was. The bar was raised that day, & Heather strives to go above and beyond any chance she's given to make our veterans & their families seen & heard, never to be forgotten.



Publisher
Heather Dean
Post 1142
N. Wilkesboro

Heather is also an Ambassador for Mission 22, fighting the war against veteran suicide. She has two daughters, raised just like she was, with the knowledge & tenacity of her grandmother.

She currently resides with her husband, Timothy Woods, 2 dogs, 3 cats, & a very fat pond toad.

Thank You North Carolina

For your Endorsement

VFW
BOBBY
LOVERGNE
FOR
Junior Vice
Commander in Chief



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Visits Post 5352 in Kernersville

The traveling Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a replica of the monument to American service members whose remains have not been identified. It is a 1/2 scale reproduction of the tomb in Arlington National Cemetery. The traveling tomb is owned and managed by the Exchange Club of Rome, Georgia, and is a traveling exhibit that visits different locations. The exhibit is free of charge and aims to honor the unknown soldiers.

One of their many stops this year included Kernersville. Post Commander, David Long, said of the event “As a Post Commander, our position can be daunting at times. However, there are moments where you are so proud of your Comrades that you can’t put it into words. Hosting the half-size replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was one of those moments. Countless hours of planning, organizing and coordinating went into preparing for the arrival of the Tomb which is based out of Rome, Georgia. Along with the replica, we coordinated with the Wreaths Across America mobile exhibit to be on display as well, seeing how fitting it would be, and it was phenomenal.

At Post 5352 in Kernersville, we have a solid footprint in our community that we have been working on for a while. Our vision and mission are not only to help and assist Veterans in our area but to strengthen the relationship between our Veterans and our surrounding community. So to be able to bring this to our Post speaks volumes about our Comrades at Post 5352 and how they have bought into this vision and mission we have.”



For more information or to inquire about hosting the exhibit, contact:

Bill King, Maj., USAF(ret.), Project Manager
 A CALL TO HONOR: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Replica
 The Exchange Club of Rome, Ga.
 P.O. Box 1184 Rome, Ga. 30162 – 1184
 Phone: (706)766-8451
 Email: kingelfnt@yahoo.com

Pictured Top L-R: Post Commander David Long salutes during TAPS in closing ceremonies; The Tomb replica; TAPS was played in closing ceremonies by Bill King, as Post Senior Vice, Cecil Paradis, salutes.

Bottom L-R : Post Auxiliary made a wreath; Details of the Tomb replica; One of the exhibits information tables featured the history of TAPS.

Photos submitted by David Long & Heather Dean-Woods



Fourteen Battle Stars

I was introduced to Oliver last year and interviewed him for about six months. My uncle, Glen Edmonson, was the Gunnery Lieutenant on the USS Hughes, but he talked little of the war throughout my life, which is not uncommon for veterans of WWII. The photo from his wedding is attached. At his funeral some years ago, there was a full military honor guard, and it got me to research the ship on which he served.

My uncle only told me two things about WWII. Once, when we had just finished watching an HBO show called Kamikaze - The Divine Wind, narrated by Hal Holbrooke, he began to cry and said that had happened to him once. As he teared up, he could not say more but later told me that, because he was an officer, he had received a Japanese samurai sword as a souvenir but could not bear to look at it, and when he got back to Seattle, he opened up a wall, placed it there and sheet rocked and painted back over it. No one knows where that location is from so many decades ago, even to this day, and he was buried in Port Angeles with that secret. He never talked more about WWII with me.

