

American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

May 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 May 13th, Post 65 meeting/supper. At 5:00 pm sign in and "Meet & Greet." At 6:00 pm for supper there will be Pancakes and sausage with all the trimmings. 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 Danny Wicker, Danny had a full career of 45 years repairing sewing machines. After his retirement he concentrated his efforts to his "hobby farm" and to his passion from his youth until now--Music. From a young age he learned to play the guitar with his family band the "Wicker Pickers" who played Bluegrass and Gospel music. He and a collaborator named Mel Jones have twice won the Charlotte Blues Society annual contest. He has played in Memphis at the international Blues competition twice with some of the greatest names in Blues music. He plays Piedmont Blues which is not as sad as Memphis Blues. He will play Blues and Gospel for us along with some country.

Commanders Corner: May 2024 Newsletter Notes

May is when we honor and mourn the U.S. Military who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces which started in 1868 as Decoration Day and later became Memorial Day. In 1971 it was made a National Holiday.

Our May monthly meeting will be Monday, May 13, 2024, at our Post at 6PM. Our meal will be pancakes and sausage with all the trimmings. Please plan to bring your favorite dessert to share.

We will be taking \$5 donations for the meal. As always if you bring a 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 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 and 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 have 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.

Pictures:

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Top Left pictured is Chuck Harris, Commander, and Mark Armstrong at South Iredell JROTC Awards Ceremony. Also, presented Benny Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship.

Top right and middle pictures are from West Iredell JROTC Awards Ceremony.
(Commander Chuck Harris)



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Bottom Picture Receiving Award from West Iredell JROTC. Pictured L-R: Reggie, Chuck, Gloria, Dianne, George, Chief Klein.

Up and Coming Events You May Be Interested In

May 1st – West Iredell HS JROTC Awards Ceremony
 May 3rd – South Iredell HS JROTC Awards Ceremony
 May 3rd - Benny Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship Presented
 May 9th - E Board Meeting
 May 13th - Membership meeting / Meal
 May 21st – Veterans Coffee
 May 21st – FOP Flag Ceremony and Site Dedication
 May 23rd – Placing Flags on Veterans Graves New Salem UMC
 May 27th – Troutman Memorial Day Celebration
 May 27th – Memorial Day
 No May Auxiliary Meeting
 May 20th - Sons Meeting
 May 18th - Riders Meeting
 June 12th – Women Veterans Recognition Day

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 2023/2024 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 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
Mark Armstrong (704.654.8169): 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.

A Military Family

April 18, 2024

A Military Family

I am writing this letter to share a story about a family of veterans.

In 1963, I married my wife, Linda Mitchell. She was the daughter of Burndetta and James Mitchell of a coal camp in Summerlee, W.Va. I knew she had a lot of siblings. What I did not know was the service record this family had. My wife's brothers were all older than her. I did not know until years later that they all served in the military.

Here is the low-down about my wife's family. There were eight brothers and five sisters. Dallas Mitchell served four years in the U.S. Army. James Mitchell served three years in the U.S. Army. Robert Mitchell served four years in the U.S. Navy. Charles Mitchell served ten years in the U.S. Air Force. Buster Mitchell served ten years in the U.S. Air Force. Freddie Mitchell served four years in the U.S. Air Force. Denzil Mitchell served four years in the U.S. Air Force. All of them have since passed away. Donny Mitchell, her youngest brother, served 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and lives about two hours from my house.

Now, about my wife and her sisters. Norma's husband, John McGorman, served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. Betty's husband, Jim Hardesty, served three years in the U.S. Navy. Dreama's husband, Sonny Naylor, tried to enlist, but was rejected because of his feet having extremely high arches. I, George Taylor, am married to Linda and I served from 1963 to 1968 in the U.S. Army. Lastly, Brenda's husband, Charles Boaz served four years in the U.S. Navy. When Mrs. Burndetta Mitchell was asked how she handled all her boys in the service, her response was that she prayed for their safety and left it in God's hands. All that served from this family came home safely. However, most of them are gone now. Linda has one brother, three sisters and two brothers-in-law still living.

This family's military service has continued today with nieces and nephews that serve in various military branches and the Coast Guard. This family has covered all branches of service. Over sixty years later, I am still trying to help and encourage veterans.

To all my fellow veterans and their families:

Thank you for your service and may God bless you!

God bless the U.S.A. and our military!

About the author:

George Taylor First Vice Commander American Legion Post 65 Statesville N.C. 28677

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.

May Birthday's:

William Barber	5/15/1964	William Bennet	5/21/1934
Adrian Cass	5/29/1947	Rodney Loveday	5/31/1955
Jay Lytsell	5/4/1970	Walter Rankin	5/28/1958
Paul Reid	5/14/1944	David Rucker	5/29/1948
George Taylor	5/26/1944		

Auxiliary:

May 1st at the West Iredell JROTC Awards Ceremony Dianne Wilson presented Ashley Anderson with a certificate for attending American Legion Girls State. (L-R Mr. James Mallory, Ashley Anderson, and Dianne Wilson).



