

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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NEWSLETTER – March 2018

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!

COMMANDER’S CALL: Eight of us just returned from Greenville, SC and the Department of South Carolina Mid-Winter Conference. On Feb. 17th our post was presented with a plaque for the #1 Website award in the state as well as the Department’s (state) Communications Award for our monthly newsletter. I want to thank Bill La Monte for all the work he’s done to keep you informed with newsletters such as this one.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Commander Camera has been solely responsible for the positive change in our website and our Post earning the website award.

On a personal note, I’ve been appointed to be the State Community Service Chairman by our next Department Commander, John L. Sullivan. I’ll be working on this new responsibility immediately and will no longer be able to devote the time required to maintain our website, our monthly calendar, and our Facebook page. I need someone (or two) to step up and take over these important responsibilities for our Post. I promise to train you and ensure a smooth transition. Please consider volunteering and email me directly at ncamera@msn.com

At this time, our friends at Wyndham Resorts have completely changed out every light bulb in the house. We are now much brighter, when we need to be, and much more energy efficient. Speaking of which, we are going SOLAR! Over the next few months, we’ll have solar panels installed on our roof, which will provide almost 17% of our energy requirements. We’ll also be upgrading our HVAC systems in order to reduce our energy consumption. Our parking lot will be totally covered with sealant and parking spots re-stripped by Wyndham volunteers when weather permits. **The Post is moving forward with lots of improvements to our Post home...and with more and more projects to help our veterans.**

Speaking of Veterans, we are marching in the **St. Patrick's Day** parade in NMB on the 17th of March for the first time in five years. It's time we "show-the-flag"! Our post spearheaded the action to march with our friends in the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, The Hutton House, Summit Place and its WWII Veterans, and the American Legion Riders and Rolling Thunder. We'll all be marching together (and we'll have trailers ready to transport those that can't walk) and will be in the front of the parade so our 'seniors' won't have to "hurry up and wait". Are you ready to march with us? The sign-up roster is on the bulletin board in the Canteen. We'll be wearing our VFW uniforms and caps....not green.

Finally, we are working hard to make our Post a better place for all. We are not an old man's drinking club and we cannot afford to let that be our image to the public! We are the nation's oldest and largest combat veterans organization and proud of it. It is our DUTY to carry on the work for our veterans that has been the hallmark of the VFW since its inception in 1899. And if we are going to continue this work as a Post, we need to recruit more members! It is imperative that every one of us takes advantage of every opportunity to welcome a new member to our Post. Criteria for membership can be found on our website:

www.vfwpost10804.org.

Hope to see you at the March 10th business meeting and at the parade on the 17th.

NICK CAMERA

Commander, VFW POST 10804

DID YOU KNOW....that during the TET 68' offensive in Vietnam the NVA, on February 7th, used 11 Russian made tanks for the first time to overrun and destroy a small Green Beret (24 men) and Montagnard (400 men) outpost outside Khe Sanh. It was the NVA'S first successful use of tanks in the war.

IT'S ALMOST ELECTION TIME... Have you thought about your involvement in the Post? Even if you don't want to run for an officer position in the Post, there are many ways you can volunteer, or be appointed to a position where you can make better use of your time and talents. In the February newsletter I told you of the elected positions available. You can also be elected to the House Committee, or appointed to a committee by the newly elected Commander. You have until the April meeting to decide. Things to think about are: helping with the once-monthly Sunday Brunch, helping with the Friday night meals, helping with Wednesday Wing night or Thursday Taco night, or the once a month Monday Pasta night. Or, helping with the many projects the Post gets involved with on a monthly basis.

This is YOUR Post, think seriously about getting involved and helping the Post succeed!!!

As the Commander stated above, we attended the Department (state) Spring Conference in Greenville. Some highlights from that meeting are:

There were 300 conference registrations and 200 attended the banquet. Numbers up considerably over the last three conferences. If you weren't there, you missed an informative and good time. Post 10804 attendees included Nick Camera, Walt Duncan, Dan Farley, Frank Fogner, Allen Rundall, C.B. Anderson and me, Bill La Monte

For the first time ever: The Post earned Department awards for our Post Website and our Post Newsletter. This is also the first time that the state has awarded both awards to the same Post.



Financial Status.....YOUR state VFW funds are in good shape and properly and efficiently used as reported by the State Budget Committee, the State Trustees and most importantly the Certified Public Accountant hired to review the entire VFW state financial system.

BUY A BURGER KING WHOPPER.....and help Burger King support the VFW. This past year Burger King gave **\$500,000** to the VFW.

SUPPORT WALGREENS.....at the conference, Walgreens of S.C. donated **\$17,000** to our state VFW.

A DAY OF HONORING VETERANS: Will be May 19th in Myrtle Beach. Details to follow next month.

SPEAKING OF HONORING VETERANS....For all you ARMY men and women out there, and for the 30 million who served in the Army since its inception. The ARMY will soon be opening the **National Museum of the US Army** at Fort Belvoir Virginia. Keep an eye on your Army and VFW websites for opening dates.

FRANK FOGNER.....Besides being Mr. Everything with the Department of S.C VFW.... For **17 years** Frank was YOUR VFW voice in Washington as S.C.'s representative on the VFW National Legislative Committee promoting everything good about the VFW. He attended many meetings with the who's-who of Washington politics, all in an effort to ensure all veterans got the benefits, care, education and respect due us all. Next time you see Frank, thank him for all he has done for you and veterans everywhere, not just S.C.!!! **THANK YOU!!!! Frank**

VA ID CARDS.....The VA has announced that they are drastically behind in processing requests for the new VA ID Card. As of this writing, the VA has stopped accepting application requests and says it has no idea how long it will take you to get your card if you have an application on file. My suggestion is to occasionally check the VA website for VA ID Card updates.

UNMET NEEDS....Are you, or do you know a veteran who is having problems meeting their financial obligations or needs (food, rent, medical, etc.). The VFW and the VA have programs to help you/them, but it is your/their responsibility to fill-out the Unmet Needs form which is available on the VFW website site or through a Veterans Service Officer office.

Looking for a place to eat Sunday Breakfast....Here's some great options that will get you well fed and help out your fellow veteran organizations:

1st Sunday of Month: VFW Calabash

2nd Sunday of Month: Your VFW Post in NMB

3rd Sunday of Month: American Legion, Little River

4th Sunday of Month: American Legion, Calabash

IT'S A FACT.....There are currently 6,309 VFW Posts worldwide.

Bill La Monte
Writer/Editor