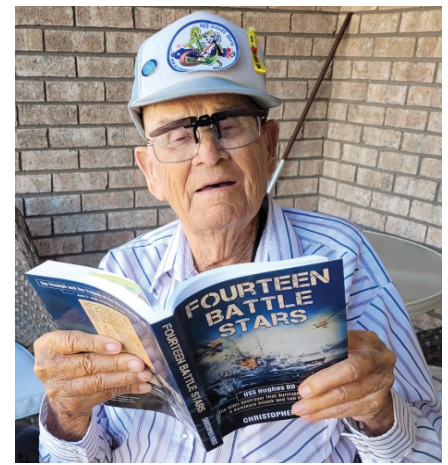
After his death, I felt guilty that I had not tried to get him to talk more about the war, so I began this project. I got in touch with a reunion group for the USS Hughes and discovered that this ship was an unbelievable and untold story of WWII. It fought from the Atlantic throughout the Pacific and ended up going to Bikini Atoll, where they tried but failed to sink her with two atomic bombs. Unfortunately, it had sailors put back aboard her and spent some time in Bremerton,

finally sinking off the coast of California in October of 1948. Parts of the story are almost beyond belief, and some are very tragic.

The reunion group connected me with several daughters of sailors from the ship and Oliver. Oliver is unique, and it is impossible not to love him. He is a remarkable storyteller, and each time I would interview him, he would bug me to finish the book while he was still alive so he could read it. I worked on the book for a year and a half and was talking with a publisher, but they wanted another year and a half to put the book out. After talking with the family members and constant reminders from Oliver about his advancing age, I decided to self-publish on Amazon so Oliver could get a copy of the book.

I published the book on April 21st and sent Oliver the very first copy via Amazon. He received his copy two days later, I called Oliver and told him to go out and look on his porch, but he said, "I know! They delivered it today! I'm reading it now! Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you."

I doubt I will ever sell many of the books, and I am just an ordinary guy, but if getting the book to Oliver so he could hold, see, and read it is all that ever happens, I consider the project a success. I am retired now. My grandfather served on the USS New York, my father was in the USNR, my son was disabled in Afghanistan as a member of the 173rd Airborne U.S. Army, and my



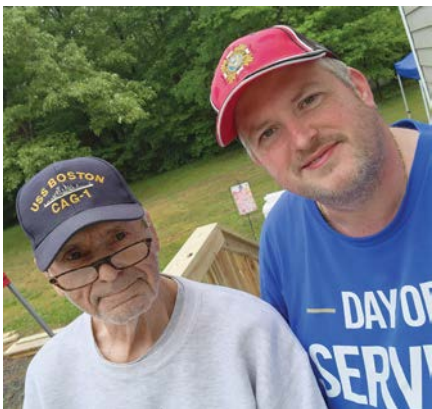
Oliver Jones, 98 years old, is the last living survivor of the USS Hughes in WWII. He was on the ship on December 10, 1944, when a kamikaze hit it in Leyte Gulf.

nephew was KIA in Iraq, so I care deeply about veterans. I was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives and proudly served on the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I a 25-year law enforcement Detective and retired in 2006 as the Commander of a 15-city Homicide/Violent Crimes Task Force. I live in Washington State near Mount Rainier.

There are so few living WWII veterans now, and we should treasure them all while we still can.

Submitted by Christopher Hurst, author of Fourteen Battle Stars.

POST 7316 YANCEYVILLE: DAY OF SERVICE



We built a ramp for 20 year U.S. Navy Veteran FTM 2 Arthur Hebert, who served at the Bay of Pigs and was part of Cuba Missile Crisis serving aboard the USS Boston. He expressed heart felt thanks to the VFW & the volunteers that gathered to build the ramp for him. It was a day of fun and camaraderie despite of the pouring rain.



Follow Us on Facebook: District 6 NC VFW to watch videos from this.

*Submitted by: Chris Brown, Commander District 6 VFWNC
Direct: 919-869-0611 dist6@yfwnc.com*



1. Graham Leaver
6060



2. Robert Bock
9841



3. Jimmy
Baugham



4. David
Burger



5. Nicolas Conrad
9983



6. Christopher
Brown 1920



7. Robert Kennedy
9103



8. Jerry Moser
670



9. Craig Armstrong
7318





10. John Marion
2972



11. Eric Brown
5352



12. Bobbi Sheets
6365



13. Nathaniel Drisker
1160



14. Art Gordon
4066



15. Kevin Ross
7946



16. David Collins
9116



17. Robert Morrow
7339

1- Currituck, Pasquotank, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrel, Dare, Perquimans and Camden.

