

Legion News

The Official Publication of the American Legion Department of North Carolina



October - December 2017

Vol. 80, No. 4

USPS 009-812

HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER

- 13 US Navy Birthday
- 19-21 Fall Conference
North Raleigh Hilton
- 21 Sweepstakes Drawing
- 23 Beirut Bombing
- 25 Grenada Invasion
- 28 Navy Chaplain Corps
Birthday

NOVEMBER

- 4 Daylight Savings
Time Ends
- 7 Election Day
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 23 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor
- 15 Bill Of Rights
- 16 National Guard Birthday
- 20 Panama Operation
- 25 Christmas Day



North Carolina Department Commander Honors The Fallen At Arlington

American Legion Department of North Carolina Commander Carol Barker visited Arlington National Cemetery on Aug. 1 to memorialize fallen service members with a Legion wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

More than 100 visitors gathered on the steps outside of the Memorial Amphitheater, standing high above a picturesque hill overlooking the nation's capital, as they witnessed Barker present a wreath adorned

with nearly 30,000 red silk roses, at the tomb's base.

"This is the most amazing opportunity," said Barker, a retired Air Force combat veteran. "I have buried so many of my friends from war, from suicide and for many different reasons. This means more to me than I can ever tell you - I'm just humbled."

Thanks to the donors who go above and beyond in supporting fundraising efforts, Barker said the Legion

is able to continue its long history of serving veterans and fellow service members.

"I want them to know The American Legion cares and that The American Legion is here for them," Barker said. "The Legion has helped me survive. I found a purpose. My Legion family became my support - they became my 'battle buddies.' They are there if I need them and that's what we should be to others. Battle buddies, to protect."

Denise Rohan Becomes the Legion's First Female National Commander

Denise Rohan was elected national commander of the 2 million-member American Legion on Aug. 24, 2017, in Reno, Nev., during the 99th national convention of America's largest veterans organization.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise (Hulbert) Rohan lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for U.S. Army basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., in 1974. She served on active duty as a stock control and accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Va., until her honorable discharge in August 1976.

Rohan and her husband, Mike, currently live in Verona, Wis., where she has served The American Legion since 1984. Prior to her transfer to Post 385 in Verona, she served as the commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wis., where she established a Sons of the American Legion squadron and chartered a Boy Scout troop. She has also served as the department commander of Wisconsin.

Rohan and Mike are both 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College-Basic Course, and have gone on to serve as department and national American Legion College facilitators.

Rohan was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Colleges \$120 million loan portfolio made up of approximately 200 different federal, institutional and state programs in compliance with all laws, regulations and policy. She was responsible for the efficiency and design of the computerized student loan accounts receivable system.

She is a graduate of Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wis., and The Collegiate Management Institute. Rohan served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1-105th Cavalry Squadron. She also served with the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program.

Her theme as national commander is "Family First" and her fundraising project is the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Legion's service officer program. TFA awards cash grants to minor children of veterans who are



eligible for American Legion membership. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment.

Rohan has been married to Mike since 1976, and they have a son, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Angie, and two grandchildren, Sawyer and Isla. Mike is very active with The American Legion on both the state and national levels and is a past department adjutant. Nick and Sawyer are members of Squadron 385, and Isla is a member of Unit 385.





Commander's Column

This year has proven to be an exhilarating time for the American Legion, and we are only three months into the Legion year! The American Legion made history by electing the very first woman veteran as their Leader. Denise Rohan of Wisconsin was elected National Commander and sworn in during a stirring ceremony in August at the National Convention in Reno. Among her many goals is an emphasis on family that encompasses the entire American Legion Family. She has selected the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program as her charity of focus. TFA assists veterans with children in their home at a time of need. No child should have to worry where they will lay their head at night or if they will have electricity for basic human needs. A record number of veterans in North Carolina and throughout the nation applied for

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

CAROL BARKER
Department Commander



assistance in the past year. The Department of North Carolina will be working diligently this year to help raise funds for this vital program. Please keep this in mind and support as you are able.

