

American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

April 2024

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 @844-724-7842)

Meeting & Supper:

Monday April 8th, Post 65 meeting/supper. At 5:00 pm sign in and "Meet & Greet." At 6:00 pm for supper there will be Spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. 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.

The entertainment will be Bryan Olsen, various genres (cw,rock,classic), award winning soloist. He is well known in Statesville, Mooresville, and Charlotte music scenes.

Commanders Corner: April 2024 Newsletter Notes

Commanders Corner:

April showers bring May flowers!

Our E Board meeting will be on April 4. The monthly Membership Meeting / Meal is April 8 at our Post at 6PM. Our meal will be spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. Please plan to bring your favorite dessert to share.

We will be taking \$5 donations for the meal. As always if you bring a favorite dish to share you do not have to donate the \$5.

We certainly appreciate our Unit 65 Auxiliary as they continue to support our Veterans. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Auxiliary, please contact the President Gloria Benfield at 704-682-2546 or Vice President Betty Davis at 704-677-3845 or one of the Auxiliary's members.

The Riders continue to support our Post and community and make us proud. If you or and of your friends would like to join the Riders, please feel to contact a Rider or the Riders President Randy Fultz at 704-798-8328.

The Sons continue to support our Post and community and make us proud. If you are interested in joining the Sons and are a family member who served contact a Sons member or Commander Don Carr at 704-677-3196.

We are excited to announce Post 65 has its own Honor Guard!! This team is all volunteers. Their mission is to take care of our own. We are expanding our training and shortly will begin serving our Post funerals and other honors. Thanks to everyone on the team.

Up and Coming Events You May Be Interested In

April 4th - E Board Meeting January
 April 8th - Membership Meeting / Meal
 April 28th - Auxiliary Meeting
 April 29th - Sons Meeting
 April 27th - Riders Meeting

Post Renovation

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate their time and talents for this project. Thank you, Purple Heart Homes, for your formidable support with this project!

Election

Remember our officers' elections are coming up. If you are interested in running for office or would like to nominate someone, please submit your name or their names.

There is a new drop box on the wall beside the office door. Place your names in that box. We would like to have names by the end of **May. Elections are on the first of June and take office in July.**

I look forward to continuing serving on this dynamite and dynamic team 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 call me on my Cell Phone 704-902-2901 or on the landline 980- 362-4948.

Chuck Harris
Commander
704-902-2901

Job Openings in Post 65:

Chaplain – next election
Quarter Master- New Position

Legion 2022/2023 Officers:

Commander: Chuck Harris
1st Vice Commander: George Taylor
2nd Vice Commander: Bob Waters
Adjutant: Mark Armstrong
Finance Officer: Don Carr
Sgt.-at-Arms: Johnny Etheridge & Eddie Bowman
Judge Advocate: Mike Morris
Chaplain: Harold Smith
Service Officer: Tom Matisko Sr.
Historian: Bob Waters
Building Committee: Randy Fultz

Membership:

Welcome Geoge Taylor as our new First Vice Commander. One of his major responsibilities is to be the Chairperson of our Membership Team. Please direct your Membership questions to George or your Membership Team person. Welcome George!

If you are interested in joining the Membership Team, contact George at 704-402-2224.

Reminder: Membership dues will be going up \$5.00 in 2024.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their 2024 membership!! We certainly appreciate your support! July 1st 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.

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: George Taylor
 Eddie Bowman (704.252.0325): A trough C
 George Taylor (704.402.2224): D trough G
 Chuck Spangler (704.881.2039): H trough K
 David Benfield (980.223.1265): L trough M
 Mark Armstrong (704.654.8169): N trough 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.

Birthday List of Veterans and spouses. It is a work in process. Please email Gloria at g_benfield@yahoo.com to add your name and birthday for the list.

April Birthday's:

Gary Calhoun	4/19/1952	Kenneth Carswell	4/3/1949
John Jewell	4/4/1943	William Liles	4/6/1950
Brian Milch	4/12/1977	Terry Oglethorpe	4/7/1947
James Schenk	4/24/1948	James Sipes	4/8/1967
Charles Williams	4/30/1949	Bruce Wolf	4/26/1936

Auxiliary:

We would like to welcome all our new members. Our next meeting is April 28th 3 pm at the Post. Please bring a snack to share.

Year – End Impact reports (service hours) are due April 15th, if you know of any activities later in April, please estimate your hours. You can give the hours report at the monthly meeting April 8th.

The Auxiliary's District Meeting is April 20th, 2024, at Huntersville's Post 321. Registration is at 8:30 am and the meeting starts at 9:00 am. This will be Dianne Wilson's last meeting residing as District 11's President for State. Please come out to support her. The meeting will be over by 11:00 am.

Gloria Benfield
President

Foothills Veteran Stand Down – April 12, 2024. Catawba Valley Community College at the Tarlton Complex. 2550 US Hwy 70 SE Hickory, NC. Hours 9 am.- 2 pm. for more information contact John Helton @828-217-4282 or Larry McMullen @ 828-320-2842.

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.