2-Hyde, Beaufort, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir and Wayne.

3 - Northampton, Halifax, Warren, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson.

4 - Pamlico, Craven, Carteret, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Duplin and Sampson

5- Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover and Topsail Island Post.

6- Caswel, Person, Granville, Vance, Durham, Alamance and Orange.

7- Chatham, Wake, Johnston and Harnett.

8- Cumberland, Robeson and Hoke.

9- Montgomery, Moore, Le, Anson, Richmond and Scotland.

10 - Rockingham, Guilford, Davidson, and Randolph.

11 - Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, Forsyth and Davie.

12 -Rowan, Cabarrus and Stanly.

13 - Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union, and the Kings Mountain 9811

14 - Burke, Lincoln, Catawba, Alexander, Iredel, Cleveland and Rutherford, except for Kings Mtn Post 9811.

15 - Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell and Mitchell. District 16 - Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Yancey and McDowel.

17 - Haywood, Transylvania, Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Macon, Jackson and Swain.



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

COMBAT FEMALE VETERANS DAY

2024

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a combat female veteran is a term that encapsulates the diverse and significant contributions of women in military service; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 2 million female veterans nationally and roughly 70,000 living in North Carolina, the sixth largest population of female veterans in the nation; and

WHEREAS, of the 70,000 female veterans in North Carolina, approximately 45,000 served during a conflict era, including service in conflicts such as World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and more recent engagements in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1782, 21-year-old Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man named Robert Shurtliff and enlisted in the Continental Army under the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, making her one of our nation's earliest combat female veterans; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lorna M. Mahlock became the first African American woman to be nominated for the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Marine Corps in 2018; Mahlock now serves as Major General, Commander of the Cyber National Mission Force; and

WHEREAS, General Ann E. Dunwoody holds the distinction of being the first woman in United States Military history to achieve the rank of four-star general; Dunwoody's career spanned over 37 years, during which she held numerous command positions, including Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs recognizes and appreciates the brave women veterans who have served our country with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina and our nation are grateful for the vital role that women have played and continue to play within the armed forces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2024, as "**COMBAT FEMALE VETERANS DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

Military Order of the Cootie

Lousy greetings from the fertile hunting grounds of North Carolina my fellow cooties, VFW comrades and its Auxiliaries. I would like to thank you all for a crummy year as we have made All Star Grand (All American status) for the Supreme year of 2023-2024. Congratulations to all of you who have helped us to achieve this goal; more importantly the Grand of North Carolina has done over One Million dollars worth of hospital work! Bravo Zulu that is an amazing accomplishment. We instituted a new Pup Tent 1 in Elizabeth City, The Swamp Rats, and they're off to a great start.

Thanks to Mark Larkin from Pup Tent 3, The Creek Crawlers, for doing an amazing job as Supreme Seam Squirrel (CIC) and representing North Carolina. He inspired us to have Supreme Strides in April this year, a walk for suicide awareness and we raised almost \$10,000 dollars for the cause. I wish the next Grand Commander a very lousy year and his staff to keep the Cooties moving forward. Thank you again for the support and handwork you all have done for North Carolina this year.