The National Commander and the Leading Candidate for National Commander, Brett Reistad of Virginia (2018-2019) are scheduled to visit North Carolina during our Fall Conference October 20-21. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the conference to welcome our guests to the Tarheel state. For those of you who like suspense and intrigue, a fun evening with games and Karaoke (including a spooky surprise) will take place on Friday night. Costumes are encouraged

but not mandatory, and I sincerely hope you will plan to attend.

My year thus far as your Department Commander has been fulfilling. In July I traveled to Washington, D.C. to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a very humbling and emotional experience and one I will always treasure. Likewise, I've had the opportunity to travel across our great state and meet some incredible people. Legionnaires are some of the most giving and caring people I have ever met. Much of what they do is what my Navy friends refer to "as below the water line." They work without fanfare or acknowledgment. The evidence of their work is unmistakable. While membership is important to the Legion, the best indicator of our success as an organization is the impact we see in our communities and the lives of individual veterans and their families. Thank you once again for the privilege to serve as your Commander.

ADJUTANT'S CALL

TIERIAN CASH
Department Adjutant



Temporary Financial Assistance

National Commander, Denise Rohan, has made Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) one of her charities of interest for the coming year. TFA is the landmark program of The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth. Begun in 1925 as a form of direct aid to children, the TFA program is still unique in the social work field today. Through TFA, a Post/Department

See Adjutant, Page 8

Chaplain's Column

At the time of this writing, our nation has endured two catastrophic hurricanes – Harvey and Irma. And the weather forecasters state that there are two more potentially fierce storms that may cause further severe damages and hardships to our shores. Pray for those who have been affected and those who may be in harm's way.

Until you walk in their shoes you cannot understand how helpless they can feel and how severely their faith is tested. When individuals are homeless and don't know where to turn, let us pray that all

of them will turn first to God, and then to mankind. Having personally experienced extreme hurricane losses, my heart goes out to each and every one of them. The key to getting through tough times is to put one foot in front of the other and just keep going. With God by our side we can endure whatever comes our way. Hebrews 13:5 says "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

I am so very proud to say that The American Legion Department of North Carolina was quick to respond with financial assistance for hurricane relief.

In a speech given in February

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

JAMES ERVIN
Department Chaplain



1961, President John F. Kennedy stated; "This country was founded by men and women who were dedicated or came to be dedicated to two propositions: first, a strong religious conviction, and secondly, a recognition that this conviction could flourish only under a system of freedom."

See Chaplain, Page 8

Reflection and Promises

Legislation: As we are now in the third month of the commander's year, I must reflect on the numerous accomplishments we have been able to drive home during my 30+ years as a member of this great organization. We are the veteran service organization to whom Congress listens! Just think, President Trump came to our convention to sign an historical act passed by Congress which your American Legion wrote. Your American Legion was the leading author and inspiration for its passage, while other veteran service organizations stood alone the wayside. History was made in Reno as President Trump attended our convention, and for the first time in American history, or United States president signed

legislation outside of the Oval Office!!! Historic!!!

Congressional Coin: In celebration of our historical 100th anniversary, our American Legion national legislative staff continues to work with House leadership to get our American Legion 100 anniversary Coin to the house floor. The legislation passed the United States Senate this summer. This week, September 11, we are at 344 cosponsors members of the House of Representatives who have signed the legislation. Looking back at the 19 coins authorized by Congress since the year 2010, the American Legion has surpassed the cosponsor number on all but one; The United States Army commemorative coin, which had 348 house cosponsors when it passed the house of representative.

