VETERANS DAY PROGRAM
VFW POST #7288  CALABASH, NC
Time Warner Cable employs more than 4,000 veterans.

NOW HIRING FOR:
Field Technicians
Network Operations Center (NOC) Techs
Direct Sales Representatives
Customer Care Representatives
Engineering
And more

twc.com/military
The Leader Magazine is Published Quarterly by The Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars of North Carolina
917 New Bern Ave. PO Box 25337 Raleigh, NC 27611

Editor............................Greg Stafford
Assistant Editor..............Clark Hunter
Public Affairs Officer. . Russ Chambers
Graphic Design...............Bob Meland

CONTRIBUTIONS
Letters, stories materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. VFW of NC will not be responsible for unsolicited materials. Submission of articles and photos implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Please send your comments, suggestions, ideas and Post activities to the above address or email to: editor@vfwnc.com.

4. State Commander’s Column
6. Editor’s Message
7-8. Veterans in the Community
9. Veterans Foundation
10. Sr. Vice Cmrd. Comments
12. Calabash Activities
13. Wreaths Across America
14. From the State Judge Advocate
15. Special Presentations
16. Public Affairs Update
18. Vietnam Veteran Art
19. Navy/Air Force Baseball Classic
20. VFW Auxiliary
21. Volunteers In The Community

On the Cover
Calabash Post #7288 Celebrates Veterans Day

DEDICATION
This Magazine is Dedicated to
The Men and Women of the Armed Services
Who, Everyday
Honor, Protect and Defend This Great Nation.
Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s holiday season. We are on the road going forward in 2016! I would like to thank all those who attended our Fall Council of Administration Conference in October; the Southern Conference in November; and for sharing the learned information from both conferences at the District and Post levels.

Our Winter Council of Administration Conference is just around the corner. This is our “first conference” in the new Cary location and starts on February 5, 2016 (Friday afternoon), ending on February 7, 2016 (Sunday morning). Are you ready? Have you reserved your hotel room? How about recruiting post members for a trip to Cary? The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites, Raleigh – Durham/Research Triangle Hotel, 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard, Cary, NC, 27513. The room rate is $119.00 per night. There will be two business sessions, a joint session, committee and conference meetings, and various training/workshop sessions. If you have not made your reservation, please do so by contacting the Embassy Suites Raleigh – Durham/Research Triangle Hotel at 919-677-1840 and use the VFW Code.

The Winter Council of Administration Conference marks the mid-year point in the Post year. We will formally recognize the seventeen (17) District Voice of Democracy winners; and, the top three (3) Patriot’s Pen winners during a Saturday Night Banquet in their honor with their family in attendance. Please consider attending our conference as an overnight or weekend stay. Spending time with the senior leadership of our Department, our Districts, and our Posts is a great opportunity to learn from everyone. It is also a good opportunity for you to showcase some of your Post’s outstanding community service projects. Please share your success with everyone during the conference! And, by popular demand, our Western Conference will continue to manage the Hospitality Room. Also, the VFW National Representative is VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Over the past several months, our Department Auxiliary President Fran Redfield and I have addressed a number of questions and concerns regarding the VFW Auxiliary (formerly known as “Ladies Auxiliary”) and the Men’s Auxiliary. Despite a number of rumors, there is not going to be a consolidation of both auxiliaries. Until the National or Department of North Carolina VFW By-Laws is changed or the Post votes to surrender the charter, the Men’s Auxiliary will continue to exist. Please see the VFW NC Commander’s Auxiliary Memo, dated 1 October 2015, and the VFW Auxiliary Question and Answer Guide, dated August 31, 2015, for up-to-date information directly from National Headquarters.

Going forward in Spring 2016, we must take full advantage of the spring community events regarding recruitment opportunities. New members are the life blood of our veteran’s service organization; and, we cannot continue to ignore bringing new members into our Post. The new member YOU sign up today, may serve in senior leadership positions for YOUR Post in a few years. The Department has qualified membership recruiters to help your Post recruit and we are more than willing to do that, but you have to let us know you want our help. I encourage every Post to contact your District Commander or the Department Membership Team to set up a Membership Drive.

We all need to be proud of who we are and what we have accomplished regarding our service to country and veterans service in our communities. Not many people can say they have been in harm’s way, survived and returned home to help fellow veterans and their family members. Please be Proud that you are a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of North Carolina. Stand tall in your communities!

On behalf of the senior leadership team, always know - WE Work For You - “One Team, Serving Veterans.” Our State Headquarters and all the Line Officers and District Commanders are here to offer whatever assistance you need to make the Post, District, and Department successful throughout the year! Please feel free to contact any of us at the state level if you need guidance, assistance, or if you have any questions. May God continue to bless our troops, their families, and our great nation.