Regards,
 Tim Woods
 Grand Commander 2023-2024
 Supreme Shirt Reader
 PDC VFWNC 2022-2023

Scenes from Supreme Seam Squirrel, Mark Larkin's, Gnomcoming held in Havlock, NC



Lafayette Nits Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Pup Tent 24 is oldest in NC



Photos by
 Heather
 Dean~Woods

Welcome to the 75th
 Anniversary
 Of
 Lafayette Nits Pup Tent 24
 Established April 13, 1949

Christopher Brown

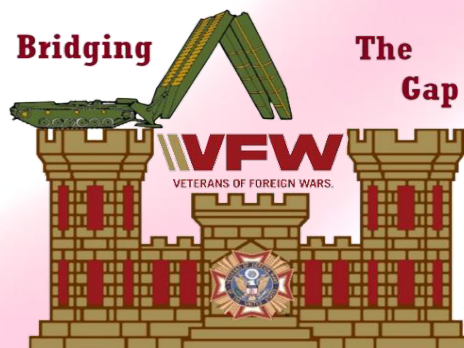
**US
ARMY
VETERAN**



**BOSNIA/SFOR 6
1999
KOREAN DEFENSE
2000-2002**

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2025-2026

**Gold Legacy Life Member, VFW Post #1920, Mebane NC
Life Member Military Order of the Cooties, Pup Tent 11
VFW National Home Life Member
Department Long Range Planning Committee 2024-2025
Department Legislative Liaison – National 2024-2025
Department Buddy Poppy Chairman 2024-2025
Department Public Affairs/Social Media Team 2024-2025
Current District 6 Commander 2022-2025
District 6 All-American Commander 2022-2023
District Voice of Democracy Chairman 2019-2024
District Patriots Pen Chairman 2023-2024
Sr. Vice Commander, Mebane Post #1920 2022-2025
Endowed Member of Bingham Masonic Lodge #272, Mebane NC
Member of the Amran Shriners Temple, Raleigh, NC
Member of the Burlington Shrine Club**



For The Future

Christopher Brown

WAKE FOREST PURPLE HEART FOUNDATION

15th Annual Banquet to be held Saturday, August 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

Wake Forest is proud to be the birthplace in our state to honor our Purple Heart Recipients.

Founded in 2009, the W.F. Purple Heart Foundation honors men and women who fought in all U.S. military conflicts and were bestowed with the Purple Heart medal. This banquet is held every year the week of National Purple Heart Day and is free for Purple Heart recipients and their families. The event is open to the public.

The mission of the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation is to provide a forum for the local community to honor Purple Heart recipients and their families, to foster an environment of goodwill among combat wounded Veterans, to promote patriotism and to encourage the sharing of recipient experiences so future generations will know of the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families.

Held at Richland Creek Community Church, our Annual Banquet is an incredible way to pay tribute to any recipient of the Purple Heart. A refreshingly patriotic event, anyone in the community is welcome to attend or volunteer at the Banquet.

Delivering the keynote will be 2024-2025 National President of American Gold Star Mothers, Patti Elliott. AGSM's membership is composed of mothers who have lost a child while serving or in connection to service in the Armed Services.

Ms. Elliott is the very proud mother of Brad Elliott of Wake Forest, and SPC Daniel "Lucas" Elliott, who was killed on July 15, 2011, in Basra, Iraq. Lucas was an MP in the Army Reserve, attached to the 805th MP CO, located in Cary, NC. In 2009, he volunteered for deployment with the 810th MP CO out of Tampa, Florida, and completed a tour in Iraq. Upon his return, he reattached to the 805th and deployed with the 805th in May 2011. Lucas's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge.

To purchase tickets, download the brochure, and to find more information about the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation, visit wakeforestpurpleheartfoundation.org. Richland Creek Community Church is located at 3229 Burlington Mills Rd, Wake Forest, N.C.



SPC Daniel "Lucas" Elliott

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White – \$250

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Red – \$100

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THE LIBERATION OF GRENADA

40TH ANNIVERSARY

A true measure of sacrifice is making a difference that endures a lifetime.



Lessons from Operation Urgent Fury, the Liberation of Grenada, October, 1983 made fundamental changes to US military joint doctrine. The Rescue Operation that repatriated hundreds of St. George's School of Medicine students, faculty and staff and helped maintain the Truman Doctrine (keeping the Western Hemisphere clear of Communism) celebrated 40 years last fall.