JUDGE'S CORNER

GAITHER M. KEENER, JR
Department Judge Advocate



Charlie Smith, of our department, is working very smart and hard to obtain and get more of our North Carolina house of representative members of Congress to sign as cosponsors. *The following house of representative members from North Carolina have not yet cosponsored our bill. Why?*

I encourage our North Carolina congressional council members to contact them and remind them we need them to sign the legislation. We will remember those who sign as cosponsors for our

See Judge, Page 8

Membership Report

Hello from Membership, I want to start by saying thank you to all the Posts. The membership report sent out this week shows our state is at 61% of our membership on the way to 100%. The membership team is beginning revitalizations, there are a number of District Commanders and Division commanders that are reaching out to their posts and assisting them as needed. I am asking all the members that are getting this Newsletter, "Reach out to a friend

or neighbor that you know are not members of the American Legion and ask them to consider joining the largest Veteran Organization in the World."

I was fortunate to attend the training in Division II last month. There were many questions and much information passed out. I urge each Division to schedule training for District Commanders and Post Commanders.

There are a number of upcoming

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BOB BARKER
Membership Chairman



tools coming to MyLegion to help the post have greater control of their membership. We will discuss this at the Membership Committee meeting. The convention is just around the corner (October 20 – 21). I urge each of you to attend if possible.

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I certify that the statement made by me above are correct and complete. Tierian R. Cash, Department Adjutant			

The North Carolina Legion News

Carol Barker
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Tierian Randy Cash
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

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The 99th American Legion National Convention, Reno, Nevada



Along the parade route participants pass under the sign synonymous with Reno



The North Carolina dinner with special guest Medal of Honor recipient Donald E. Ballard



The NC Delegation Passing-in-Review



Preparing for the Parade



President Trump addressing the convention



Past Department Commander David Shore receiving plaque for Highest Donation in Category IV for National Emergency Fund

The American Legion's 99th national convention was held in Reno, Nevada August 18-24, 2017 and the "Biggest Little City in the World" lived up to its billing as a favorite among convention goers. In addition to normal activities—electing a new national com-

mander, commission and committee meetings, workshops, and noted speakers—there were blood drives, Color Guard Contests, the national convention parade and post-party, and a free screening of the documentary "Blood Road." The film documents a daugh-

ter's 1,200-mile journey by mountain bike on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to find her father's crash site. The North Carolina delegation proudly represented the Tar Heel State.



Pictured from left to right: Legionnaire Cherylynn Horton; District 13 Commander Jeff Cathcart, National Executive Committee Member Patricia Harris, District 14 Commander Jerry McClough, Festival Committee Member Bruce Davis, NC Department American Legion Commander Carolyn Barker, ALA District 6 President Naomi Totten, Coordinator and Past Division III Commander Turner Totten

Legionnaires Attend Jazz Festival

When conversations arise as to how to get the message of The American Legion to the public, an opportunity to "think outside of the box" presents itself. This was the case for a group of American Legion and Auxiliary members who attended The John Coltrane International Jazz Festival in High Point, North Carolina on September 3rd and 4th. Turner Totten seized the opportunity to share the mission of The American Legion by coordinating the groups' appearance at this diverse venue. Saturday's weather did not deter the attendees as hundreds filed into the park to see jazz greats such as Gerald Albright and Johnathan Butler. Sunday's weather was more pleasant as hundreds filed in again to hear

Spyra Gyro, Eddie Palimieri, Branford Marsalis, and new artist Alexis Morrast. The brilliant canopy caught the attention of those entering the gate as the group was empowered to answer questions, for Veterans and those interested in Veterans. Questions reflected an interest in what the Legion is, how to join, how to find a local post, what are the benefits of joining and what is the Auxiliary. Most of all the Legion members and Auxiliary members had an opportunity to make new friends. A special thanks to Bruce Davis, Organizing Festival Committee Member, who made it possible for us to be a part of this venue and all who could make this community awareness opportunity a part of their schedule.



Post 350 Awards Scholarship

A.B. Sally Jr. Post 350 in Pinehurst, awarded the Victor Arnold Ritter Scholarship, to Haleigh E. McPherson, at the September 7th meeting of the post. Haleigh is in her first year study in the nursing program at Sandhills Community College.
L-R: Adj. Gary Bosworth, Sgt.at Arms/scholarship chairman Tim Howle, and Haleigh McPherson.



