

VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS  
N. MYRTLE BEACH POST 10804  
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**NEWSLETTER: February 2018**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER:** Fred J. Kunzman. Welcome to the Post Fred, we hope to see you at our monthly meeting or anytime at the Post.

**COMMANDER'S CALL:**

I'm asking all of you in the local area to attend the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We'll have an important vote regarding our Solar Panel initiative that was unanimously recommended by the House Committee at our Jan 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Last month, we decided to once again march in the annual N. Myrtle Beach St Patrick's Day parade! We've linked up with our friends in the American Legion, Marine Corps League detachment, the Hutton House Welcome Home Center, and our WWII heroes at Summit Place to march together near the front of the parade. A sign up list is on the Post Bulletin Board in the canteen. If you can't walk the parade distance, just let us know on the sheet and we'll transport you!

Our "Best of the Best" luncheon on Sunday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. We awarded plaques to heroes nominated by their commanders as the best police officers and firefighters in Horry County and N Myrtle Beach. We also honored our student entries in the annual VFW Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Best of the Best absolutely the best!

There's a lot going on in your Post in February. Check out our website ([www.vfwpost10804.org](http://www.vfwpost10804.org)) and download the Calendar. Support our Post and Canteen by coming to our Friday night dinner/dances, our monthly Sunday brunch, our monthly Pasta night, and our weekly Wing Night Wednesday and Fiesta night Thursdays with Cheryl Z and Karaoke! Nothing better than a crowd of veterans enjoying a night out!

*Nick Camera, Post Commander*

**HAVING PROBLEMS?, NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE NOW?.....**The “VETERANS CRISIS LINE” is open 24/7. Just call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**. It takes an average of **8 seconds** for your call to be answered. You are **NOT** alone, last year the Crisis Center receive more than **530,000 calls**.

**IT'S ELECTION TIME....**and that means it's time for you to decide if you want to step up to the plate and take on some sort of Post responsibility for the year starting June 2018 to June 2019. Nominations start next month at the March Business Meeting and elections take place at the April Business Meeting. You can wait right up until election time to declare your candidacy, but it's better if you declare at the March meeting so Post members know you are interested and serious about running.

With the exception of a couple of Trustee positions, EVERY position is open to anyone who wants to be some sort of leader in the Post. Except for Trustees, every other elected position is for ONE year. Elected positions include:

Commander

Senior Vice-Commander

Junior Vice-Commander

Quartermaster

Chaplain

3 Trustees (they are 3 year, 2 year and 1 year positions)

*NOTE: This April there will be a person voted in to be a 3-year trustee. No other trustee positions open.*

Along with these VFW mandated elected positions. YOUR Post also elects a House Committee (up to 7 members, one of which is elected Chairperson by a vote of the up to 7 members).

The newly inducted Commander he/she (takes command after the Department Convention in June) then appoints all committee head positions, appoints an Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Surgeon, Service Officer, Officer of the Day and Guard.

If you are interested in one of these appointed positions, you need to convey your interest to the new commander.

**All newly elected/appointed officers will be sworn in by the Judge Advocate at a date determined by Judge Advocate and new Commander prior to the Department Convention**

With the exception of the House Committee, all newly elected/appointed positions take effect immediately after the Department Convention in June. House Committee positions become effective at the start of the June House Committee meeting, including the election of a HC Chairperson.

**DISTRICT 7 ELECTIONS.....**will be on APRIL 28<sup>th</sup> at the District Meeting in Georgetown. If you are interested in running for a District office, you must either be there in person to nominate yourself (or have someone nominate you), OR, if you can't make the meeting, you provide a letter to the District Commander or District Adjutant (Allen Rundall or Frank Fogner) stating what office you are seeking, or what office you will accept, if you are nominated for a position/office.

**NOTE:** To find the job description or position requirements, you can find all that information in the VFW MANUAL OF PROCEDURE. If you do not have a book, you can ask most Post Officers to see/borrow theirs. There are ALWAYS a few available on meeting day. Option 2 is to ask the person who currently holds a position, or previously held a position, you are interested in. They will be glad to answer all your questions.

**VA BENEFITS....**Want to know if you got an increase in your VA benefits in 2018? Simple, go to [benefits.va.gov](http://benefits.va.gov) and you can find out if your VA Compensation, SMC, or DIC allowances have increased.

