

# Legion News

The Official Publication of the American Legion Department of North Carolina



May - June 2011

Vol. 74, No. 3

USPS 009812

## HAPPENINGS

### May

8th Mothers Day  
15th Peace Officers' Memorial Day  
21st Armed Forces Day  
22nd Maritime Day  
25th Legislative Day in Raleigh  
30th Memorial Day  
Please help in remembering  
Our fallen comrades.

### June

6th D-Day 1944  
9th-11th Department Convention  
We have invited our 2 Senators  
No commitment as yet.  
Band for Friday night dance  
Post Commander and Adjutants  
Packets of Information available.  
All elected Department officers  
from District Vice Commander and  
up we need a copy of your DD214  
for our department files before you  
are installed. Required!  
14th Flag Day  
19th Fathers Day  
19th - 25th NC Boys State  
19th-24th Student Trooper  
25th Start of Korean War

A SAFE AND HAPPY SPRING  
TO EVERYONE!

## Veterans Drivers License Notation

At the State Capital Building on 4/12/11, Governor Perdue signed into law authorizing the Division of Motor vehicles to make a notation on a NC Drivers License showing a license holder's military service.

This act becomes effective when the DMV has completed the implementation of the Division's Next Generation Secure Drivers License System or July 1, 2012, whichever occurs first and applies to drivers' licenses issued on or after this date.  
*Photo by Larry Rozier, Department Historian.*



L to R Standing behind Governor Bev Perdue Carlton Hawkins, Adjutant Frank Stancil, Commander Bill Oxford, Rep. Ken Goodman, Legislative Chairman Jeff Joyner, Rep. Larry D Hall, PDC Dick Neville



## American Legion Post 255 Commanders Ball

On April 2, 2011 American Legion Post 255 held its first Commanders Ball honoring Commander Herman Carr, Jr. and several Past Commanders. Pictured left to right: Post Judge Advocate: Bruce Cross, Post Commander: Herman Carr Jr., Past Commanders: John Neely Sr., Delos Marshall, Robert Henderson,

James Richards, Sylvester Holt (not pictured) Walter Ford.

Past Commander Neely was also recognized as being the First African American to serve as a State Officer (Sergeant-At-Arms) for North Carolina. Neely gave a brief history of Post 255. Auxiliary President Ma-

cie Anderson was also recognized for work done within the Post.

Patricia Harris, Division III Commander, was present and recognized Post 255 for currently having the highest in Post Membership percentage 180.49% as of the April 6, 2011 Department Membership Report.



L-R: Paul Stephens and District Commander Clarence Beard of Post 30 Lincolnton.

*Photo by Larry Rozier, Department Historian.*

## Posts 30 and 48 Donate Clothing and Food to Asheville Post 526

Asheville Post 526 was the recipient of clothes and food donated by Lincolnton Post 30 and Hickory Post 48. Post 30 brought a truck completely filled with clothes and food while Hickory 48 brought a SUV with the back full of clothes. Post 526 is in need of good quality clothing for the homeless veterans.



Annual Public Service Dinner

American Legion Post 71 held the annual Public Service Dinner honoring those who serve the citizens of our country.

Pictured left to right, 1st Sgt. Grady accepting for Trooper J.L. Thorpe, NC Highway Patrol, James Creech, Clayton E.M.S., Deputy Kelly Garner, Johnston County sheriff's Office, Brian Ruksznis, Clayton Fire Department, Ton Freeman, Clayton Police Department, and Roland Lambdin, Post 71 Commander.

www.nclegion.org



The North Carolina Legion News  
PO Box 26657  
Raleigh, NC 27611-6657



**ADJUTANT'S  
CALL**

**FRANK STANCIL**  
Department Adjutant



**Not So Fast**

We are winding down another "membership" year. But, wait! Not so fast. Ours should not be a year to year event. It should be a Day to day effort in doing the business of The American Legion. Please don't Forget why we are The American Legion and why we should strive "every day" in following our preamble that we say at every meeting. Or should anyway.

1. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
2. National security
3. Americanism
4. Children & Youth.

Does your post have a copy of the Four Pillars of The American legion? If so, please take the time to look through it and you will see that we are still serving America because each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year. There is so much to do and so much to be done which makes this organization alive and functioning. Please get involved.

The time and effort you provide will be most appreciated by the recipient. Each post should consider hosting a meeting for deployed family members concerning their military benefits and local assets available to them in their community. Please consider having a local military Recruiter as guest speaker with the possibility of hosting a swearing in ceremony at your post. There are many people in your community that would be willing to be a guest speaker at your post meeting that would inform and educate your members, and of course this could cause your meetings to become better attended.

A city official, a county official, a local law enforcement officer, FBI agent. Local health provider official,  
See Adjutant, Page 8

**CHAPLAIN'S  
CORNER**

**GAREY GULLEDGE**  
Department Chaplain



**Freedom**

As Veterans we hear and speak a lot about freedom. Freedom does not mean the absence of constraints or moral absolutes. Suppose a skydiver at 10,000 feet announces to the rest of the group, "I'm not going to use a parachute this time. I want freedom!"

The fact is that a skydiver is constrained by a greater law--- the law of gravity. But when the skydiver chooses the "constraints" of the parachute, he is free to enjoy the exhilaration. Gods' moral laws act the same way: They restrain, but they are absolutely necessary to enjoy the exhilaration of real freedom.

As Veterans we have helped allow our citizens to enjoy freedom. Also as veterans, through serving God and country, we can enjoy the exhilaration.  
God Bless Is My Prayer For You

**Spring Brings  
New Projects**

We have had a Great year, and as I review the projects, awards, programs, reports, deadlines, meetings, conferences, visits, and the many other American Legion events that filled my calendar I can attest, it has been a BUSY Year, but, as I looked at that same calendar, I also realize the end is in sight. As we approach the annual convention, I would like to say "Thank You" for the opportunity to lead the Department of North Carolina. It has been a humbling experience, and I appreciate the confidence you had in me. BUT, we must start the preparation for our next annual convention.