First Responders Honored

Squadron and Auxiliary 116 in Fuquay-Varina honored our first responders by delivering baskets of fruit and many sweets. On the day of 9-11, may we never forget what these women and men risked for so many. We are very grateful for their dedication and service. Pictured is SAL Detachment Commander John Jenkins with Fuquay and Willow Springs Volunteers.

Harrisburg Benefits from Post and Auxiliary at 523

Harrisburg 523's Post and Auxiliary are actively working with the Town of Harrisburg as volunteers for community events. During the latest concert in the 'Rockin the Burg' concert series, members checked IDs, worked in the Interactive Art section for youngsters and greeted visitors to seek exposure and to work toward membership recruitment. Shown in the photo which was taken by "The Machine Photography" was (Left to Right) Janice MacLeod, Eric Johnson, Robert MacLeod, Mark D'Amore, Henry Brown, Linda Brown and Adrianne Monteleone. Not pictured was Chris Monteleone.



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: Convention 2017 (4,254 LBS.)

The following contributed;

Raleigh Post 1	3 lbs.	Snow Hill Post 94	12 lbs.	East Bend Post 336	15 lbs.
Asheville Post 2	11 lbs.	Murphy Post 96	41 lbs.	Salisbury Post 342	108 lbs.
Chapel Hill Post 6	6 lbs.	Ahoskie Post 102	47 lbs.	Zebulon Post 363	10 lbs.
Durham Post 7	79 lbs.	Mt Olive Post 103	5 lbs.	Highlands Post 370	10 lbs.
Wilmington Post 10	297 lbs.	Louisburg Post 10	61 lbs.	Greensboro Post 386	600 lbs.
Goldsboro Post 11	97 lbs.	Salisbury Post 106	20 lbs.	Elizabethtown Post 404	33 lbs.
Carthage Post 12	137 lbs.	Salisbury Post 107	6 lbs.	Pine Level Post 405	144 lbs.
Newton Post 16	59 lbs.	Franklin Post 108	43 lbs.	Henrietta Post 423	96 lbs.
Tarboro Post 19	6 lbs.	Fuquay-Varina Post 116	88 lbs.	Littleton Post 425	1 lb.
Gastonia Post 23	14 lbs.	Hertford Post 126	4 lbs.	New Salem Post 440	71 lbs.
New Bern Post 24	24 lbs.	Pleasure Island Post 129	39 lbs.	Denver Post 455	74 lbs.
Lenoir Post 29	99 lbs.	Roxboro Post 138	21 lbs.	Calabash Post 503	72 lbs.
Kernersville Post 36	17 lbs.	Roxboro Post 138	36 lbs.	Swift Creek Post 530	61 lbs.
Greenville Post 39	23 lbs.	Rockingham Post 147	108 lbs.	Hayesville Post 532	82 lbs.
Edenton Post 40	78 lbs.	Wallace Post 156	11 lbs.	New Bern Post 539	24 lbs.
Morehead City Post 46	10 lbs.	Raleigh Post 157	10 lbs.	St James Post 543	2 lbs.
Hickory Post 48	29 lbs.	Burgaw Post 165	28 lbs.	Hickory Post 544	32 lbs.
Franklinton Post 52	17 lbs.	Durham Post 175	3 lbs.	Wilmington Post 545	18 lbs.
Greensboro Post 53	59 lbs.	Fayetteville Post 202	135 lbs.	Goldsboro Aux Unit 11	10 lbs.
Dunn Post 59	24 lbs.	Southport Post 213	8 lbs.	Cary Aux Unit 67	3 lbs.
Burlington Post 63	12 lbs.	Goldsboro Post 215	12 lbs.	Benson Aux Unit 109	8 lbs.
Asheville Post 70	9 lbs.	Kinston Post 219	39 lbs.	Hertford Aux Unit 126	13 lbs.
Clayton Post 71	49 lbs.	Spring Lake Post 230	5 lbs.	Landis Aux Unit 146	6 lbs.
Aberdeen Post 72	3 lbs.	Bessemer City Post 243	73 lbs.	Morganton Aux Unit 322	28 lbs.
Albemarle Post 76	20 lbs.	Tryon Post 250	44 lbs.	Waynesville SAL Sq 47	1 lb.
Hendersonville Post 77	140 lbs.	Charlotte Post 262	29 lbs.	Belmont SAL Sq 144	1 lb.
Swansboro Post 78	13 lbs.	Stanley Post 266	12 lbs.	Centennial Magnet Middle Schl, Ral	193 lbs.
Liberty Post 81	10 lbs.	Coinjock Post 288	87 lbs.	Redhat, downtown Raleigh	2 lbs.
High Point Post 87	124 lbs.	Nashville Post 293	22 lbs.	Brassfield Elementary Sch, Raleigh	40 lbs.
Siler City Post 93	10 lbs.	Littleton Post 308	29 lbs.	Kathay Watkins	2 lbs.
		Faith Post 327	8 lbs.		