The 118th Military Police Company (Airborne), 16th Military Police Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, home-based at Fort Bragg, NC followed US Special Operators, US Army Rangers, 82nd Paratroopers, and USMC Recon elements covered by USN gunfire and USAF gunships onto the "Isle of Spice" on 27 October 1983.

Nine members of 118th were privileged to return to Grenada, to participate in the 40th Anniversary Commemoration. Ceremonies were both solemn and festive. Camaraderie was everywhere. The Unit met with Gold Star Family members, the US Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, the Principle Officer at Embassy St. George's, SOUTHCOM Deputy Commander, Florida TAG (MG Haas was a paratrooper PFC on OUF), and a multitude of Grenadian VIPs, including the Royal Grenadian Deputy Police Commissioner who was trained by members of the unit during our return to Grenada in 1984 during Operation Island Breeze.

Making a Difference is why we Served then and why we continue to Serve now! Airborne!

Rick Green (Col. US Army, retired)
Post 9983

Gary Szafarski

USA(Ret)

Candidate for Junior Vice Commander

2025 – 2026

- *Post Quartermaster*
- *Post Trustee*
- *All-State Post Commander*
- *District Trustee*
- *All-American Dist. Commander*
- *Hospitality Committee*



A proven leader with over 35 years military experience, I believe together, we can work to sustain the great work accomplished by our Veteran leaders and move forward to ensure the VFW is a place for members to enjoy, build relationships and mentor the next generation of Veterans. The VFW is not going away and with our support, hard work, dedication and spirit, we can address the issues that face many of us today, including Veteran suicide awareness, a difficult subject to discuss.. As an organization, VFW members must be courageous and willing to tackle this challenging topic, facing many of our Comrades. Since 2020, Veteran suicides have increased by 11.6%. This is an unacceptable figure that we must help curtail by becoming more involved in our communities, reaching out to younger Veterans and providing necessary support. Remember, we are all in this together and no one, does more for Veterans!

D-Day Veteran Welcomed at Summer Convention



Frank Perry, age 99, was returning home from France where he attended the 80th anniversary of D-Day. His flight landed in Greensboro, and he made a stop by the Embassy Suites, where he was escorted out of the car by Aide De Camp, David Long, and Past Department Commander, Tim Woods, and saluted by Department Commander, Annie Cummings. Perry was greeted by a full lobby and three balconies of comrades and civilians alike waving American flags, singing God Bless America and cheering for him. He waved his hat to the crowd as he took a seat.

Although exhausted from the trip, he took time to speak to everyone who stood in line to meet him, listening to his story, shaking hands, and signing autographs. Perry served in the Army Air Corps in WWII. Perry said he still likes to cut his grass, workout and play sports at the YMCA.

Happy 100th Birthday John “Gourd” Englund

Cake and camaraderie was plentiful at Richard’s Coffee Shop in Mooresville, as everyone celebrated Gourd Englund on his 100th Birthday.

Englund is a Marine and served in both WWII and Korea. Full of smiles and happy to see everyone, it was hard to believe he was an officially a centenarian. There were few dry eyes as everyone sang Happy Birthday. He was gifted this USMC K-BAR (right) from friend and PDC, Tim Woods.



L-R: Frank Berridge, Englund, & Tim Woods; The delicious cake; Englund welcomes well wishers

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RESULTS



Calabash Post 7288 Presents Quilt of Valor

By Frederick Walton

The VFW Calabash Post 7288 Commander, Mike Dichiera, joined Auxiliary Chaplain/Historian, Julia Larsen, to present a Quilt of Valor, hand made by Julia, to post member Colonel Rosemarie Deck (retired) at the VFW Calabash Post 7288, as her friends and fellow veterans looked on.