We expect to have a number of important resolutions to consider. One will be a resolution to address the potential Department re-districting

**It's Spring**

Yes, it is that time of year again when the birds are chirping, the weeds are growing, and the pollen is flowing. This is a metaphor. I am discussing Legion. The birds are chirping means people are complaining. The weeds are growing means issues continue. And of course, "pollen flowing" means your eyes are swollen for a little bit of time.

What does this mean? It means the following: it's election time. Yes, it is election time at the Post, the District and the Department. Let's concentrate on the Post. Our Constitution and Bylaws are very clear. Each Post in the Department shall have its own Constitution and Bylaws, provided the Post Constitution and Bylaws do not conflict with the National or Department Constitution and By-

**Rural Healthcare**

Since its inception, the VA Office of Rural Health (ORH) has funded well over 500 projects/programs across the VA health care system to accomplish its mission of increasing access and improving the quality of health care for enrolled rural and highly rural Veterans. In the 2010-2014 ORH strategic plan, six major goals were outlined:

- 1) Improve access and quality of care through the establishment of new access points, by supporting new and ongoing transportation solutions to VA facilities and by supporting initiatives such as the home based primary care program
- 2) Optimize the use of available and emerging technologies such as telemedicine, web-based networking tools, and the use of mobile devices to deliver care to and monitor the health of rural and highly rural veterans
- 3) Maximize utilization of existing and emerging studies and analyses to impact care delivered to rural and highly rural Veterans
- 4) Improve availability of education and training for VA and non VA health care providers to rural and highly rural Veterans by support-

**COMMANDER'S  
COMMENTS**

**BILL OXFORD**  
Department Commander



This issue has been discussed before so please make sure your post is aware of the reasons for or against this question, and let your delegates vote in accordance with the post decision. We also expect to have other multiple resolutions presented by the Committee on Committees to address the consolidation, elimination, and or re-assignment of committee and commission responsibilities.

Both of these issues have been discussed extensively and much work and time have been spent on the development of a plan to present. I suggest every post review the recommendations and send the appropriate delegates to the Convention to insure your voice is heard.

**THE JUDGE  
SPEAKS**

**GAITHER KEENER JR.**  
Department Service Officer



laws. See Article V, Section 7. Each Post shall elect officers as described in the Article V under Section 8. The Officers shall be elected annually at a Post meeting (a meeting is defined as a regular meeting of the Post). The Constitution and Bylaws goes further in describing Notices, the process of election, and more particularly, that the quorum for the election is 30% of the membership as of January 1 of that Legion year.

Why do I bring this to your attention? Because the weeds are growing. We have elections and I have

See Judge, Page 8

**LET'S TALK  
REHAB**

**CAJUN COMEAU**  
Department Service Officer



ing initiatives such as the Graduate Medical Education Enhancement Initiative for residents, nurse practitioners and social workers who want specialized training in Rural Health.

- 5) Enhance existing and implement new strategies to improve collaborations and increase service options for rural and highly rural Veterans such as the recent IHS-VA MOU that will improve health care delivery by sharing programs, improving coordination of care, and increasing efficiency through sharing contracts and purchasing agreements.
  - 6) Develop innovative methods to identify, recruit and retain medical professionals and requisite expertise in rural and highly rural areas.
- In FY11, ORH is supporting 273 individual projects across the country (this does not include ORH-funded projects overseen by Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers). Many of these are in collaboration with other

See Rehab, Page 8

A major point of this year has been our membership efforts. We have been able to reach every membership goal so far because of the hard work and effort of every Legionnaire. We did miss the 90% goal by a few days, but we did reach the goal. As we look toward the end of the year we still need to be recruiting, retaining, and renewing to the very end of the year because we have a great opportunity to meet our department membership goal.

We all, as Legionnaires should be aware of the power that American Legion membership represents. I have always realized the value of American legion membership, but recently I was privileged to go to Washington, D.C. to attend the Leg-  
See Commander, Page 8

**MEMBERSHIP  
REPORT**

**JAMES MOORE**  
Membership Chairman



**Keeping  
Membership Alive**

My fellow Legionnaires this has been a good year for membership. We attended a number of Yellow Ribbon welcome ceremonies for the Army National Guard returning from deployment in Greensboro from December to April of this year. During the course of the year we have learned what it is like to go face to face meeting veterans and asking them to join the American Legion. We had a great Round up which gave us a total of 395 new members, renewals and transfers. Also, we started 4 new posts (Fayetteville Post 540, Morrisville Post 537, New Bern Post 539, and Pikeville Post 541). This shows that the Legionnaires in the State of North Carolina know how to work together.

As a reward for the post that reaches 100% and the Veterans Service Fund paid will receive a baseball style cap for their efforts. These baseball caps will be presented at the Go Getter Breakfast. Thank you for the job that you worked hard to accomplish. For God and Country.

**The North Carolina  
Legion News**

**Bill Oxford**  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

**W. Frank Stancil**  
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Articles may be submitted for consideration to be published in The North Carolina Legion News, PO Box 26657, Raleigh NC 27611-6657.

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## First Responders Honored at Cary Town Council

Each February Cary Post 67 conducts a 1st Responders' Award ceremony at our Post Home. The EMT, Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year are each presented with a plaque honoring them for outstanding service to the community. In addition, this year we began what we hope will become an annual event.