Yours in comradeship,

Jessie Bellflowers
State Commander
Thanks to all who served this nations freedom. You are the heartbeat, the soul of this great nation.

FALL PROMOTIONS!
We are offering a Free Radial spare tire with the purchase of any enclosed trailers.

All trailers come with radial tires

18' CAR HAULER W/LED LIGHTS
As low as $66\text{mo}^{*}

7X12 DUAL PISTON DUMP
As low as $129\text{mo}^{*}

2 Year Warranty
DEXTER AXLE COMPANY

Low price!
High Quality!

Call Today!
336-682-6580

7X16 PEWTER BULLET ENCLOSED / CARGO
As low as $100\text{mo}^{*}

Frontiertrailersandssheds.com

Frontier trailers and sheds llc,
157 Yadkin Valley Road, Suite 100
Advance, NC 27006
Comrades,

This is an exciting time for us in North Carolina as we start the New Year with our new in-house VFW Leader Magazine. This is not only an opportunity for the Department of NC, but also an opportunity for your Post. We are offering a revenue sharing plan with your Post. With every advertisement you sell, your Post will receive 20% of the revenue for the advertisement.

The mission of this magazine is to strengthen the Department of North Carolina of Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent, and accurate information about decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District, Department and National levels. The magazine is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW. We ask your articles to be brief and we reserve the right to edit them. We look forward to hearing from you.

I am looking forward to the exciting future of the magazine by show-casing all the good our Posts and comrades do for veterans in North Carolina.

Thank you,

Greg Stafford
Editor/Dept. of NC Jr. Vice Commander
Veterans in the Community

VFW Post #6060 held an Independence Day Celebration to honor Comrades for their service to help keep the freedom of this great nation. Pictured are members from all branches of the services. Together they represent over 340 years of service.

VFW Post #4542 of Spring Lake participate in the Fayetteville, NC Veterans Parade.

Post #9010 Comrade Keith Tedrow and Kathleen Canapino (Auxiliary) help collect funds for the Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser.

Comrades Gary Pope and Ken Rose of VFW Post #9010, Clemmons, NC participate in Buddy Poppy Fund Activities.
Veterans in the Community

Comrade Nathaniel Cooper, Life Member of Post #6018, Fayetteville, NC works with a South Carolina flood coordinator. Nathaniel saw a need to help flood victims and organized support from local businesses to provide food, water and essentials. Shows how one man with VFW Post head gear on led a successful team effort for the good of humanity.

VFW Auxiliary National President, Francisca Guilford pays a September visit to the Department of North Carolina.

President Guilford was hosted by the VFW Auxiliary Post #7288 in Calabash and participated in a project for the patients of the Fayetteville VA Medical Center.

Pictured (from left to right) are: Calabash Mayor Knight, District #5 Commander Stanley, Eva Blevins and Senior Vice Commander Blevins, Commander Bellflowers, Mistress of Ceremonies Nancey Earney, Department President Redfield, National President Guilford and Department Senior Vice President Joyce Preston.

Comrade Nathaniel Cooper, Life Member of Post #6018, Fayetteville, NC works with a South Carolina flood coordinator. Nathaniel saw a need to help flood victims and organized support from local businesses to provide food, water and essentials. Shows how one man with VFW Post head gear on led a successful team effort for the good of humanity.

Rocky Mount Post #2057 presented a check to NC Wesleyan College along with members of other area Veteran’s organizations. Pictured, right to left: Representative of the College, Herbert Joyner, President of the Joint Veterans Committee of Nash & Edgecombe Counties; Joe Pisarik, Post Commander Dr. Dewey G. Clark, President Of NC Wesleyan; Rick Tomlinson, Commandant of the local Marine Corps League and Jim Rocca, Quartermaster of Post #2057.
New Years Greetings,

I would like to review the mission of the Veterans Foundation of North Carolina (VFNC) which was established in 2004 by a new board of directors consisting of 6 members of the VFW. We are a 501(c3) corporation and our mission is to support the core programs of the VFW of the United States and other veteran service groups performing valued services to the community.

The Veterans Foundation also provides aid, assistance, relief and comfort to needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and dependents, widows and orphans of deceased veterans. It supports the maintenance and expansion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children in Eaton, MI which is devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, windows and orphans of disabled, needy or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces. The VFNC covers necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces. Other areas of support include veterans rehabilitation, welfare, and service work, perpetuating the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces and to comfort their survivors while fostering true patriotism through historical, patriotic and educational programs and supporting the Veterans Service Organizations and the Relief Fund Support through projects, programs and activities.

