

## American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

**July 2023**

**Veterans Crisis Line: 1-855-829-6636 US**

Department of Veterans Affairs:

Women Veterans Call Center: 855-829-6636

Non-VA Facility Emergency 704-638-9000 ext. 12022

(Call within 72 hours to let VA know when using a non-VA facility)

### **Meeting & Supper:**

Monday July 10th, Post 65 meeting/supper. At 5:00 pm sign in and "Meet & Greet." At 6:00 pm for supper there will be Hamburgers and Hotdogs with all the toppings. Sweet and unsweet tea, coffee, and assorted drinks. We ask everyone to bring their favorite dessert. All Family Members of Post 65 are invited: Legionaries, Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary. Non-Member Veterans, and descendants and their guests. For more information call 980-362-4948 and leave a message. We look forward to seeing you. We will be asking for a \$5.00 donation.

Entertainment will be Kelvin Cockerham. He does country, classical, rock, and easy listening.

### **Commanders Corner:**

July is America's Birthday! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!!**

As each of us reflects on the meaning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we cannot help but remember our service and those that came before us. Our forefathers had to pick up the sword and fight for our Freedom. Subsequent generations of our military have fought to keep us

free. We are the home of the free because of the brave. I thank each of you for your sacrifices and service! May God continue to bless us and the United States of America!! Remember this weekend is one of the most traveled weekends and be safe in all your festivities!

Our E Board will meet on July 6<sup>th</sup> and our monthly Membership Meeting is on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be having hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings. Please remember to bring your favorite desserts to share. If you would like to help serve or cook, please join us at the Post at 5PM.

Membership: Thanks to everyone's participation in renewing your membership! We are now in a new year, so please contact your Membership Team member to renew your membership.

We are having a Post workday on July 15th from 9 to 2. Come join in the camaraderie and have fun with your teammates.

Remember that we have put our Bingo on hold until further notice.

Membership: Our membership continues to step up and supports our Post: Thank you so much. Please continue to renew your memberships. Remember our new year begins July 1. We would especially like to thank each of you for choosing to join Post 65. Please take a minute to remember why you joined Post 65: We all have a story to tell. Share your stories with your Membership Team Member. Your stories will enhance our story when we are in conversations with perspective new members. Avoid the rush! Remember your membership renewals are due by June 30, 2023. I am looking forward to serving on this dynamite and dynamic team of Post 65 whose mission is centered around Veteran support and well-being. The leadership of Post 65 is committed to keeping you informed, and we ask that you keep us informed as well. Please feel free to call me at Cell Phone 704-902-2901 or on the Post 65 landline 980-362-4948.

**Reminder: Membership dues are \$45.00.**

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of 2024 dues year. You should receive your renewal notice in the mail for your 2024 membership dues. If you have any questions about your membership or need help with your dues contact your membership committee person. Thanks to all our members that paid their dues in 2023.

Chuck Harris Commander and Membership TEAMMATE

**Job Openings in Post 65:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – immediately  
 Quarter Master- New Position

**Legion 2022/2023 Officers:**

**Commander: Chuck Harris**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:** Bob Waters

**Adjutant:** Mark Armstrong

**Finance Officer:** Don Carr

**Sgt.-at-Arms:** George Taylor & Eddie Bowman

**Judge Advocate:** Mike Morris

**Chaplain:** Harold Smith

**Service Officer:** Tom Matisko Sr.

**Historian:**

**Building Committee:** Randy Fultz

**Your Post 65 Membership Committee is as follows:**

Each of the following team members are your contacts if you need help with anything from the Post 65. These teams are in groups by the first letter of your last name.

**Committee Chairman:** Chuck Harris

Eddie Bowman (704.252.0325): A through C

George Taylor (704.402.2224): D through G

Chuck Spangler (704.881.2039): H through K

David Benfield (980.223.1265): L through M

David Benfield (980-223-1265): N through R

Randy Fultz (704.798.8328): S

Mark Armstrong (704.654.8469): T through Z

**Note for members:** If you have not renewed your membership, you can do that at the meeting on Monday.

Chuck Harris Commander  
704-902-2901

**Birthday List of Veterans and spouses. It is a work in process. Please email Gloria at [g\\_benfield@yahoo.com](mailto:g_benfield@yahoo.com) to add your name and month/day for the list.**

**July Birthdays:**

Jerry Gobble	7/1/1944		John Pope	7/11/1935
Rayford Bost	7/2/1931		Gerald Wyatt	7/11/1949
Mark Cowley	7/5/1966		Robert Perry	7/16/1949
Don Carr	7/8/1947		Wayne Deal	7/17/1947
Randy Hill	7/8/1965		Lonnie Troutman	7/20/1934
David Benfield	7/10/1949			

**Auxiliary:**

**Meeting:** Our next meeting will be **Thursday July 27, 2023, at 5:30 pm.** Bring a snack to share and I hope to see you there.

**Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 10:00 am our Auxiliary will be sponsoring a special presentation by Lt Col Matthew D. Bejcek of the United States Space Force. If you are wondering what our newest military branch is and does, here is your opportunity. Lt Col is a native of Statesville and served 15.5 years in the United States Air Force before being commissioned in the United States Space Force and has served three years. Currently he is the Commander, 98th Space Range Squadron at Delta 11, Schriever SFB, Colorado. His mission is to provide an operationally representative environment and ensure safe and secure range control for high end, on-orbit test to build capable weapon systems and realistic on-orbit advanced training to prepare space warfighters for operations in a contested domain.

Lt Col Bejcek is a graduate of North Carolina State University. He and his wife, Nicole, have two children: Alexa and Jackson.

Please save the date of Saturday morning, July 29, 2023, at 10:00 am to hear our hometown hero of the United States Space Force.



### **Funds:**

Like any organization, the American Legion Post 65 Auxiliary needs funds to operate and to complete projects. We have completed a couple of projects (gifts to the VA and to Brookdale Village nursing home) but we have more to do. We are sending two girls to

Girls State and gifts to the local home for veterans. We need funds – any “donations” would help! We have a great cookbook for a “donation” of \$40.

We are fortunate that Dianne Wilson has donated a beautiful patriotic quilt to help support our projects. Please consider donating! The drawing will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tickets for the Patriotic Quilt - 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10

**Officer's:** Gloria Benfield President, Betty Davis as Vice President, Donna Arnette as Treasurer, Emma Ward as Chaplain, and Sgt-at-Arms is Heather Gessler, Susan Free as Secretary, Auxiliary group as Historian.

**Bricks for Past Presidents:** The bricks for Cheryl (Cooky) Fanner, Linda Wilhelm, and Amy Wilhelm have come in.

**Coats for coat closet:** Please bring gently used coats. Men's, women's, and children, given to those in need.

**Questions:** For more info contact Gloria Benfield, Statesville ALA Unit 65 President at [auxiliary@ncpost65.org](mailto:auxiliary@ncpost65.org) or (980) 362-4948.

### **Information for Veterans:**

#### **Veterans Coffee & Benefits Meeting (Third Tuesday of each month):**

**July 18th at 9:00 am.**

We are waiting for confirmation from our guest speaker and will update you as soon as possible.

Want to know where you as a Veteran can get the same information I get from the VA. All you do is click on this link and sign up to receive these same emails I receive on Veterans Benefits Newsletters - [veteransbenefits@va.gov](mailto:veteransbenefits@va.gov).

You can also go on YouTube and type VA SITREP and watch Paul Corbett. You can pick a benefit you would like to know more about.

Also check out [veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)

### **Increase in VA Disability Compensation.**

Good luck and hope this helps you with your benefits issues.

Tom Matisko Sr.  
Service Officer  
630-632-0011

### **Claims and Benefits:**

If you need any help or have a question about your claims or benefits, please let me know. If you use the Salisbury VA and get Travel Pay you may have to start putting your claim in electronically or go to building three, first floor to get help with your claim. The kiosk machines had already changed. If you have a desk to computer, laptop, or a smart phone then you can file your claim electronically. If you need help with setting up your electronic claims on your device or filing a claim let me know and or Don Carr, we will be glad to set up a time to help you one on one.

### **Honor Guard and Burial Detail:**

The Post Burial Detail had \_\_ funerals in March.

**Needed:** Honor Guard Members

Taps: \_\_

**From Harold Smith Chaplain**

**June:**

Bob Dellinger has a drooping eye lid. Talked to his surgeon, and he is having surgery done in Pineville on 7/7/23.

I went to Winston Salem on June 15<sup>th</sup> for reevaluation of my heart. Go next Tuesday for hearing evaluation in Winston.