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

Post 65 Honor Guard

Honor Guard: We are continuing to practice and hone our skills; the members have worked very hard on funeral details and on learning how to fold the flag with a visit and instruction from CWO Klein and 6 students from West Rowan ROTC. They offered valuable instruction, and it is appreciated--KUDOS to CWO Klein and students!!!

All members--remember to get a copy of your DD214 and register it at the Register of Deeds--remember a military funeral you earned rests on this document so please do not put it off.

Historical Page: Centennial/mylegion.org – Bob Waters

Historian: There are several scrap books being worked on by Donna Arnett with the Auxiliary compiling photos and information, she is a stellar part of this process and I quite frankly thank her enough for her valuable input and work. I have attached the meaning of the flag draped coffin.

The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin.

What a wonderful lesson this was for me. I do not recall ever being taught this in school. "The Meaning of the 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 it is high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Please 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 that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You 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 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 the valley of the shadow of death, that we might become exposed.

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 people who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10th** fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his children 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 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 will see flags folded and now you will know why.

Please share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of '**Liberty and Freedom.**'

MAYBE THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD READ THIS EXPLANATION BEFORE THEY RENDER THEIR DECISION ON THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. MAYBE SOMEONE WITH THE NECESSARY POWER, OR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL INFLUENCE, WILL GET IT TO THEM.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAY GOD PROTECT US ALWAYS. ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.



Information for Veterans:

Veterans Coffee & Benefits Meeting (Third Tuesday of each month): **April 16th at 9:00 am.**

Will be about Premier Senior Living.

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.

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

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 Taps: __

From Harold Smith Chaplain:

March:

Ronnie Fox had his knee operated on. He is doing fine. Praise God. Ronnie is tough.

Audra Hamiltion had a spinal operation at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. She is Finance Officer for the DAV. She was having a lot of pain.

Jerry and Barbara Goble- Barbara went to the doctor in W.S. She can talk better now. On March 28th Barbara broke her foot. She was at IMH in skilled nursing.

Doug Price is in the Memory Section at Maple Leaf. Visited with Doug and his wife Barbara feed him supper. His wife found he can chew soft peppermint candy. I took some candy for Barbara to feed Doug. There is a picture of Doug with his military uniform hanging on the wall beside Jennifer's Office in the hallway.

Mike Morris took a treatment this week and a scan. Mike's Doctor is happy with the results, and he goes for another scan 4/26/24. Praying for better results in April.

Paster William Weese had a fall. I believe he has given up being the Chaplain of Golden Agers club. He is in his 90's and a Korean War vet.,

Daniel Vance Waters, the brother of Bob Waters, passed. I sent a sympathy card to Bob from American Legion Post 65, Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons of the Legion.

Randy Hill and I represented Post 65 at the memorial service for Mr. Bost today. Randy took care of the sympathy card and brick application. I presented the Bible to Natlie, his niece from Maryland. The United States Airforce presented the empty shell to Natalie. I need to present the US Airforce lap blanket. Randy Wilcox donated the bible.

Emma Ward is healing at home now.

May each member that belongs to Post 65 and its different departments and tasks be touched by God in a positive way.

Dates & Upcoming Dates:

By Dianne Wilson

Here are dates for the newsletter we should remember as a Veterans organization.

R.E.D. Friday - Wear Red every Friday to Remember Everyone Deployed

April is the Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child; a time to recognize and appreciate military children for their service and sacrifice. Military children live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental deployments, and life transitions including reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents. In their own way, military-connected children serve alongside their military parents.

Dates in April to Honor:

April 1 - Battle of Okinawa 1945

April 5 - Gold Star Spouses Day
April 6 - U.S. Entry into WW1 1917
April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day
April 14 - Air Force Reserve Day
April 23 - Army Reserve Day
April 30 - National Military Brats Day

Save the Date:

June 19-22 North Carolina American Legion Summer Conference
August 1-3 Legion College

Something to Wonder: How many of our members are serving in the Air Force or Army Reserves presently? How many served in the Reserves at one time?

Riders:

April 9th – Fun Ride! Meet at Tilly’s
April 18th – Deliver Meals to Veterans
April 27th - Rider’s Meeting 10:00 am at Post 65 (Nominate New Officers)

Thanks,
Randy

Sons of the American Legion:

SAL SQUADRON 65 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF April 2024!
SAL SQUADRON 65

Our next meeting is next **Monday, March 29, 2024, at 5:30 PM** at Post 65. Important changes are coming to Post 65. Come join us and get the latest updates! Find out more at these links:

<https://ncpost65.org/files/What is Amateur Radio-2rch02172024.pdf>

https://ncpost65.org/files/Ham_Radio_Post_65.pdf

Here is the link to the NC SAL Detachment Winter Newsletter

<https://ncpost65.org/files/SALNCDetachmentNewsletterWinter2024.pdf>

Please bring a treat to share.

For more information contact Commander Carr by phone at 704-677-3196, or email commandersons@ncpost65.org or 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/ 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 – Bob Waters

Editor's Note: Those wanting to receive the newsletter contact Gloria Benfield @ email: g_benfield@yahoo.com or call @ 704-682-2546, leave a message. Thank You for all your support.