The VFW Unmet Needs Program assists with meeting basic needs that covers mortgages, health care, groceries and other essentials that are made available in a time of need. The Military Assistance Program assures our veterans that we are with them and their families before, during and after deployment.

Our Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs promote patriotism in our students. We also recognize our educators that are committed to preserving our history with our Teacher of the Year Award.

We cannot accomplish these programs without the generous support and contributions from our Corporate Sponsors and Donations from our concerned supporters.

You can find out more about the Veterans Foundation by visiting www.vetsfoundationnc.com.

“Thank you for your support”

Doug Blevins, Executive Director
Elizabeth City Pawn & Jewelry
900 West Ehringhaus Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
$LOANS 252.335.7296
www.elizabethcitypawn.com

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE
GREG WHITE PLUMBING COMPANY
4709 BLUE MARLIN WAY
NAGS HEAD, NC
252-202-9125
SONIC DRIVE-IN
5205 S. CROATAN HWY
NAGS HEAD, NC
252-441-9030
MARKS TRUCK REPAIR
710 ROCKY HOCK CREEK ROAD
EDENTON, NC
252-221-6522
COLUMBIA PHARMACY
214 MAIN STREET
COLUMBIA, NC
252-796-2421
DB CITY MARINA, INC.
BRINKLEY LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPE

HealthCare Options
OF THE EAST
VISION: to be consistently recognized as the regions leader in health care by touching homes one life at a time.
MISSION: Health Care options of East, Inc. excels in providing same day services by offering an experience that cultivates customer loyalty.

Types of Services We Provide
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT MAID FOR YOU
Services Include:
Bathing Assist with Walking
Dressing Toileting
Grooming Assist with Transfer
Laundry Medication Reminder
Errands Shopping for Groceries

Shirley Stokes, Executive Director; Dawn Cherry, RN
Vicki Thompson, DON
Antoinette Holley, Office Manager
Albertina Holley, AA
Tameeka Hines, Staff & Client Coordinator
Mario Boone, AA
819 North Broad Street
Edenton, NC 27932
(252) 482-3561

527 Becker Drive
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 519-0596

THANKS TO OUR VETERANS
Greetings Comrades,

I trust that everyone had an enjoyable holiday. We are now ready to move forward into 2016. Please remember that Our Mission is to Our Veterans. In the past we had to devote a lot of our time and energy to rebuilding the Department. The combined efforts of all comrades involved have contributed to the success in creating a Department that the members of North Carolina can be proud of.

This edition of our ‘The Leader’ magazine is a good example. Thanks to the combined efforts of our Editor, Junior Vice Commander Greg Stafford, our Assistant Editor, Clark Hunter and our Public Affairs Officer Russ Chambers, we now are in full control of our magazine. The magazine staff has spent a lot of time and effort to its success and I salute them for their accomplishment.

I would like to thank our District Commanders, Post Commanders and all Members of our post for making our first Department Raffle a success. This took a lot of hard work and I commend the effort of all involved. We are looking forward to the drawing at the February C of A. Our elections will be starting soon and I ask for all members to participate. Please remember, this isn’t a beauty pageant. The officers you elect to conduct your business will be representing you and our organization. Your Commander will be viewed by the public as the image of the VFW.

Your Quartermaster will be handling your assets. Ask yourself this question when making a choice, “Would I trust this comrade to handle my finances?” Your Trustees will be your auditors. Again, ask yourself the question. “Would I trust this comrade to audit my books?” The other officers you elect are equally important. Elect qualified comrades.

In June we will host the National VFW Convention in Charlotte, NC. We are proud to announce that the National Convention Chairman is our Past Commander, Jack Goin. Past Commander Goin will need a lot of assistance from our members to accomplish his mission so please volunteer and assist him.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as we go forward to accomplish our mission.

Doug Blevins, Senior Vice Commander

---

THANK YOU!

To Our District Advertisers

Effective April 1, 2016 “The Leader” will be a quarterly state magazine.
We appreciate your past support.
If you would like to advertise on a state level please contact:
editor@vfwnc.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Council of Administration (C of A)
February 5-7, 2016
Embassy Suites, Cary, NC

Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Awards Banquet
Department of North Carolina Convention
June 2-5, 2016
Embassy Suites, Cary, NC

Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet
VFW National Convention
July 23-27, 2016
Charlotte Convention Center
Charlotte, NC
Vaughan’s has the right selection of jewelry and gifts to make any Special Day perfect!
www.vaughans-edenton.com

Sunshine Family Pharmacy
1187 Duck Road Unit 5
252-715-0170
SUNSHINEFP@HOTMAIL.COM
THOMAS MCCGRADY Rph.
GOD IS THE SUNSHINE OF OUR LIVES

Copeland’s Tire & Wheel
306 West Granville Street
Windsor, NC 27983
252.794.5259

Bateman’s Tree Service
1222 Salem Church Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
(252) 338-4986
20% OFF FOR VETERANS!