Deck was recognized for her long military career and her service in both Kosovo and Afghanistan. Originally from North Dakota, she is an active VFW life member and also a life member of the American Legion, and is currently the webmaster for the VFW Post website.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation (qovf.org) was born out of a dream by founder Catherine Roberts, whose son was serving in Iraq. She dreamed about his war demons dragging him down into an emotional gutter of utter despair. Her dream went on visualize him wrapped in a colorful quilt- The message of her dream was: Quilts equal Healing. The mission of the Quilts of Valor foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with "comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." The first quilt was awarded in November 2003. In 2023, the twentieth anniversary year, volunteers presented over 350,000 comforting and healing quilts to deserving recipients.

A Quilt of Valor is a Civilian Award recognizing an individual's service and sacrifice to defend our county's freedoms, from grateful friends and family who may nominate them for the award of a Quilt of Valor. If you wish to nominate a deserving recipient, visit the nomination page of the their website to learn more about the process.

Larsen has been quilting for many years and has lost track of the number of Quilts of Valor she has created. Each quilt is lovingly hand stitched and is her way to show her appreciation for the service of the Vets. If you are a quilter, visit the Quilts of Valor website to discover how you can participate or even learn to quilt for the first time.

The VFW Calabash Post 7288 thanks active duty service members and veterans for their service. They welcome all eligible Veterans of Foreign Wars to join them. They have an active social calendar and serve the community through many volunteer programs. Stop by the post for more information.



Calabash Post 7288 Auxiliary Teaches Flag Etiquette

By Frederick Walton



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Calabash Post 7288 Auxiliary visited Waccamaw Elementary School in March to present a flag education program to third graders, to educate our youngest citizens about the history of their flag and to share the importance of respecting what it symbolizes.

Cathy Milstead, Senior Vice President of the VFW Calabash Post 7288 Auxiliary, along with secretary Fran Redfield, and member Dorrie Mascolo led the presentation. They talked about the history and evolution of the flag, showing students various historical photos, and asking the students what they knew about the flag. Expanding on respect for the flag, the presenters talked about guidelines for displaying, saluting and caring for flags. Students were surprised to learn that old and worn out flags are collected and burned in a respectful ceremony, noting the VFW, as well as the American Legion and Elks have special receptacles where the public can drop off old flags to be retired properly.

Discussed also was the proper folding of an American Flag, with 13 Triangular folds, each having its own, specific meaning.

The students were very familiar with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Cathy explained that the words of the pledge mean so the students might better understand what it stands for when they recite it in the future, and explained the history and meaning of The Star Spangled Banner.

VFW Buddy Poppy Queen and King, Scott and Olivia Bennett, who are also Waccamaw students, helped VFW Auxiliary members hand out goody bags with a small American flag and some brochures about what they just learned, along with a cookie. The VFW Calabash Post 7288 Auxiliary is available to share this program with other area elementary schools. Contact Cathy Milstead, cmilst@atmc.net, for more details.



Post 12196 Annual Awards Held

Certificates of award and recognition were presented to each of the recipients during the ceremony by Commander Nate Pringle on behalf of the Post membership. This is an annual event held by the VFW Post 12196 to recognize local community members who have shown service and support to veteran causes during the previous year.



Of The Year Awards: (top row) Teacher, Meredith Zell; JROTC: Valeria Alvarado North Brunswick High School; Scout: Trevor Smith Cub Scout Pack 747, Leland; Business: Jeff Moss College, Hunk's Hauling and Moving; (bottom row) Safety Officer: Ben Majors. Awards of Veterans Support: Deb Pickett, Signature Wealth Strategies; Mayor Brenda Bozman.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Submitted by Post 12196, Leland, NC

Post 10630 Hope Mills Day of Service

On Saturday, 4 May, members of VFW Post 10630 in Hope Mills, NC participated in the VFW's 3rd Annual Day of Service.

This year's focus was on supporting the "Alms House". This non-profit organization's mission is to help families reach their sufficiency goals and to make the community a better place one individual at a time. Services provided help to feed the hungry, provide clothing, and to assist in counseling and financial assistance.