On Thursday, March 10, at a Cary Town Council meeting, we presented these honorees with an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation. An introduction was made by Town Councilman and Post 67 member Jack Smith, and the certificates were presented by Post 67 Commander Bill Cozzolino. The honorees were:

- Police Officer of the Year Steve Rogers
- EMT of the Year Frank Tallarico, accepted in his absence by EMS Chief Steve Cohen
- Firefighter of the Year Ken Caudle, accepted in his absence by Fire Chief Allan Caine
- Also, certificates were given to Becky Flowers with the Cary Police Dept Investigative Team, and Detective Sgt Jim Grier, both of whom were involved with our post in a special project for a veteran in need.

The presentation was attended by several members of Post and Unit 67, along with friends and relatives of the honorees. Post 67 Historian Robin Hinkley.

### From the Desk of ....Department Adjutant

The Legion families in this Department are very fortunate to be part of something that has been around almost half a century – the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT). The Department of North Carolina joined with the other forty-seven (47) Departments that make-up the LIT in 1971. The LIT became this Department's sponsored insurance program and remains so today. Make no mistake, the broad range of insurance products and services found under the LIT umbrella are your products and services. These products and services are not available to just anyone – other veterans included – but only to members of this Department's "Legion family".

By combining the Department of North Carolina's programs with the other LIT participating Departments, we can be assured our products and services are continually reviewed and updated (plus new programs added) so that you have access to the best selection possible. The oversight of the programs of the LIT is done by a Board of Trust Directors – one Legionnaire Director from each participating Department.

Like most Legion "jobs", it is an unpaid appointment so the Director is serving on your behalf and not his; which is one more way

to make sure you are getting the best possible coverage when you buy through your Department.

Again, this Department sponsors a broad range of insurance products and services – ranging from the "no-cost" AD&D to HOSPITAL HELP to CANCER CARE to Emergency Assistance + (EA+) to MEDICARE Supplement to Auto/homeowners and more - so one or more will likely fill a need or void in your family's insurance portfolio.

But, lets' talk a bit about buying insurance – the best way to buy is to shop, compare, and then purchase the coverage from a source you trust. We invite you to compare this Department's endorsed products with any on the market and then you can buy with the confidence of forty-five (45) years of continuous service to Legion families behind the LIT. (By the way, buying through the LIT also helps the Department underwrite its ability to serve our veterans and the communities.)

To learn more about your Department's insurance products and services please call the LIT's administrator at (800) 235-6943 or check-out the programs at theLIT.com. Either way, there will be no hard-sell or obligation to buy when you do.

**Paul Reid**  
Division 1  
Commander  
Candidate



**Military Service**  
USAF, Retired  
Master Sgt.  
Vietnam Veteran  
Air Force Commendation Medal, Valor  
Meritorious Service Award  
Expert Marksman  
Good Conduct Medal  
Vietnam Service Medal  
Vietnam Campaign Medal  
Certificate of Outstanding Service, from US President  
Senior Non-Commission Officer Academy

**Post Experience**  
Member Henry Ellis Post 17  
Finance Officer  
Adjutant  
Post Commander

**District Experience**  
District 4 Vice-Commander  
District 4 Commander  
Legion College

**Civilian Experience**  
Trustee Board, Jackson Chapel Church  
AVP Prudential/American Stock Exch.  
Real Estate Investor

**Michael Braswell**  
Division II  
Commander  
Candidate



**Military Service**  
Navy Seebees  
1979 - 84

**Post**  
(Post 167 Hampstead)  
1st Vice Commander, 2008-11  
3rd Vice Commander 2005-08  
Chairman various committees

**District**  
District 9 Vice Commander 2009  
District Oratorical Chairman 2009  
District Commander 2010  
Division  
Division Oratorical Chairman 2009  
Division Chaplain

**Department**  
Colon Furr Scholarship Committee  
2009  
Rehabilitation Advisory Board 2009

**Donald R. Bush**



Re-elect  
District 12  
Commander  
Candidate

**Military Service**  
Army Ordinance  
1953 to 1957 Korean Conflict

**Post Experience**  
Commander Post 89 2 Terms

**District Experience**  
Current District 12 Commander  
Completed all Post visits in District 12

**Department Experience**  
Member Public Relations & Publications Committee

Appointed to National Security Committee at National Convention  
Graduate American Legion Extension Institute  
Attended American Legion DEC meetings

I wish to be re-elected District Commander for Division 12 for the years 2011 & 12. I have enjoyed visiting all of the American Legion Posts and the members that I have associated with.

My first year has been a great learning experience and I would appreciate all of your support so to remain District Commander for another term. Now that I have met all the Commanders in my district, I want to increase my friendship with Post Commanders and I want to support them with our National Headquarters, NC American Legion and all veterans that I can assist as their District Commander in the American Legion. I will continue to support my Division Commander in all requirements and responsibilities associated with The North Carolina American Legion Leadership.

I would appreciate your support to retain my District Commander position for District.

Thank you, District 12 Commander  
Donald R. Bush



## Newton Post 16 Present Awards

Newton Post 16 presented Law Enforcement awards and Firefighter awards recently. Recipients pictured left to right are: C.M. Trouille, NC Highway Patrol Troop F 5th Div, Trooper of the year, Sgt. W.T. Boston, Catawba County Sheriff's Department, Deputy of the year, Scot Mecimore, Newton Fire Department, Fireman of the Year, Sgt. Nikki Lineberger, Newton Police Department, Officer of the Year, Victor Morales, Conover Police Department, Officer of the Year, and Bruce M. Roseman, Conover Fire Department, Fireman of the Year.



Pictured are Post Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Bellamy, left, and Commander Criss.

## Past Post Commander Recognized

Weaver-McLean American Legion Post 175 in Durham presented Past Post Commander Ostella Criss, Sr. with a plaque for 15 years of service as Post Commander. Commander Criss also served as District 12 commander for 3 years.