Frisco Tackle
52570 NC 12
Frisco, NC 27936
252-995-3229
friscotackle.com
VFW Henry E. Seeman Post #2740, Durham Post #7316 and Yanceyville Post #10607, Burlington received 22 entries for the Voice of Democracy Essay Competition. 21 of those entries were from Voyager Academy High School in Durham. High School history teacher, Mia Drabick assigns the Voice of Democracy essays to her students as part of their history class.

Stanley McLeod VFW Post #5631 participates in the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Broadway, NC.
Warrior Ride founder Bob Racine of Oak Island is presented a check for $7500 by Post Commander Rick Arvonio. A donation of $150 was presented by the family of Post member Robert Meleary who recently passed away.

During the World War Two Veterans Recognition and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Gathering on December 12th, the guests of honor along with 120 veterans and their families paused to remember those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor.

A hearty meal was enjoyed by everyone who participated in the Wounded Warriors event.

Offering Buddy Poppies assembled by disabled vets.

Post #7228’s Flag Education Team visit fifth grade students at Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School.

Wounded Warrior’s trek ends at Calabash VFW.
VFW Aux #6060 Brings Wreaths Across America
To Elizabeth City

State Jr. Vice Commander Greg Stafford speaks at Ceremony.

Community participation and support from the Coast Guard

“A Silent Moment”

Ceremonial Wreaths placed in honor of heroism and valor.

VFW Aux #6060 members: Back row left to right: Shawn Kight, Melissa Spence, Mary Koria, Kaitlyn Boseman. Front row left to right: Stephanie McFadden, President Christine Spence, Sharon Curtis, Patricia Gibbs and Dana Boseman.

This was the first year for VFW Auxiliary #6060 to participate in Wreaths Across America. Christine Spence, President of the Auxiliary and her committee recognized the need to raise money for the 503 Veteran Graves in New Hollywood Cemetery. Over 100 participants and spectators remembered loved ones lost and recounted their stories of heroism and valor. The Patriot Guard, Boy and Girl Scout Troops along with the local Coast Guard watched retired and active duty military members place wreaths on behalf of their respective Branches of Service.
Why do we have By-Laws?
By-Laws define an organization. They provide a framework of unity that makes it possible to have posts in different locations operating efficiently within the greater organization, while still having the flexibility to develop their own local identity. That’s why we have local By-Laws, State By-Laws and National By-Laws. By-Laws are also an IRS requirement to file for tax exempt status. Operating in compliance with By-Laws is a requirement for maintaining that tax exempt status. A post operating in violation of By-Laws could put their tax-exempt status at risk.

Can the By-Laws be changed?
By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual can be amended to reflect changing conditions, omissions, and errors. Recent changes to our National By-Laws at the 116th National Convention include:

Making the By-Laws gender neutral.
Changing the “Ladies Auxiliary” to the “Auxiliary” and opening membership to qualified males.

Making “electronic” attendance at Post and District meetings acceptable with conditions.
A complete listing of the changes ratified on 7/21/2015 and effective as of 8/21/2015 is on page 2 of the 2016 Podium Edition.

What can I do at the Post level?
Keep your Post up to date. Make sure that you have a current copy of the 2016 Podium Edition.
Electronic copies and hard copies are available from the National Store. Review your Post By-Laws for compliance.
Run your meetings in accordance with Article X-Rules of Order Sec 1001 Rules of Order Governing All Meetings. (pg. 106-109) and Section 1004—Order of Business—Posts. (pg. 110).

Yours in Comradeship,
Dean Harris

FROM THE STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

VFW STATE SERVICE OFFICER’S MESSAGE

Comrades,
Hopefully everyone had safe and peaceful holidays. Let’s welcome in the New Year with a bang. In the following issues, I will be sending a series of articles on filing claims: What forms to use, What to file, What to include with the forms, Where to send it to, and How much assist I will be including with the filing of the claim.