American Legion members from the Departments of Texas and Alabama unload relief supplies at Post 490 in Houston for Hurricane Harvey victims.
Photo by Todd Spoth



Marine Forces Reserve photo

Veterans Helping Veterans

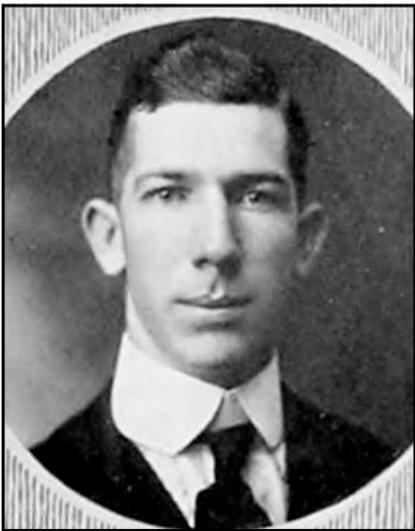
As the floodwaters were rising in Houston and surrounding areas, The American Legion Department of North Carolina answered the call for assistance. After phone calls to The Department of Texas, Legionnaires in North Carolina determined the best way to support those ravished by the storm was to send a monetary donation to the Lone Star State. The department made a donation of \$10,000 to the National Emergency Fund (NEF) earmarked for Texas. Posts around the State are continuing to raise funds for the ongoing effort.

Department Commander Carol Barker of Greensboro, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force is no stranger to natural disasters or war and conflict. "Seeing the devastation in Texas and now in Florida, it reminds one of the

war-torn parts of Afghanistan or Iraq. We are grateful for the opportunity to help fellow veterans displaced by Hurricane Harvey and we are now turning our attention to those in Florida."

The NEF was created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and to date has provided more than \$8 million dollars in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

For more information please contact Department Adjutant Randy Cash, 919-832-7506 (office), 919-832-6428 (Fax), e-mail nclegion@nc.rr.com



The American Legion Cedric Harris
Post 148 Wendell
Larry Rozier, Historian

Edward Cedric Harris was born May 20, 1896 in Henderson, NC. He was one of 5 children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Harris. Cedric's father worked as a merchant or buyer in the tobacco market. The family moved from Henderson to Rockingham, over to Reidsville, on to Dunn and then to Wendell.

Cedric was a fairly good student at Trinity College in Durham, where he graduated in 1917. Later Trinity would become Duke University. From the many clubs listed in the yearbook next to his senior picture, he probably had a degree in science. His hometown was listed as Wendell.

After enlisting in the Army, he entered service in April, 1917 at Wendell. He was sent to Georgia to Officer's Candidate School where he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. He sailed for France on August 5, 1918 and was stationed

with the 81st Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, in the 321st Infantry Regiment in a Machine Gun Company.