There **will not** be a May meeting. On May 25th we will be out at Walmart handing out Poppies. We will set up at 8:30. Contact Gloria Benfield with time you can come help.

We will be voting for Officers at the June 23rd Meeting at 3pm at the Post. Please join us and bring a snack to share.

Gloria Benfield
President

Officers: Gloria Benfield President, Betty Davis as Vice President, Donna Arnett 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:

The Honor Guard did a full Military Honors funeral on April 22nd for Herbert Ebre, a longtime member of Post 65 at Nicholson Funeral home with a 21-gun Salute and Taps. Attached are photos from that service.



On May 27th at 11 AM we will be doing a ceremony in Troutman at the ESC park honoring those who have fallen or passed on. We will have a couple of parts in the program with them culminating in a 21 Gun Salute and Taps. This will take place as a part of their Walk Of Heroes Event honoring our Veterans who fell in performing their duties and those who have died since.

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. Every veteran needs to make sure they have their DD214 and that their family knows where it is. Also, if they lose a family member to advise funeral directors if they want Post 65 Honor Guard to perform military or respect funeral.

Historical Page: Centennial/mylegion.org – Bob Waters

The scrap books are still in the processing stage and hopefully with the assistance (the awesome talents) of Donna Arnett with the Auxiliary will be available soon. The project trying to bring Clarence King's name back to the Iredell County WW2 monument has reached a point that has stalled due to no contact with his family or movement from the County Commissioners.

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

May 21st at 9:00 am.

Devin from Purple Hearts Home will be our guest.

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 1 Funerals

Taps: 1

From Harold Smith Chaplain:

April:

Talked to Graden Warren and he has had some tests done concerning his health. His Birthday is in February, and he is 93.

Talked to David Crosby and he would like for someone to mow his yard, he is not able to mow right now. The person who has been taking care of it is sick. David requests prayers for himself and the guy who has been taking care of his yard.

Went to see Doug Price and he seemed happy but not talk at all. He was working with knots on the lap blanket. He shook hands when I was getting ready to leave. Doug is using his neck pillow. I left candy for Doug at the desk to give to his stepdaughter Jennifer. He is still at Maple Leaf Memory Section.

Bruce Steadman still has prostate cancer and is not taking treatments. He is being monitored. He has balance problems, and his hands shake. Sometimes he falls. He fell recently and broke his tailbone. He has a lot of pain now.

We had a memorial service for Herbert Otto Ebner at Nicholson Funeral Home April 22,2024. Post 65 Honor Guard performed the Memorial Service at Nicholson. I presented 21 ammo casings and a Bible, sympathy card from Post 65, Honor Guard, Auxiliary, Riders, and the Sons. The DAV donated the bible.

George Taylor's Brother-in-law passed away recently.

Bob Waters has had some breathing and heart problems. He went into the Hospital Saturday 5/4/24, to take his first dose of medicine for A Fib. He expects to go home around noon on Monday.

Mike Morris is waiting on the results of the treatment.

Phyllis Rogers is healing.

Barbara Goble is healing.

Mack Little is waiting for another operation (tune up).

Kelly Ivey in the process of moving to Statesville.

On the last Wednesday of the month from 11:30pm - 1pm at Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling a hot dog with all the trimmings plus desserts, chips, and drink for \$2. Hot Dog day is the last Wednesday of each month.

Event Dates & Upcoming Dates:

Important Military Holidays and Observances in May

May 1- 31 National Military Appreciation Month is celebrated in May and includes many military holidays and observances. The month honors active duty, guard, reserve, and veteran service members, as well as their families. Some observances in 2024 include the following:

May 1 Silver Star Banner Day: Per Congressional resolution, it is an "Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans.

May 10 Military Spouse Appreciation Day: This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 18 Armed Forces Day: Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 24 National Poppy Day: Wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year they distribute poppies.

May 27 Memorial Day: A Solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.

Why Do We Wear a Poppy?

The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. The

widespread use of the poppy flower to commemorate veterans began in WWI. The American woman, Moina Michael was inspired by the famous poem “In Flanders’ Field,” written by the Canadian soldier and physician Major John McCrae after burying his friend Lt. Alexis Helmer following the Battle of Ypres in Belgium. In his 1915 poem, McCrae described the poppies that “blow between the crosses, row on row” a reference to the blood-red flowers that sprang up among the soldiers’ graves, a common sight along the Western Front. The poppy is a recognized symbol of the war and its human cost, and the Auxiliary promotes wearing the poppy to remember those who served in the war.

Riders:

May 7th – Fun Ride! Meet at Tilly’s

May 9th – Deliver Meals to Veterans

May 18th - Rider’s Meeting 10:00 am at Post 65 (Complete Elections)

Thanks,
Randy

Sons of the American Legion:

SAL SQUADRON 65 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2024!

SAL SQUADRON 65

Our next meeting is **Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:30 PM** at Post 65. This is an important meeting because we will be nominating officers for the 2024-2025 year. We will also be talking about Memorial Day, The 2024 Department Convention, Boys’ State, and Legion College.

Find out more at this link: https://ncpost65.org/files/May_Bulletin_2024.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.

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.