Post members assisted Alms House representatives in feeding families to kick off this annual event. Veterans continue to support their community and demonstrated their commitment as part of the VFW's "Still Serving" campaign. Jim Morris, the VFW Post 10630 Commander and Legacy Life Member stated that "Veterans have always given back to their hometowns, however, events such as this and further demonstrates how veterans continue to serve and make a difference."



This year's organizer for the Post was VFW Life Member, and former Hope Mills Town Commissioner, Grilley Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell, who is also the Program Manager/Coordinator for the Alms House, has been an avid and vocal supporter for assisting those in need. "It is important for veterans and for many others to continue to serve and our support to the Alms House this year helped those who have the most need in our area."

VFW Post 10630 and its members are 'Still Serving' and will continue to seek opportunities to give back to the veterans of our community. We encourage veterans, active duty, reservists and National Guard members that have served in a foreign war to join us in becoming a member of the VFW.

Submitted by: Commander, Jim Morris

ANGEL PLATOON

Gene D. Kent was born in Pittsburgh, PA, the second child of Marie and A.O. Kent. After high school, he moved to California where he worked in the aerospace industry. He was drafted into the Army and after graduation from OCS he spent 21 years in the Army doing tours in Viet Nam and Germany. He retired from the Army as a Major and in 1991 was reactivated for 6 months to join the forces in Desert Storm. It was after his Desert Storm service that he joined the VFW as a Life Member in Post 1503, "Chesty Puller Post" in Dale City, VA.



In 1991 Gene and Sandy moved to Asheville, NC where he transferred his membership to Post 891. He quickly through the ranks as Post 891 Commander, District 16 Commander and has held several chairmanships and offices at the State Level including serving as the Department Chief of Staff to Commander Cecil Sanders in 1995 – 96. In 1999 he ran for Department Jr. Vice Commander and was elected. In June of 2001 he assumed the office of VFW Department Commander of North Carolina through June 2002. In 2002, Gene moved to Roaring Gap and transferred to VFW Post #7034 in Sparta.

National Appointments: Hospital Committee 1995 - 1996; Vice Chairman Citizenship, Education and Community Service Committee, 2002 – 2003; Veterans Service Resolutions Committee, 2004; Member Veterans Advisory Council, 2002 – Present for Veterans Integrated Service Network for Southern Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina Totaling 8 VA Hospitals Post All-American Commander 1995 – 1996; Life Member: Veterans of Foreign Wars; Disabled American Veterans Member; National Association of Uniformed Services.

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COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION

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TEAMS WILL SERVE AT 3:00PM PLATES ARE \$15 PER PERSON

FOUR-MAN TEAMS SMOKE OFF ENTRY FEE OF \$150 TEAM ENTRY ENDS AUGUST 15TH, 2024

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CONTACT JAMIE "WRECKIN BALL" BAKER IN PERSON THURSDAY'S AND FRIDAY'S AT THE VFW POST 5352 OR ANY TIME AT 336-344-2164 OR EMAIL JABAKER8485@GMAIL.COM

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2024-2025 Theme "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

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2022

Annual Mission 22 Fundraiser Saturday, 2 Nov, 10 a.m. Post 1142 N. Wilkesboro More info on our FB page event

1st Annual VETS FOR VETS AND COMMUNITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

1ST PLACE: \$400 2ND PLACE: \$300 3RD PLACE: \$200

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FOOD – GAMES – DUNK TANK – BAKE SALE – VENDORS ORGANIZATIONS – MUSIC – CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES READING CORNER – SIDEWALK CHALK – ITEM & 50/50 DRAWINGS

VFW POST 5352 618 Edgewood St. Kernersville, NC

VA TOWN HALL Aug. 3, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Salisbury, NC: Salisbury VA Veteran Town Hall

ANNUAL GOLD STAR FAMILY BANQUET 26 SEPTEMBER, 6:00 P.M. GUEST SPEAKER ROCKY LYNNE POST 1142, 408 VETERANS DRIVE N WILKESBORO, 28659

If you are, or know a Gold Star Family, or would like to attend, please email followspost1142@vfwnc.com for more information. RSVP required, before 5 September, 2024.