Thank God for looking after Tom in his recent surgery. He was in good spirits. He was able to attend Veterans coffee.

George Hoover is taking Chemo. Eartha says that he is taking speech therapy at home. Eartha has back trouble now. They have not found the cause of her back trouble. Talked to Eartha on June 30. She took George to Winston for a checkup. They are doing well.

Don Fultz Started outpatient therapy June 19. Mailed a get-well card June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sent David Benfield a card. Sorry for being late.

Brookdale Peachtree coffee and snack meeting was held June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30. All veterans are welcome.

Bob Waters has an infection in his nose. It caused him pain and swelling. He is on medication and is getting better. He was told to stay out of the sun.

Barbara Goble is doing better, Jerry says.

Pray for God's blessings on Doug and Barbara Price.

We have had 3 members of Post 65 that have passed from this life.

### **Upcoming Veteran & Community Events:**

**Bingo:** Because of lack of attendance, we are suspending Bingo until further notice.

### **Riders:**

July 11<sup>th</sup> – Fun ride! Meet at Tilly's @ 5:30 New leaders start.

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Deliver meals to Veterans.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rider meeting at Post 65 @ 10:00

Thanks,  
Randy



## **Sons of the American Legion:**

### **SAL SQUADRON 65 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2023!**

#### **SAL SQUADRON 65**

Our next meeting is **Monday, July 24, 2023, at 5:30 PM** at American Legion Post 65. Get the latest information on what is happening at Hurst Turner Post 65. Please bring a treat to share!

#### **LEGION COLLEGE – JULY 21 -22, 2023 – Clemmons, NC**

You need to add this event to your calendar to learn more about The American Legion! Follow these links for more details. **Post 65 will pay your \$15 registration fee that is due by July 18, 2023.**

2023 Legion College Information:

[https://ncpost65.org/files/2023\\_LEGION\\_COLLEGE\\_INFO.pdf](https://ncpost65.org/files/2023_LEGION_COLLEGE_INFO.pdf)

2023 Legion College Schedule:

[https://ncpost65.org/files/2023\\_LEGION\\_COLLEGE\\_SCHEDULE.pdf](https://ncpost65.org/files/2023_LEGION_COLLEGE_SCHEDULE.pdf)

2023 Legion College Application: [https://ncpost65.org/files/2023\\_LEGION\\_COLLEGE\\_-\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://ncpost65.org/files/2023_LEGION_COLLEGE_-_APPLICATION.pdf)

#### **UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE PRESENTATION**

We will have a guest speaker give a presentation about The United States Space Force Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 10:30 AM at Post 65. You do not want to miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

#### **MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We need help taking care of the lawn and landscaping at the Post. Richard Cimbricz has been working tirelessly keeping it in shape but needs help. Thanks to Gerald Wyatt and George Taylor who have stepped up to help mow. Let us know if you can help so we can put you in the rotation!

**For more information contact Commander Carr by phone at 704-677-3196, or email [commandersons@ncpost65.org](mailto:commandersons@ncpost65.org) or [dcarr@att.net](mailto:dcarr@att.net).**

**Thanks!**

**Don Carr**

**Funding:** As with any Organization your Post needs funds to operate. Members have donated hundreds of dollars and hours of work to improve the building and to support programs. The generosity of our members to support the Post, the building, the dinners, and programs. Since we are a 501 (c) (19) nonprofit your donations may be tax deductible under States and Federal law. Consider leaving a legacy to Post 65. Contact the Post or view information at [legion.org/donate/](http://legion.org/donate/) to explore your planned giving options.

**Technology Classes:** Post 65 members, Don Carr can help you set up the VA's My HealthVet and Electronic entry for travel pay, as well as give one-on-one help with our computer or Smart Phone. Contact Don at 704-677-3196.

**Historical Page:** [Centennial/mylegion.org](http://Centennial/mylegion.org) –

**Editor's Note:** Thank you all for your support. Gloria Benfield email: [g\\_benfield@yahoo.com](mailto:g_benfield@yahoo.com).

A few pictures from the Troutman Fourth of July Parade: Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>.



**In Statesville Paper July 1<sup>st</sup>:**

The article about Johnny Sherrill was great. I am interested in attending his event. If you would like to attend, please contact me at [dcarr@att.net](mailto:dcarr@att.net) or 704-677-3196. Thank you! Click on link below to see article.

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