

**Patricia A. Harris of American Legion Post 124 in Apex** was elected State Commander of The American Legion Department of NC at ceremonies in Raleigh on June 15, 2013. Harris was sworn in by National Executive Committeeman Jerry L. Hedrick of Post 8 in Lexington.



Commander Harris is a second generation Legionnaire, following in her father's (WWII) footsteps by joining Post 157 in Raleigh. Patricia became the Post's first elected female Commander in its 83 plus years. There are three generations in Unit 157 where she started as an Auxiliary member. Her mother Daisy and daughter Patricia Jr., were both past Unit Presidents. She is a 22 year retired non-commissioned officer, combat soldier. Patricia and her late husband Walter deployed together to the Persian Gulf War from Ft. Hood, TX leaving two small children, so she fully understands the plight of today's deployed military families. Her signal team was launched forward

with elements of the XVII airborne corps, 10th Mountain Division and 3rd ACR, which was among the first to enter into Iraq, during the ground war. She received numerous awards and medals for her service.

Patricia has served The American Legion, as Post Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Children & Youth Chair and on the Executive Committee while a member of Post 157 in Raleigh. As a member of Post 124 in Apex, she has served as 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and as a member of the Oratorical Committee. At Department level she has served as District Commander, Division Commander, on Leadership and Development Committee, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission and Resolutions Committee. Nationally, Patricia is a member of the 21st Century Membership Strategic Plan Committee for the Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, National Children & Youth Commission, and Veterans Rehabilitation Committee, attended National Legion College and is a National Legion College facilitator. In her community, Patricia is a member of Poplar Springs Christian Church, ANAVICUS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, National 20&4 Honor Society for Women Legionnaires, NC Echelon 27, VFW Post 10999, DAV Chapter 1, US Army Community Advisory Board, National Council of Negro Women, Sgt Audie Murphy Club, Wake County Veterans Council and Raleigh Community Club.

Patricia resides in Raleigh, NC with her mom, and has two adult children, a step-daughter and four grandchildren (two SAL members).