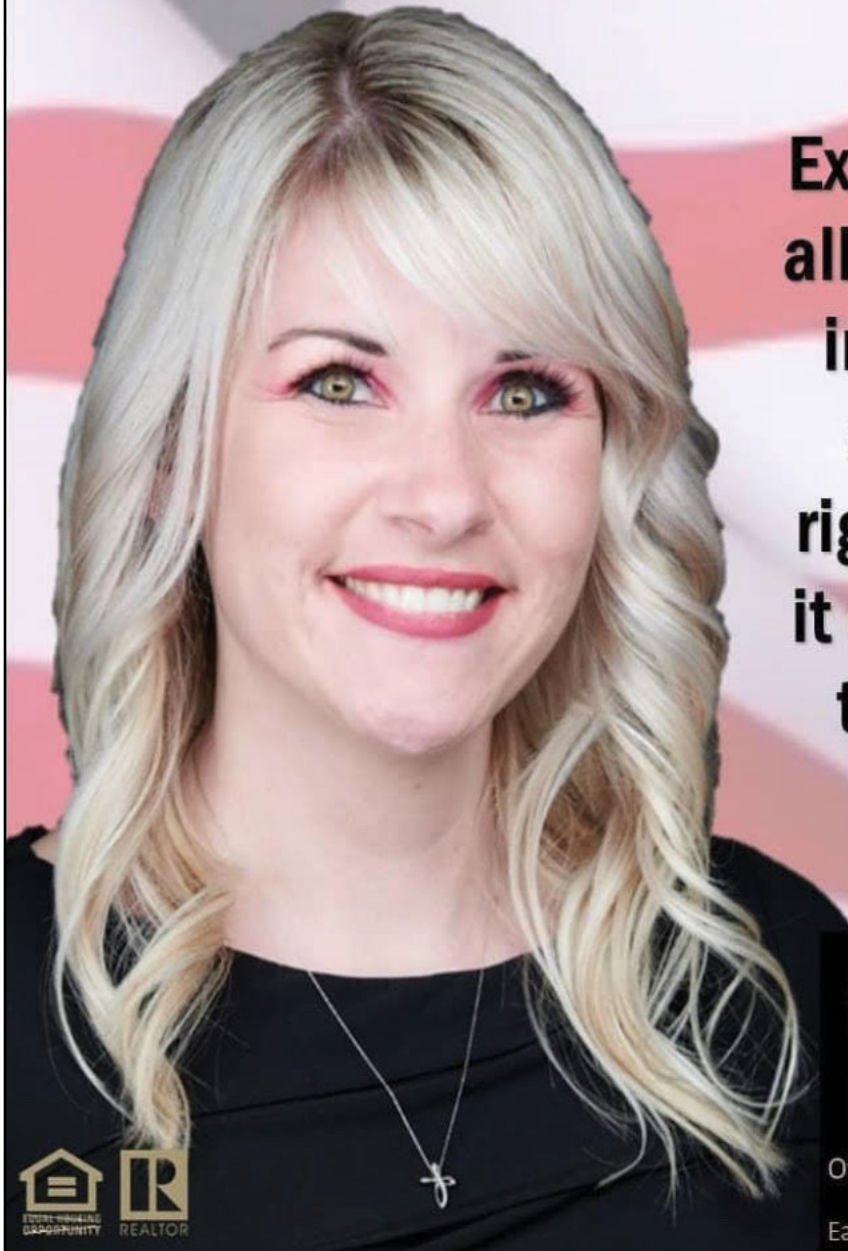
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