On a morning patrol, he and his men came under violent machine gun fire from three German enemy machine guns. Some of his men were hurt and he helped to care for his wounded men (by the way, his men highly admired him). Lt. Harris took a machine gun forward through the wire and ordered his men to retreat back to safety. Lt. Harris was severely and mortally wounded on November 11, 1918, the very day the Armistice was signed between Germany and the Allies. For his actions in saving his men, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Veterans of Wendell honored Lt. Harris by naming the local post, The American Legion Cedric Harris Post 148.



Durham VA Medical Center Hosts "Roll-Walk-Run 5K"

In a recent collaborative effort, Cathy Lipsey President ALA Post 175, Joel Lipsey, Commander AL Post 549, Kendre Monden of the Durham VA Medical Center, and the Knights of Columbus organized a "Roll-Walk-Run 5K" event to raise funds for disabled veterans assigned to the Durham VAMC. A check was presented to the Durham VAMC in the amount of \$8,000.00. The 5K Walk-Run is now an annual event supported by the VAMC.

With a staff of about 2,500, the Durham VAMC is a tertiary care referral, teaching, and research facility located adjacent to Duke University Medical Center. A part of the Veterans Health Administration,

it delivers health care to more than 59,000 Veterans living in eastern N.C. and has an operating budget of approximately \$400 million. The campus consists of a 151-bed acute care hospital and a 120-bed Community Living Center facility, and houses the VISN 6 Mental Illness Research and Clinical Center (MIRECC), Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), and Southeast Epilepsy Center of Excellence. The medical center operates Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Greenville, Morehead City, and Raleigh, N.C. as well as a free standing Outpatient Dialysis Unit in Raleigh



Fourth of July Parade

Faith, NC



Post 8 Lexington Awarded \$10,000.00 in Scholarships.

American Legion Post 8 is pleased to announce ten (10) winners for their 2017 scholarships. Each of the recipients receive \$1,000.00 for furthering their education at the university or college of their choice. Each of the winners are sponsored by an American Legion family member. The money is derived from "Saturday Night Bingo" which is played at the Post each week.

Shown are : Jim Lippard, Commander, Jessica Hunt, Audrey Everhart, Jonathan Lanning, Andrew Curry, Carah Summerlin, Carson Osborn, Julianna Padon, Lucy Martin, and Bob Leonard, Scholarship Chairman. Missing from the picture are Logan McCarn and Henry Wingard.



President's Message

I trust everyone had a wonderful summer and you are ready to get busy helping our Veterans. We recently attended the National Convention in Reno, Nevada and everyone agrees it was a wonderful learning experience.

There is a busy year ahead of us, including the Division Meetings which are coming up soon. I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will try to attend these meetings. There is so much we can learn from one another, and from other units. There are many great ideas to share with one another. Our Committee Chairmen are great sources of information. Let's not forget that the Fall Conference is just around the corner. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there. You are encouraged to visit the President's project table and make a donation to our proj-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEBBIE HARRIS
Department President



ect or purchase other items. Our goal is \$20,000.00, which will be divided evenly among the four VA Hospitals for their Hospice units to use for the comfort of patients and their families.

Ladies, let's remember to BEE-Lieve in our mission which is to support our veterans and active duty military and their families. Let's continue to have respect for one another—to be kind to one another and in doing so we fulfill our mission, which is always OUR VETERANS!!!

I look forward to a wonderful year. Thank you to the American Legion for all of your support.

Vice-President/ Membership

I am a member of Henry K. Burtner Unit #53 Greensboro, NC. I have been a member there for 27 years. At the June Convention I was installed as your Department Vice-President/Membership Chairman.

This is going to be a great year for the Auxiliary! Our theme this year is "Buzzing for Membership." There will be several awards and goals this year. The first one is for all Units, Districts and Divisions having 50% or more by October 4, 2017. They will be entered for a prize and it will be drawn at Fall Conference. The Units goals this year are +2 from the ending membership number of 2016-2017. I know that we can all find 2 members. Juniors count too!