**VETERAN ID CARDS.....**Are back to being issued. You MUST be an HONORABLY discharged veteran to be eligible for a card. **REMEMBER** this card can only be used to prove you served in the military. It cannot be used to gain access to a military facility, or receive VA benefits, or for identification, or even as proof of age. To get your Veterans ID go to [Vets.gov](http://Vets.gov) website to register. There is no time-line listed as to how long it will take you to get this card.

**NOTE:** *If you are already have a VA ID Card and/or receiving VA benefits/treatment, you DO NOT need to get this card!!*

**Do you own** an RV, Travel Trailer (5<sup>th</sup> Wheel or Tow Behind) or a pop-up camper and you like to travel. Want to associate with other traveling military members and make new friends?? Well there's a group out there called "SMART" (Special Military Active Recreational Travelers) and their purpose in life is to get current/former military members together for recreational travel and comradely. There are SMART Chapters in North and South Carolina. You can find out all about them by going to [smartrving.org](http://smartrving.org)

**AS A VETERAN** or surviving spouse/children of a veteran. You are a target for scams of all shapes and sizes. A really popular one is when a veteran dies. The scammer will call and emphasize that the veteran did not keep up with his/her insurance payments, but if you make the final couple of payments (\$ figure set by caller), your survivor's insurance policy will remain in effect.

**SIMPLE RULE:** NEVER SEND MONEY TO A CALLER!! Don't let your grief interfere with your good judgment.

Another scam popular against veterans is supposedly a fellow vet looking for investment help (that will increase your survivor income), and another is after a death, a caller will say the deceased bought an expensive watch or piece of jewelry and final payments are due. **Go back to the simple rule.**

The VFW has educational programs that can help protect you against these scams, but you can also get good help from [aarp.org/protectveterans](http://aarp.org/protectveterans)

**NOTE:** Think this can't happen to you or anyone in your family?? AARP commissioned a survey with the following results:

...16% of veterans surveyed said they lost money to a scam in last 5 years (that's DOUBLE the non-veteran rate).

...80% of veterans surveyed said they were targeted by a “veteran specific” rip-off attempts within last 5 years.

...33% of all Americans who lost money in investment scams had served in the military

...25% of veterans surveyed said they receive 10 or more suspicious calls a week.

**IT IS TAX TIME....**and if you use a tax preparer service or company, you might want to consider using H & R BLOCK this year. H&R Block has partnered with the VFW and will donate \$20.00 for each new veteran customer who has H&R Block prepare his or her taxes in 2018. You can go to [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com) to find an H&R Block near you.

### **DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE 84 VFW POSTS in South Carolina??**

**DO YOU.....**ever do anything for another veteran or anything veteran related? If so, Frank Fogner [frankfogner@gmail.com](mailto:frankfogner@gmail.com) would like to hear from you. WHY?? Because YOUR Post gets credit for Community Service when you do such things as:

...Transport a veteran for whatever reason

...Help a veteran/surviving spouse neighbor around his/her house

...Participate in a community/local parade or event

...Participate in a community activity

...Donate time/resources to a VA Hospital or Clinic

...Donate time/resources to civilian medical facilities

...Are a Salvation Army or Red Cross, or any other community service volunteer.

If you did something you think might get YOUR Post some credit, but are not sure, contact Frank. When you send in your information, he wants date of event, nature of event, miles driven, and hours spent (includes to/from house time), money spent/donated.

ALSO...If you have written your state or federal congressman (house or senate, or governor) about veteran related issues. Frank wants to hear from you. Send him a copy of what you wrote and if you received a reply to your letter, send him a copy of that also. YOUR Post gets credit for this.



Your Post 10804 honored local students nominated for the Patriots Pen Award including Emma B. Carr (pictured), Jude G. Wilkey, Brianna E. Iannone, and Isabel N. Smith of NMB Middle School as well as the Post's nominee for the national Voice of Democracy contest, Grant McCager Mitchell, a junior at Atheneum. Teacher Angela Rabon of Daisy Elementary School in Loris is the Post's nominee for the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher award



Left to Right: NMB Firefighter of the Year Lt. Nathan Marker, Post Commander Nick Camera, Auxiliary President Jacqui Williams, and NMB Fire Chief Gar y Spain at the Best of the Best Awards Luncheon





This is from our January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dr. Pamela Martin and her Coastal Carolina University solar initiatives funds raising team (all students at the University). Dr. Martin is standing between QM Dan Farley and Commander Nick Camera .

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