## American Flag Afghan Donated

Post 84 presented an American Flag afghan to Ron Green, the winner of a Post 84 fund raiser. The afghan was knitted and donated to Post 84 by Bessie Carter. Ms. Carter is confined to bed and knitted the afghan while residing in a local adult care facility in Elizabeth City.

Photo: L-R: Ron Green; Bruce Simons, Post 84 Commander; Herbert Jordan, Post 84 Finance Officer and Joe Bentley, District 1 Commander & Post 84 Adjutant. Photo by Larry Rozier, Department Historian.

## Meaning of Flag Draped Coffin

All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD GIVEN' rights and freedoms.

I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means ... Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You

probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one

Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning.

In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why. Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to, the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'



L-R: Scout Master Bill Rhyne, parents Mr. & Mrs. McCarthy, Kiernan McCarthy, Dick Bowers, Pete McMurtrie

### Kiernan McCarthy Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

On March 19, 2011, Kiernan James McCarthy of Boy Scout Troop 140 in Matthews received his Eagle Scout Rank. Commander Dick Bowers and Pete McMurtrie of Matthews American Legion Post 235 attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor honoring Kiernan and presented him the American Legion Citizenship Medal and a Post 235 Citizenship Certificate.

Kiernan is the first Troop 140 scout

to attain the highest Boy Scout rank. For his Eagle Project he designed and built a stone fire pit and access paths at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church. In recognition of his Scouting career accomplishments a letter from The American Legion National Commander and the National Commanders Certificate will be presented to Kiernan at the Troop 140 meeting in April.



### Benson 109 Receives SAL Charter

Benson Post 109 was presented with their new Sons of the American Legion charter in January. The new squadron has 25 members. Approximately 60 Legion family members were on hand for the presentation. Pictured is Post Commander Charles Ryals receiving the charter for Department Adjutant Frank Stancil.

## Collection of Pull-Tabs

The purpose of collecting the pull-tabs is to help pay the rent for families of seriously ill children who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Durham and is sponsored by your Department Children and Youth Commission.

Update: Mid-Winter Conference-2011 (4,299 LBS.)

The following contributed:

Raleigh Post 1	70 Lbs.	Dunn Post 59	19 Lbs.	East Bend Post 336	33 Lbs.
Durham Post 7	26 Lbs.	Canton Post 61	11 Lbs.	Salisbury Post 342	216 Lbs.
Lexington Post 8	27 Lbs.	Cary Post 67	38 Lbs.	Roseboro Post 361	3 Lbs.
Wilmington Post 10	166 Lbs.	Asheville Post 70	16 Lbs.	Highlands Post 370	20 Lbs.
Carthage Post 12	26 Lbs.	Clayton Post 71	41 Lbs.	Greensboro Post 386	658 Lbs.
Washington Post 15	1 Lb.	Hendersonville Post 77	70 Lbs.	Elizabethtown Post 404	15 Lbs.
Gastonia Post 23	22 Lbs.	Swansboro Post 78	4 Lbs.	New Salem Post 440	383 Lbs.
Monroe Post 27	32 Lbs.	Brevard Post 88	2 Lbs.	Denver Post 455	21 Lbs.
Lillington Post 28	18 Lbs.	Sylva Post 104	8 Lbs.	Calabash Post 503	154 Lbs.
Lenoir Post 29	142 Lbs.	Benson Post 109	26 Lbs.	Yadkinville Post 505	45 Lbs.
Lincolnton Post 30	212 Lbs.	Nashville Post 110	15 Lbs.	Asheville Post 526	75 Lbs.
Kernersville Post 36	6 Lbs.	Fuquay-Varina Post 116	114 Lbs.	Swift Creek Post 530	9 Lbs.
Greenville Post 39	75 Lbs.	Apex Post 124	8 Lbs.	Moyock Post 531	9 Lbs.
Edenton Post 40	84 Lbs.	Boone Post 130	166 Lbs.	Unionville Post 535	34 Lbs.
Kinston Post 43	88 Lbs.	Roxboro Post 138	7 Lbs.	Wilson Auxiliary Unit 13	32 Lbs.
Hickory Post 48	2 Lbs.	Belmont Post 144	78 Lbs.	Cary Auxiliary Unit 67	18 Lbs.
Concord Post 51	81 Lbs.	Rockingham Post 147	75 Lbs.	Benson Auxiliary Unit 109	5 Lbs.
Franklinton Post 52	9 Lbs.	Farmville Post 151	4 Lbs.	Nashville Auxiliary Unit 110	6 Lbs.
Rocky Mount Post 58	23 Lbs.	Burgaw Post 165	20 Lbs.	Landis Auxiliary Unit 146	48 Lbs.
		Durham Post 175	2 Lbs.	Faith Auxiliary Unit 327	24 Lbs.
		Belmont Post 180	2 Lbs.	Brassfield Elementary Sch	29 Lbs.
		China Grove Post 185	18 Lbs.	East Columbus High	22 Lbs.
		Whiteville Post 233	14 Lbs.	Gerry Coleman	1 Lb.
		Maiden Post 240	44 Lbs.	Kathey Watkins	5 Lbs.
		Jacksonville Post 265	42 Lbs.	Rand Rd Elementary Sch	38 Lbs.
		Coinjock Post 288	240 Lbs.	Wes Smith, DDS, Cary	1 Lb.
		King Post 290	36 Lbs.	Tue & Wed Sr. Duffers, Monroe	8 Lbs.
		Nashville Post 293	15 Lbs.	Wilmington Health Center	14 Lbs.
		Raleigh Post 297	20 Lbs.	Zola Thompson	5 Lbs.
				Unknown	4 Lbs.