Remember our female veterans. National and the Department are again waiving

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

BETTY MOORE
Vice President



their part of the dues for new female dual members (for the first year only). Don't forget about our benefits when giving our elevator speech. If you are thinking about buying or leasing a new car, look for our new benefit called Bonus Drive. It could mean \$500 cash for you. We will all be having membership rallies at Legion College and at our Division meetings. Please bring those memberships!!!

I look forward to working with you this year. Membership is everyone's responsibility. If you need the Membership Team's assistance please contact us, or your department Officers. I hope to see you all at the Division meetings.

Chaplain Message

Fall is in the air and so is the work of all Auxiliary Units across the State of North Carolina and the Nation.

As we begin the planning of new projects to assist our veterans and their families, let us also remember our own auxiliary members and their families, who are also struggling

with health issues and deaths within their families.

We are a FAMILY and we care about each other. I need for you to let me know of health issues or deaths within our Auxiliary family. Due to the HIPPA Act, please get permission of the members before sending their information to me. I will compile a list of email addresses and send this information out, requesting prayers for these

members.

I personally know how prayers WORK in our lives and I want each of you to feel the blessing and healing from the prayers of your sister Auxiliary members during your time of need.

Please remember to keep all those who were tragically affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in your prayers, as they struggle to get

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

SHIRLEY THOMPSON
Department Chaplain



control of their lives.

I Pray God's Blessings upon Each of You as you faithfully volunteer your time and efforts to benefit our Veterans and their Families.



Legion Recognition

John Q. Riddick was recognized recently by the American Legion for his 68 years of consecutive membership with Hertford Post 126. He is also the post's oldest member at age 93. Post Commander Ric Caporale [right] makes the certificate presentation. Riddick served with the U.S. Army in WWII and joined Post 126 in 1951.



Post 182 Repairs Storm Damage

AMERICAN LEGION POST 182 members on August 5 replaced storm-damaged decking on the pier at Norman Smith Legion Beach on Albemarle Sound north of Columbia. The post's big Labor Day Weekend Celebration, with music, games, 50/50 raffle, and eastern North Carolina barbecued pork dinners, is set for September 2. (T. Harrell photo)



Judge

from Page 2

100th anniversary coin and those who refused to sign:

Below is a list of house of representatives who have not signed or indicated they will support our bill:

- David Price NC H 04
- Virginia Foxx NC H 05
- David Rouzer NC H 07
- Richard Hudson NC H 08
- Alma Adams NC H 12
- Ted Budd NC H 13

Why are they holding out in signing our bill. ?? Start calling their offices if you live in their districts and demand they support our Congressional Coin bill ! This is important so pick up your phone and make call and let your

voice be heard!!

Training modules: This Monday, National will be presenting at the Indiana Department Officers Retreat to introduce the new training direction and to promote the advancement of developing a department legion college in Indiana to develop facilitators to be used at district level training. If this is successful, the we need to look into the program for our department.

NEF; If our members are affected by a declared natural disaster (Harvey and Irma) and **confronted with a mandatory evacuation order**, they should call (800) 504-4098 to inquire about American

Legion assistance. Operating hours for the hotline will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Members who are not faced with mandatory evacuation orders and are displaced from their home because of damages/mold should use the ordinary procedures for the National Emergency Fund and Temporary Financial Assistance and NEF information is available at: <https://www.legion.org/emergency/apply> and TFA <https://www.legion.org/financialassistance>

Thank you for your service and your membership!
For God and Country!

Chaplain

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It also said, "Religious freedom has no significance unless it is accompanied by conviction. And therefore, the Puritans and Pilgrims, the Quakers, the Catholics, the Presbyterians, the Methodists and the Baptists who came later, all share these two great traditions which, the silver threads, have run through the fabric of American history. While they came from a wide variety of religious backgrounds and held a wide variety of religious beliefs, each of our presidents in his own way has placed a special trust in God. Those who were strongest intellectually were also strongest spiritually."

