



Post 10804



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NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2019

HAVING PROBLEMS? NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?...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!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERSBarry Richardson, Michael and Carolyn Mishoe, Francis Lambert, Quankeko Long and Ray Guglielmini. Nice to see Michael and Carolyn already attending several of YOUR post functions. Thanks! Also thanks to Barry Richardson for attending his first post meeting.

COMMANDERS CALL....

Well, I’m on the “back nine” of my tenure as Post Commander and I cannot thank our volunteers enough for what they have brought to YOUR POST. Our House Committee has worked hard to make our Banquet Hall and kitchen operations work more efficiently and effectively. Thanks to them and our Auxiliary volunteers for making our weekly Friday night dinners, Pasta Nights, Wing Nights, and Fiesta Nights successful and enjoyable events.

Then there’s Jim & Lena Risser and Frank and Dana Fogner whose work on our Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests culminating in perhaps the best “Best of the Best” luncheon this Post has ever had! I know I can’t name everybody who continues to pitch in and help us whenever we need help but I must mention the contributions of Lon Pike and Allen Rundall for their selfless work and dedication to the success of the Post.

So now I call on each of you to step up and give us a hand. Whether it be a little help in the kitchen, a little cleaning here and there, or whatever you might have to offer, we need more volunteers to lighten the load for those who've been carrying more than their fair share. Please contact me or Canteen Manager Leo Cyr if you'd like to pitch in.

Finally, our next meeting is this coming Saturday morning, Feb. 9th at 1100 hrs. Please make an effort to attend and see what YOUR post is doing. We are marching again this year in the St Patrick's Day parade in North Myrtle Beach on Saturday, March 16th. You can sign up in the Canteen or by simply clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/VFW-March>

(I hope it works!) If this link doesn't work, just email me!

Last year, we all enjoyed the day and our local citizens really enjoyed saluting the veterans of this community. Join us and let's have another great day representing the greatest veterans organization in the nation: the Veterans of Foreign Wars!
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Nick Camera
Commander, Post 10804

A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.....Due to some investigative reporting by a couple of journalists, the VA conducted an in-house rating of its 132 nursing homes. The results: 70% of the nursing homes failed VA evaluations. Those 132 nursing homes house 46,000 veterans- most of whom are seniors. 45 of the homes received '1 star' rating (the VA's lowest rating), 47 received 2 stars, 16 received 3 stars, and 15 received 4 stars. Only 9 homes received the VA's highest rating of 5 stars. The VFW and American Legion National Commanders are demanding that VA Secretary Wilkie bring immediate attention to the nursing home program.

DID YOU KNOW....There are free APP's available on the APP Store and VA Website that provide helpful information and coaching for veterans with various issues. Some of these are:

PTSD Coach

Move Coach – To help you with exercise and weight loss programs

Moving Forward Coach – To help you get along better in life

Stay Quit Coach – For those who have quit, are planning on quitting smoking

ARE YOU VA RATED at a 100% VA DISABILITY and NOT RETIRED FROM THE MILITARY?.....You can now fly SPACE – A (free flights) on military/contract flights in and out of the country. Contact your nearest military airport passenger service office to get the details and sign-up.

A VFW TIDBIT....Even though North and South Carolina are similar in size and geographic makeup. North Carolina has TWICE the population of South Carolina. As far as the state's VFW are concerned, North Carolina has 19 Districts, divided into three Regions with at least 8 posts per District. South Carolina has 8 Districts with at least 9 posts per District

VETERANS WELCOME HOME and RESOURCE CENTER (Hwy 57 over by Elks).....In 2018 they helped 720 veterans with various issues from needing food/clothing/paying bills/job placement/VA claims and providing temporary shelter that amounted to \$44,000 in financial assistance to veterans. Great work Ron Wilson and staff/volunteers!

YOUR POST ...At Christmas provided Christmas presents for **50** children that would not have had a Christmas if not for your generosity.

SCAM ALERT.....People constantly ask, how did that person get my personal information when it comes to falling for some sort of scam. Every time you fill out an on-line survey, questionnaire, or customer satisfaction survey, YOU are providing the information a scam artist can use against you! How? Most companies that ask you do these things listed above, **sell your information** to on-line and snail-mail marketers. The personal information you provide in answering these questionnaires becomes more public than the public library. So, ask yourself, is your private information more important than getting a free bloomin' onion for completing that store's survey??