### North Carolina VA Medical Centers

The 4 VA Medical Centers in North Carolina are always in need of volunteers. Please consider getting your post involved in the many areas in need at your nearest VA Medical Center. Here are a few of the volunteer requests for your VA: Electric razors. Laundry detergent, Towels, Shower curtains, 8x11 Dry erase boards and markers, Full size air mattresses, Large cans of coffee, and many others.

Please be in contact with your lo-

cal VAMC Volunteer Services Coordinator and ask how you and your post can get involved and assist our fellow veterans.

Fayetteville: Norma Fraser  
@ 910-482-5096

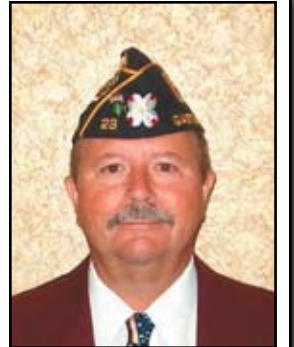
Durham: Ronni Miller  
@ 919-286-0411 x 7810

Salisbury: Nancy Perry  
@ 704-638-3409

Asheville: Darlene Laughter  
@ 828-299-2514

### Tony R. Sherill

Division V  
Commander  
Candidate



US Army, 1966-68

#### Legion Service:

Member of Post 23 Gastonia  
2005-2010 Department Admin.  
Committee  
2004-2005 Division V Commander  
2003-2004 District 22 Commander  
2002-2003 District 22 Vice Commander  
2002-2004 Post 23 Commander  
Post Adjutant Total of 15 years  
PUFL  
40 Years of Continuous Membership

#### Member of:

American Legion	Life Member
DAV	Life Member
VFW	Men's Auxiliary
AMVETS	Life Member
Marine Corps. League Associate Member	40 & 8 La Societe

#### Community Service:

Currently:  
Chairman, Gaston County Veterans Council  
President, Wellington Park Community Watch  
Secretary, Gaston County Wildlife Club  
Board of Directors  
Meals on Wheels  
Telephone Pioneers Breakfast Club  
North Belmont ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

#### Previously:

Chief Judge at Precinct # 11, Gaston County Board of Elections  
Gaston County FEMA Board  
United Way Allocation Panel

#### Church Affiliation:

The Salvation Army Worship Center  
Men's Fellowship Club  
Relief Driver for Church Bus  
Relief Driver for Food Donations

## REUNION July 13, 2011

United States Constabulary  
Troopers Army of Occupation  
Germany/Austria 1945-1952  
Contact Robert A McLellan  
508-896-6557  
15 Hawser Ln.  
Brewster, Ma. 02631-2006



**Kannapolis Post 115 Breaks Ground for Expansion**

Kannapolis American Legion Post 115 is undertaking a 2,000 square foot expansion to their post home. When the work is complete they will have a large meeting room and new kitchen all on the ground level. Breaking ground for this endeavor is left to right, Don Davis, Post 115 Adjutant, Miles Blassingham District 17 Commander, Bill Oxford, Department Commander, Reginald Forgays, Post 115 Commander, Kannapolis Mayor Bob Misenheimer, Helen Beaver, Post 115 Auxiliary Representative, David Deese, Congressman Kissell's office representative and Jimmy Wilson, Post 115 Expansion Project Manager.



**Columbia Post Presents New Flags**

Columbia American Legion Post 182 Sergeant-at-Arms Howard Liverman and Chaplain Walter Davenport presented new American and North Carolina flags to Columbia High School in late February, replacing the Wildcats Marching Band's flags displayed in parades and other public functions. Pictured (from left) are Liverman, CHS principal Marcia Manning, band director Richard Edwards, and Davenport.

**CONVENTION 2011**  
**North Raleigh Hilton**  
*Tentative Schedule Subject to Change*

TIME	MEETING	LOCATION
<b>WEDNESDAY - JUNE 8, 2011</b>		
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration	Grand Registration Desk
<b>THURSDAY - JUNE 9, 2011</b>		
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration	Grand Registration Desk
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Re-districting Committee	Grand Ballroom 2
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Resolutions & Resolutions Assignments	Salon C
	Convention Credentials & Rules Committee	Oakwood
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Service Officer Workshop	Salon E
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Administrative Committee Meeting	Salon AB
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	JROTC Committee	Salon D
	National Legion College	Salon C
	Committee on Commissions and Committees	Grand Ballroom 2
12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM	Time and Place	Salon C
	Boy Scout Committee	Salon AB
	POW/MIA Committee	Judicial
	Oratorical Contest & Education	Salon D
	Law and Order Committee	Grand Ballroom 1
	Sons of The American Legion	Grand Ballroom 2
	Voluntary Hospital Services	Grand Ballroom 3
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Baseball Hall of Fame	Salon D
	Community Service	Grand Ballroom 2
	Leadership Development	Salon C
	Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Judicial
	Rehabilitation Committee	Grand Ballroom 3
	Legion Riders Committee	Salon AB
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	AL National Convention Corp of NC, Inc.	Grand Ballroom 1
	Public Relations Committee	Grand Ballroom 3
	Boys State Committee	Grand Ballroom 1
	Colon Furr Scholarship	Grand Ballroom 2
	Veterans Employment & Preference	Salon C
	Constitution and By-Laws	Judicial
	Baseball Committee	Salon AB
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Membership Post Activities	Salon D
	Legislative Commission	Salon C
	Americanism Commission	Salon D
	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Comm.	Grand Ballroom 3
	Internal Affairs Commission	Grand Ballroom 1
	National Security & Foreign Relations Comm.	Judicial
	Children & Youth Commission	Salon AB
7:30 PM	Auxiliary Opening Ceremony	Grand Ballroom 4-5
<b>FRIDAY - JUNE 10, 2011</b>		
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration	Grand Registration Desk
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Joint Memorial Service	Chaplain Garey Gullede
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	Division I Caucus	Boxwood
	For the purpose of	Salon AB
	DAC Reports and	Salon D
	Resolutions	Salon E
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Division II Caucus	Salon C
	Division III Caucus	
	Division IV Caucus	
	Division V Caucus	
	DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Grand Ballroom 1-3
	(MEMBERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED AT THIS TIME)	
11:30 AM - 12:00 Noon	Resolutions & Resolutions Assignments	Salon C
12:00 Noon	Flag Raising Ceremony	JNROTC
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	CONVENTION GENERAL SESSION	Outdoor Flagpole
		Grand Ballroom 1-3
	(GENERAL AWARDS PRESENTED AT THIS TIME)	
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Division I Caucus	Department Commander
	Division II Caucus	Boxwood
	Division III Caucus	Salon AB
	Division IV Caucus	Salon D
	Division V Caucus	Salon E
	20 & 4 Women Legionnaires	Salon C
7:00 PM	Dance	Sandalwood
8:00 PM - 12:00 AM		Grand Ballroom 1-3
<b>SATURDAY - JUNE 11, 2011</b>		
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration	Grand Registration Desk
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Go-Getters Breakfast & Election of Go-Getter President	Salon A-C
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	GENERAL SESSION RECONVENES:	Grand Ballroom 1-3
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon	Sons of The American Legion Convention,	Harley Gaddy
		Commander
		Boxwood
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Convention Credentials & Rules Committee	Oakwood
1:00 PM	GENERAL SESSION RECONVENES:	Grand Ballroom 1-3
4:00 PM	Reception for Newly Elected Officers	Salon FG
	The reception will take the place of the Saturday night dance.	