The guiding principal and prayer of this nation has been, is now, and shall ever by "In God We Trust."

Adjutant

from Page 2

can call upon the National Organization to lend a hand in providing cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children when it is established there are no other resources available to provide the required assistance. These payments, as the name of the program implies, are "temporary" and this cash assistance is in the form of a grant. It is the responsibility of an American Legion Post and Department to make every effort to secure

assistance for needy veterans' children from its own resources, or those of other organizations or agencies within the community whose purpose it is to meet the need. Payments from the program may be made to, or on behalf of the family for a variety of expenses necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the children involved.

Communication between the Department and Posts is essential. Some TFA applicants communicate directly with the Department, while others may

contact a local Post. Regardless of which of these avenues are taken, The Department Adjutant is ultimately responsible for the screening and submission of the application to National Headquarters. The volume of applicants has increased over the past couple of years. Now more than ever we must, to the best of our ability be good stewards of the American Legion's monetary resources. We are the recipients of a sacred trust to uphold the principles on which our organization was founded and espouses today.

It is with this in mind that a training seminar will be conducted at the upcoming Department Fall Conference on the proper execution of TFA application. It will be held on Saturday morning in conjunction with the Chaplain's Conference.

Thank you for your continued support of this program—allowing us to fulfill our commitment to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and families.

"The VA is Waiting For Me to Die!"

I hear this from distraught veterans on a regular basis. Many of these veterans are extremely frustrated, and believe that the Department of Veterans affairs is purposely dragging their feet on processing disability compensation claims in order to avoid paying veterans the benefits that they are entitled to receive. So, why does it seem like the VA is in slow-motion when it comes to granting benefits? The answer provided by the VA is that the backlog of claims is too large, quoting approximately 100,000 disability claims and ap-

peals, which by their own account is unacceptable. So, what can be done about this?

The VA obviously needs a lot of improvements. Part of the ongoing VA's "Transformation," as they are calling it, has to do with "earning veterans trust through transparency and accountability." This can only be accomplished by keeping our veterans informed on the status of their VA claims. Whenever veterans call my office, and describe their claim-processing wait-time as agonizing, I do my best to offer some

DSO REPORT

JAMES McMINN
Department Service Officer



reassurance, and a few words of encouragement. I also try to convince these veterans to be patient for a little while longer, because the VA is doing the best they can. I always want to be truthful, but the VA does not make this easy for any of us that want to remain supportive of their efforts to serve our veterans.

The appeals process is another source of undue stress for our veterans. I spend a large portion of my time working on appeals and it seems as though there is no end in sight. It currently takes an appeal approximately three to five years from start to finish, on average. The VA admits that this is by far the most challenging part of all VA claims processes, and the solution is beyond anything that they can resolve, alone. According to VA Secretary Shulkin, "only Congressional legislation can fix this (clearly broken) system..."



Presenting the "Memory Book", chronicling Gary's exemplary service to American Legion Post 543, is Pom Pomeroy, outgoing Adjutant.

American Legion, Post 543 Past Commander Presented With Memory Book

Gary Crowden, 2016-2017 post Commander of the Richard H. Stewart, Jr. American Legion Post 543, was honored at the July 26, 2017 meeting for his stalwart and dedicated service to the post. Gary served both as Adjutant and Commander. His commitment and leadership skills led the post to a record number of members and record donations to veteran's affairs, national security, Americanism, and children and youth.

Gary's storied career as a U.S. Army combat infantry officer earned him many awards, including a group Nobel Peace Prize for his service in peace keeping missions. Gary was also featured in a full page article in the American Legion magazine, together with a video on the American Legion website. His service to the post and to our country is an example of excellence for all of us to follow.

North Carolina Produley Presents
James "Bill" Oxford



Candidate for National Commander 2019-2020

www.BillOxford.org

