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NEWSLETTER - JUNE 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!

VA WOMEN VETERAN HELP LINES...1-855-829-6636 or www.womenshealth.va.gov

Meet Your New Commander....KEVIN RORER

I was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, but consider Roanoke my hometown since I graduated high school there. I graduated from East Tennessee State with a BS in Geography and a minor in History and Military Science. I was commissioned in 1982 and served two years with a Transportation Company in the Reserves at Kingsport, Tennessee. Assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1984 for Officer’s Basic Military Intelligence training. After training, I was assigned to a year in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division and 20th Support Group in Taegu as a platoon leader and assistant S-2/S-3. This is where I earned my VFW eligibility. I finished active duty at Fort Meade, Maryland as the S-4 for the 902d MI Brigade INSCOM, then did six months in the Reserves with the 3rd Infantry BN in Culpepper, Virginia. This ended in December 1987. After the military, I was a Program Manager for EG&G in Washington, DC and Cincinnati, Ohio. These positions were in support of an Asset Management contract for the Environmental Protection Agency that lasted until 1992. I next landed government employment in 1992 as a Property Management Specialist at the Department of Energy in Cincinnati and Miamisburg Ohio until 1999. I was next employed by the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC until 2005. I accepted a promotion to go back with the Department of Energy in 2006. I next took

a hiatus to South Carolina until called back to the Department of Energy in Aiken, South Carolina as the site Property Management Officer from 2008 until 2018 when I retired.

I have been a member of the VFW since 2008. I became active when I joined Post 10804 in 2012. I have served on the House Committee for three years, including one year as Secretary. I served as the Sr. Vice-Commander and Membership Chairperson for 2018-2019. Since joining the post, I have participated in most projects and events that the post has been involved with. This includes a considerable amount of time with building maintenance and upkeep (inside and outside). I have attended meetings and conventions at the District and Department (state) levels.

I have been married to Alissa Rorer since 2012 and together we have four grown children (Alexis, Shane, Erika and Britany) and five grandchildren. Erika joined the Army in 2012 and was promoted to Staff Sergeant last year. She has been selected for the Warrant Officer Training Program in January 2020. She is currently serving overseas. She is a member of our post.

Alissa and I enjoy the country farm-life on our 10 acre farm that consists of growing Virginia Pine trees and raising goats. When I have the time, I swing a golf club now and then.

Commander's Call - First off I would like to say it is a privilege to be serving as your Commander. For those who haven't heard OUR POST received the James W. Cothran Award as the Most Outstanding VFW Post in South Carolina for 2018-19 at the Convention in Columbia.

In the last two years we have completed many necessary tasks to move toward the future and maintain the structure of the Post. A quick walk down memory lane- solar lighting, replacement of refrigeration equipment and HVAC, resurfacing of the parking lot, participating in the St. Patrick's Days Parade, more media involvement with our functions, partnering with the Scouts for USS New York and building of the pit for flag retirement and numerous other charity and fundraising work.

I would like to thank Nick Camera for mentoring me the past year, and for his outstanding service to our Post. You left big shoes to fill. I congratulate the new officers in the Auxiliary and Post, as well as, the House Committee and look forward to working with you. I believe communication is the key to our continued success. There is a quote that I came across and I don't know who wrote it but it states, "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

I'm looking forward to a great year!

MEET YOUR POST ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020:

ELECTED

Commander - KEVIN RORER

Sr. Vice-Commander - MARGO SHERIDAN

Jr. Vice-Commander - MIKE MALLORY

Quartermaster - DAN FARLEY

Chaplain - BOB WASDEN

3 Year Trustee - NICK CAMERA

2 Year Trustee - WALT DUNCAN

1 Year Trustee - KENNETH BROADHURST

House Committee - Jim Risser (Chairperson), Jim Stuparitz, Allen Rundall, Carolyn Mishoe, Wynn Vickers

APPOINTED

Adjutant - FRANK FOGNER

Service Officer - AL STAHL

Judge Advocate - LON PIKE

Surgeon - JIM RISSER

Guard - BOBBY O'SHEA



Most of your 2019 Post Officers



Your 2019 Auxiliary

VFW Testifies on Medicinal Cannabis Research: On Tuesday, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to discuss medicinal cannabis and suicide prevention legislation. Committee members urged VA to work with Congress to research and expand access to complementary and integrative alternatives to opioids when treating veterans with chronic pain and other comorbid conditions. VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes testified in support of legislation to commission a VA study of veteran patients on the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis for treating chronic pain. The VFW also supported other bills to reduce overmedication and improve suicide prevention efforts. [Watch the hearing](#). Read the [VFW's testimony](#).

SUICIDE... There have been civilian and VA studies concerning this issue.

One civilian company concluded that between 2001 and 2009 there was an average of **ONE** veteran suicide a day. Their data was based on results from 22 states and only included those veterans who had sought VA care. The average age was 60. The study also concluded that veterans had a **50% HIGHER** suicide rate than non-veterans.

In 2014 the VA concluded a study that they published in 2016. It stated that an average of 20 veterans a day committed suicide. Their data was based on inputs from all 50 states and a review of 55 million veteran records from 1979 to 2014. In 2016 S.C. had 792 suicides. Of that, 120 were veterans, with less than 10 being female. Other points of interest are:

...More than 50% of suicides were veterans who were never deployed.

...Ages with highest rate – 18-34 with a rate of 42%. National rate 16.1%

...Lowest age rate for veteran suicide – 55-74 at 23%.

...77% of all veteran suicides is with some sort of firearm

NOTE: Information came from one of the early civilian studies, the VA study and VFW Action Corps Weekly.

DANGER WIL ROBINSON...DANGER – Do you own a drone? Was it made in China? Did you know that the Department of Homeland Security is investigating China and a drone making company called ‘DJI’? Why? Because China has incorporated a piece of electronic equipment in some drones, that when connected to your smartphone or electronic device. It sends your personal information on these devices back to a Chinese collection source. The problem started when DHS started investigating the drones purchased for some military purposes and found a bug!

DISTRICT ELECTIONS – Many of the S.C. VFW District 7 leadership positions are held by members of YOUR post. They include Commander – Margo Sheridan, Senior Vice-Commander & Inspector – Michael Mishoe, Junior Vice-Commander – Bill La Monte, Judge Advocate – Frank Fogner, 2 Year Trustee – Dan Farley

BEST VFW POST IN SOUTH CAROLINA... That's the award

Commander Camera picked up this past weekend at the Department's Annual Convention.

This award is a culmination of all the hard work YOUR post leadership team put in. More importantly it is the result of all the work that every one of YOU, that did things for the Post and Community, (you know who you are) put in by supporting the post, volunteering for various projects and donating funds as your situation allowed.



Presenting the award to Commander Camera are VFW Senior Vice-Commander in Chief William J. Schmitz (left) and Department of South Carolina Commander Robert W. Holsclaw

PS: Next month the newsletter will have all the Department Convention award winners from Post 10804.



Late last month Commander Rorer (along with me) attended the Green Sea-Floyds High School Army JROTC Awards ceremony. Here Commander Rorer stands with YOUR post's winner of the VFW Youth Cadet award, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Savannah Collier, a Senior. School Principal Dr. Andrea Pridgen and JROTC Senior Army Instructor CW4, Retired, Mike Burgos join in the festivities.

DON'T forget the Post meeting this Saturday at 11AM and Brunch on Sunday morning 9-11AM. Pick up (at the post, on the web site) the post calendar to find out what's happening at YOUR post in June.

**Bill La Monte
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