**Legion Racing**

Jerick Johnson with Team Johnson Motorsports had a good run in the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing. They raced for seven nights and had two second place, two third place and three fourth place finishes. At one point in the series the American Legion/David Law Firm 76 Freedom Car was just 20 some points from leading the series. The World Series held at New Smyrna Speedway near Daytona, Fla. was a great start for Jericks season. Thanks to all who support Legion Racing and Team Johnson Motorsports whose home is right here in Mooresville NC. Please, if you can, come out August 13 to Charlotte and November 5 to Rockingham to support our team.

**2011 Race Schedule**

Apr 28	Richmond International Raceway	Richmond, VA
May 21	Iowa Speedway	Newton, IA
Jun 11	Gresham Motorsports Park	Jefferson, GA
Jul 15	New Hampshire Motor Speedway	Loudon, NH
Aug 13	Concord Speedway	Charlotte, NC
Aug 27	Elko Speedway	Elko, MN
Sep 30	Dover International Speedway	Dover, DE
Oct 22	Lucas Oil Raceway	Indianapolis, IN
Nov 5	Rockingham Speedway	Rockingham, NC



Photo by James V Carroll, February 20,



# Honoring Our Military

The year 2010-2011 is drawing to a close for the North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary. Units across our great State are writing their reports recording Unit projects in numbers and money.

Yet, we all know that the full measure of this accounting is not in the deeds themselves but in honor we have given, the love we have shown, and in the respect we have displayed. We have kept our faith in the promise made in 1919 to our war weary veterans and their families and we have served our Legion Family with honor, love, and respect.

We take great pride in our accomplishments this year. Our military support with pocket flags and hugs at deployments, care packages by the hundreds, welcome homes with kids' activities and family support, and community celebrations have been

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WANDA MOORE  
Department President



awesome.

To our veterans – our first priority – we have showered them with comfort items and unending care--at the four VA's, rest homes, and in our communities.

And we have reached out to the children--first to the military and then to all children. To them, we have shown by example what it means to be an American with freedom binding us together.

Our members have displayed the Power of One to support all that is right and good in the ALA. We have taken part in some spectacular team driven projects --working together to reach our goals. It has been Mission first--not me first, in the best we have done.

THANK YOU for your generous

support for my President's Project. We have not reached goal yet but I have great faith in our membership. We will not let our NC wounded warriors down. As the old saying goes, "It ain't over yet!"

This month we will be out in communities all over our State, telling the Poppy Story, distributing Poppies, and accepting donations on behalf of our veterans in the oldest and most widely recognized program of the American Legion Auxiliary. As we honor the men and women who have died for our country, we know that these American Heroes will live on forever in the memories and stories and in the hearts of all of us whose lives have been touched by these very special Americans--our veterans.

I am very proud of all the accomplishments of our NC American Legion Auxiliary this year and of the support we have given our Legion. However, I do believe this is but a stepping-stone to greater years to come. I believe in our tomorrow and in the old saying, "The best is yet to come!"

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

RACHEL ERVIN  
Aux. Department Chaplain



## Power of One

The March winds have come and gone. Thankfully, we were blessed with April showers. With the coming of spring, we see the tender flowering buds on plants and trees and are reminded of the rebirth taking place all around us.

Church choirs have practiced for and participated in numerous Easter cantatas around the country. The pageantry and sorrow of Jesus dying on the cross has been played out over and over again. It resounds in our minds and souls. For we know that He died on the cross to save us from our sins. All we have to do is ask for forgiveness. We can be born again as Jesus was resurrected from death. As we accept Christ as our Saviour, the slate of our sinful selves is wiped clean and we have a chance to start all over as good and Godly people.

In all our doings in life let us act according to the golden rule. If we treat others as we would like to be treated, the world will be much more peaceful place in which to live.

As Legionnaires and Auxiliary members we should lift up in our daily prayers those who are serving on active duty in war-torn territories. Let us pray that they will return home unharmed. We pray also for those who have served in any capacity to assure us of our many freedoms. May we never forget that freedom is not free.