NEED SOMETHING USEFUL TO DO?....There is an organization (MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT) that goes around finding the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans and then seeing to it that they receive a proper military funeral. If you would like to join their efforts, you can contact Larry Truax (SC Coordinator) at 843-855-7050 or truaxlw@gmail.com, or you can contact Charlie Warthling at Harley4ever@miap.us.

MEMBERSHIP....Your post is in its 8th month of the Fiscal Year and 2nd month of the Calendar Year. So far, I have signed up, and brought to a meeting, three (3) new members and one Life Member transfer. Where do you stand on signing up a new or reinstated member? MEMBERSHIP is YOUR posts lifeblood. Please keep the transfusion going by getting an eligible veteran to join us.

DISTRICT 7 MEETING...Besides the four post members who hold District 7 offices, me and two other post members attended the meeting on January 26th. There were no major issues at the meeting, but the following were points of interest.

Membership: The District (there are 9 posts within our district) membership stands at 91.7%. The National Commander wants ALL posts to strive for at least 97% membership at years end. YOUR post is about 40 members short of making that percentage.

Awards: The District Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher award winners were announced. They will receive their formal recognition at the District's April Convention. Post 10804's Teacher of the Year, Eric Fry, was selected to be District 7's awardee.

The Department (state) Convention is 31 May to 2 June at Columbia. All post members should strive to attend at least one Department Convention so that you get a first-hand look at how your state leadership works for you and all veterans. Contact Dan Farley (Quartermaster) if you are interested in going. At this convention, we will elect the next Department Commander, Senior and Junior Vice, and the other elected officers for the Department of S. Carolina.

Gift Cards for Coast Guard Station Georgetown: Those of you who donated to this cause should be proud of themselves. YOUR post raised and donated \$1,400 in gift cards and donated over \$500 in non-perishable food items.



Members of YOUR post with enlisted members of Coast Guard Station – Georgetown

ELECTIONS.....Are coming up fast! Have you considered running for or being appointed to any position within YOUR post? How about a District 7 position? Most are the same as a post. Keep in mind, you DO NOT have to have had any prior experience to seek election to, or appointment to a desired post. That's how you learn and grow!



YOUR post recognized Horry County and North Myrtle Beach's BEST of the BEST at its awards ceremony on January 27th at the post. 110 people turned out for the event. Frank Fogner served as Master of Ceremonies and Post Commander Nick Camera and Auxiliary President Alissa Rorer presided over the awards presentations. The Auxiliary prepared an outstanding free lunch for everyone. ANOTHER example of YOUR post doing itself proud!

DEPARTMENT OF S.C. SPRING CONFERENCE....17 of YOUR post and auxiliary members traveled to Greenville to attend the conference from Feb 1st through the 3rd. YOUR post had more attendees than two Districts had. The following are some notes from the conference:

...You can get your taxes done for free if you are a veteran and you make less than \$65K a year single or \$90K a year married. Call 800-726-8774 for the nearest office that will help you.

...When you need pharmacy items please consider Walgreens as they do great things for veterans. Also need a haircut? Sports Clips, part of all monies received by them goes to their Help a Hero campaign to help veterans.

...There will be a Department training session on May 25th, in Columbia, for anyone who is, or is thinking of becoming a Quartermaster or Trustee. NO prior experience required!

...Membership; The Department (state) stands at 93.7% and the National Commander wants all states to strive for 97% minimum!

...There is a "Veterans Resource Fair" at the state capital on March 29th.

...Posts in trouble/with problems. It is the District Commanders responsibility to help that post to the maximum extent possible, before up channeling post problems to Department level.

...The Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, Florence (Directed by our own C.B. Anderson) reported that they spent \$6,400 last year to help veterans with rent and utility expenses.

The Department started two new member initiatives at this convention. They are a 'meet-and-greet' of new VFW members and a 'Post Round-Table'. These meetings were hosted by the Acting Commander and Junior Vice-Commander. They allowed anyone the opportunity to express concerns, submit ideas, or present anything that is an issue or might be helpful for posts or new members.

NOTE: One great idea that will be addressed is the need for a "New Member Guide" which would help a new member to understand the nuances of a post meeting, dress requirements, who's who in the post, etc.



For the second year in a row, YOUR Post has won the state Communication Award for having the Best Post Newsletter in the state. Yours truly is holding the award which was presented by Acting Department Commander Robert Holsclaw (left). Post Commander Nick Camera is to the right.



YOUR Auxiliary won the Departments "Best Poppy Display" award

REMEMBER....This is YOUR newsletter. If you have something of importance that would benefit our veterans, please present it to me or Commander Camera for publishing consideration.

Bill La Monte
Writer/Editor
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