Let us work together for the "Power of One". Each and every one of us can make a difference in our service to our communities. It takes only one individual to come up with an idea that impacts the masses. Let us all work together for the good of all.

Please don't hesitate to call or send emails letting me know of individuals in need of prayer. I appreciate your letting me know about illnesses, deaths or other troublesome situations so that I can send out notes letting our members know that they are remembered at those times. You may call at 252-459-5488 or email me at [ervinmanor@suddenlink.net](mailto:ervinmanor@suddenlink.net)

Reminder! I still need for your chaplains and members to send me written prayers for inclusion in my yearbook.

## Got GAS? Goal Ambulance Service

At home politicians squabble over the budget and we go about business as usual, except for the ever increasing prices. But for our brave men and women in the Middle East, "business as usual" means the ever present danger of active duty in a hostile environment. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they face unimaginable horrors in the defense of our interests and values. May their sacrifices make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those people seeking freedom from tyranny.

## MEMBERSHIP

SUE GOOCH  
Membership Chairman



Congratulations to all who have worked so hard on our membership drive. It is not over yet; we still have the final vital sign scheduled for May 23, and the committee hopes our ambulances can round up those last few unsigned members. It would be wonderful if we can report 100% goal as our recovery rate. Currently, we rank in the top ten nationally, with a reasonable chance to be number one! In the Southern Division,

we rank first, but others are within striking range and we must continue our efforts until the end of the drive. You have done a wonderful job in activating our membership to work overtime in these hard economic times. Without your dedication and caring we could not have achieved at this pace.

So, one last appeal to keep those ambulances on a roll and inspire your EMTs to "put the pedal to the metal" so that we can do our very best to rescue members who can help us serve the veterans and their families. The more hands we have, the more we can do to honor those who have honored America.

## How One Person Can Make a Difference

Eleanor Pape has tutored on the elementary level for 15 years and held many offices in Calabash Unit 503 for 17 years. A wonderful story a second grader who did not want to learn to read, his only interest was to grow up to be like Michael Jordan. As a tutor Eleanor found books on Michael Jordan.

She began reading the books to him, these books gained his interest. Eleanor pointed out how important it was to put time in reading just like Michael spent many hours practicing in order to become a better basketball player. Very quickly this student made a complete turn around and before long he was making both the A and B honor rolls. This story shows us just how important the ALA Education Program is in assisting young students in the classrooms.



## Membership Facts and Figures

Department Percentage as of April 14, 2011		97.88%	
Division 4	101.58%	Mt. Olive	103
Division 2	98.36%	Kenansville	329
Division 3	98.21%	Albertson	329
Division 5	96.55%	Wilmington	010
Division 1	93.52%	Elizabethtown	404
<b>Goal Units Since 2-16-2011</b>		Rowland	271
Manteo	026	Cary	067
Elizabeth City	084	Raleigh	297
Coinjock	288	High Point	206
Littleton	425	Lexington	008
Oxford	166	Asheboro	045
Kinston	043	Hamlet	049
		Monroe	212
		Concord	051
		Mt. Pleasant	301
		New Salem	440
		Winston Salem	055
		Mt. Airy	123
		Winston Salem	128
		Winston Salem	220
		Statesville	065
		Faith	327
		Davidson	086
		Charlotte	221
		Charlotte	353
		Charlotte	380
		Valdese	234
		Newton	016
		Bessemer City	243
		Brevard	088

## DO YOU USE FACEBOOK?

Do you want to see what is going on all over the Department of North Carolina? It's easy! Just open your Face book Page, go to search box at the top and type in The American Legion Department of North Carolina and hit enter.

It's a quick alternative to the website for real time information about your American Legion. While you are there, be sure to make an entry about what is going on at Your Post. There is NO charge to use this!



## Commander

From Page 2

islative Conference sponsored by the National Legislative Commission. Our team from North Carolina, 15 members strong, included our Legislative Chairman Jeff Joyner, NEC-man Jerry Hedrick, other Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.

We attended conferences and committee meetings and had several informative speakers to include National Commander Jimmy Foster, and V.A Secretary Eric Shinseki. But

the real treat was our visit to Capitol Hill to visit our elected officials. Unfortunately due to a scheduling problem, Congress was in recess and the Senators and Representatives were at home.

However, we were able to visit and present our concerns to their Primary Staff. We had the undivided attention of a Congressional office for a short period of time, and they were willing and almost anxious to hear our issues. But the most amazing answer I hear to any question

was this, and I ask the same question to every official as we were completing our meetings.

It was "What can we do as the Legion to help you?" The answer was almost exactly the same in every office, and it was. "Keep doing what you are doing". As we reviewed the visits, and looked at what we accomplished, we all agree. The American Legion is the largest veterans' organization and as such, we must be the loudest voice for America's veterans.

We need to keep calling, keep

visiting, and continue to let our Legislators know what we want and what we need them to support. Every lawmaker wants and needs to hear our voice.

Another thing that emphasizes our point happened on March 28 when Nation Commander Jimmy Foster was at the White House to visit with President Barack Obama. This event shows the value and political power of the American Legion, and the veterans we represent.

Thanks for All you do in support of Americas Veterans.

## Judge

from Page 2

had complaints from members that their Post officers are not following the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department. A reminder to Officers... under the Constitution and Bylaws, members may be suspended and expelled for neglect of duties.

Pollen is flowing! Yes, it's baseball season time again and I know that the Baseball Committee will handle 95% of all issues. The remainder will probably come to the Americanism Commission and possibly your Judge Advocate. Always one of the issues is the proper accounting of baseball funds.

Under our Constitution and Bylaws, National requires all individuals associated with funds of the Post to be properly bonded. That means, the Finance Officer, the Adjutant, most likely the Athletic Officer, definitely

the person at the gate, definitely the person in the concession stand that accepts funds, etc.

They must report all financial ends and outs of the baseball funds to the Post Financial Officer. Yes, baseball may have a separate checking account; however, the Finance Officer shall have access and is responsible for the accounting of that account. The Finance Officer must report the baseball financials at least monthly to the Finance Committee.

What if the Post has a Booster Club? If the Post signs the documentation and allows the Booster Club to use its American Legion name, the Post is responsible in regards to the above paragraph to make sure the accounting is correct. Income still must be reported as described and appropriate 990 Forms must be filed. Yes, the pollen is flowing, just like baseballs will be flying.

As I think about "weeds grow-

ing," I will add two more comments for the Post. Several Posts will forward to the Department proposed Constitution and Bylaws. Those Constitution and Bylaws will be forwarded to me for review. Numerous times I will review very quickly and send an email back advising the individual that they need to read the Department's Constitution and Bylaws and draft the Post proposed Constitution and Bylaws the same as the Department so that it is not in conflict with the Department and National's Constitution and Bylaws.

Like most lawyers, I work for a living, and as the Judge Advocate for the Department, I provide counsel to the Department and its Officers. I will advise the Post as to issues when I read their proposals; however, do not expect me to redraft the Constitution and Bylaws for you. The National Manual has three proposed Constitution and Bylaws for Posts to

use. Pick one and use it.

The last weed that grows and grows is "what is the authority of the Chairman of an American Legion Post Committee?" Several matters have been brought to me over the last two weeks. Robert's Rules are very clear, if the Chairman of a Committee is a member of the Body (here, the American Legion Post); he does not have the right to vote on any matters except for to make a tie or break a tie. Very simple answer.

In addition, he does not have the right of voice on an issue unless he relieves the gavel in favor of the second in command of the Committee. If you remember these rules, then the Committee should function in a more cohesive effort.

June normally blows away the pollen, the lack of rain may kill the weeds, and the birds fly the coupe. I hope you enjoy this article.

## Rehab

from Page 2

VA program offices such as the Office of Mental Health, Geriatric Extended Care and the Office of Telehealth services. See the pie chart below for a breakdown of projects by primary category.

### ORH Project Categories

**Education** - This category makes up 6 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that focus on the training/education of VA as well as non-VA, community-based providers of rural Veterans health care.

**Infrastructure** - This category makes up 5 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that expand or improve the infrastructure of existing rural health facilities through construction/renovation/equipment or hiring of staff.

**HBPC - Home Based Primary Care** - This category makes up 8 percent of the ORH portfolio. This program involves the delivery of comprehensive, longitudinal, primary care in the homes of Veterans with complex chronic disease and disability. ORH has supported the implementation of HBPC in 25 rural or highly rural CBOCs and non-VA community clinics located in 15 different VISNs covering 22 states.

**Long-term care** - This category makes up 2 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects/programs that focus on long term care of rural Veterans in community-based residential facilities, or those requiring

extensive non-institutional care or in the medical foster home, in which care is provided to frail, and/or physically disabled rural veterans in a home-like environment.

**New Facility**- This category makes up 11 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that focus solely on establishing new community-based outpatient clinics and/or outreach clinics in rural areas.

**Non-VA care** - This category makes up 6 percent of the ORH portfolio refers to projects that fund fee-basis care for rural Veterans.

**Marketing/Outreach** - This category makes up 4 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that focus on contacting and educating rural Veterans about VA eligibility, health care services and access points.

**Primary/Specialty Care** - This category makes up 17 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that increase access for rural Veterans to primary and specialty health care services including mental health, occupational and physical therapy, audiology, radiology, gastroenterology, and pharmacy services (excludes telehealth projects).

**Priority Populations** - This category makes up 6 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that focus on Veteran populations (women, homeless, OEF/OIF, Native) that have been identified as rural health priorities.

**Telehealth** - This category makes up 25 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that focus on

using telehealth technology to provide services to rural Veterans and includes 1) care coordination home telehealth (e.g., patient self-management via messaging, monitoring and video devices) 2) care coordination general telehealth (e.g., clinical care via video conferencing) and 3) care coordination store and forward (screening via remote imaging e.g., teleretinal, teledermatology, telepathology).

**Transportation** - This category makes up 6 percent of the ORH portfolio and refers to projects that develop/provide transportation solutions for rural Veterans to obtain care at a VA facility.

## Adjutant

From Page 2

a veterans service officer, or the employment security commission, and the list goes on and on. The American Legion is "alive" today, so let's get going "today" and not wait until next week, next month, or next year.

Since 1919 The American Legion has been a vital part of thousands of communities across our great nation and this has been accomplished with one Post at a time. Your membership matters and your involvement matters and Your military service to this country matters. So let's all serve The American Legion under the same code that we served under in the military, Duty, Honor, Country!

### Unit 77 "Adopt A Soldier" Program

Patsy Angel, an active member of Unit 77 in Hendersonville, has been sending care packages to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq years and two years ago she formed the local "Adopt A Soldier" program. Keeping in contact through e-mails with after sending the packages with the troops. Sgt. April McDowell was the first soldier to respond to Angel's e-mails.

She told Angel in the letters that the troops in her Unit and Battalion were grateful for the packages that included simple needs like foot cream, hand warmers and other hygiene items. Corresponding by e-mails and letters over the past two years Angel and Sgt. McDowell had never met in person until Angel's daughter, Wendy Edmisten, arranged a surprise meeting at the De-



partment meeting of Unit 77.

Arrangements were made and Sgt. McDowell's military leave was approved and airplane tickets from Seattle to Asheville were purchased for this special surprise. Hendersonville's annual Christmas parade was the following Saturday and Sgt. McDowell's leave allowed her to participate.