It’s a new and exciting time here in the Winston Salem Regional Office and I want to be the first to say that age old thinking of “Deny, Deny, Deny” is a thing of the past. Hopefully, with the information I will provide in the following months, you be able to file a claim with complete confidence of granted service connected conditions. Thank you for allowing me to continue being your service officer as I will expand my duties in new and exciting ways to better serve you. Thank you again and God Bless!!!

Cleo Summers, VFW State Service Office  336-631-5457
“the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence; until you try to mow it”
Checks were presented at the VA Medical Centers for their HUD-VASH projects. This was a result of the funds raised last year under Janice Holm’s special Project. Her chairman for the program was Nancy White. This project helps homeless veterans establish themselves with items for their home and assisting with start up expenses. At year end, the money raised in the Auxiliary’s Special Project fund was divided across each of the 4 VAs in NC, and to the Veterans Restoration Quarters in Asheville. Each of the VA’s donation check was for $2,713.15.

A surprise 94th birthday was given to honor Sister Alma Cartwright for being the Oldest member of Aux 6060. She received a plaque for being the oldest member of VFW Ladies Aux 6060 Sister Alma joined Aux 6060 June 24, 1970. She was very active in the Aux. till her sight started failing. She was the bingo chairman for over 30 years plus past Guard and Conductress of the Auxiliary.

Left to right: Joann Nash, Alma Cartwright, Patricia Kuntz, and President, Christine Spence

Fayetteville VA (left to right)—Jean Clark, Fayetteville VAVS Representative with Norma Frazier Voluntary Services Director and Fran Redfield present the check.

John Boyd VFW Post #7318 hosted a Grand Opening/Rededication Ceremony presided over by Commander Mark Koppenhofer.

Durham VA - Donation for the Homeless Veteran Program presented to Lindsey Arledge (left) Charlotte Bays VAVS Representative VFW Auxiliary (center) and Ms. Deanne Seekins Durham VAMC Director.
Hello Comrades and welcome to our new version of ‘The Leader’ magazine. We are excited about the opportunity to bring this publication to you. At the same time we are excited about doing this as an in-house project. The writing of articles, the publishing of the magazine and the raising of revenue will all be done or controlled by members of the North Carolina VFW.

Going forward we saw an opportunity to capitalize on the revenue producing potential of doing the work ourselves, putting revenue into the Department and into individual posts by publishing a quality magazine.

If you haven’t already taken a look at our Media Kit please take a few minutes to browse through it. It is located on ‘The Leader’ page on the Department Web Site. It is designed to be all-inclusive, showing potential advertisers everything they need to answer their questions in order to place an advertisement in ‘The Leader’ and, at the same time, showing VFW members how to sell Ads while adding revenue to their posts.

We are asking for all of the posts in the Department to help us with this project. What we are not asking or expecting is for everyone to become a salesman. What we need is for as many posts as possible to find those one or two members that have sales abilities or contacts to go out and make those sales. In turn, your post will receive 20% of that sale back. There are over 140 posts in the Department and just one advertisement from each post per magazine would be overwhelming. One from every other post would be considered a successful endeavor.

Please give it your consideration and join us in making ‘The Leader’ a quality magazine that you will be proud of.

The Media Kit will be your guide to pricing, technical requirements, terms of agreement and most important, the insertion order which must be filled out and submitted along with the Advertising contract.

As we began canvassing the Department for stories from members and posts an Army Reserve unit located in Cary, NC contacted us. They were looking for Veterans to participate in their program providing content to the Library of Congress Veterans History Program. So a partnership is beginning to form between the VFW Department of NC and the 210th (MPAD) Mobile Affairs Detachment to accomplish two tasks, provide histories for the Library of Congress and written stories for “The Leader” magazine. The unit strength is about 20 soldiers, half who are print journalists and half who are broadcast journalists. They are charged with gathering and distributing media to both internal and external audiences. They are trained to produce newspapers, magazines and newscasts; as well as serving to facilitate civilian media. They have military vehicles, which, once it is coordinated, will allow them to go out to posts to conduct their interviews.

If you have members that would like to participate in the Library of Congress project or if you need assistance telling a story about your post please contact us at pao@vfwnc.com and we will arrange assistance for you.

In closing, I thank each and every one of you for what you do for the VFW and your fellow veterans. It takes all of us doing what we are capable of doing to make this organization and this magazine successful. No one individual can do it all. So, no matter what part you play in the overall scheme of things, your part is important. Do what you can, when and where you can. We can’t ask anymore of you than that.

Russ Chambers, PAO/Cmdr. Post 9010
MOTHER EARTH BREWING PRESENTS

STEW & BREW

A COOK-OFF TO CELEBRATE A CAROLINA CLASSIC: THE CAROLINA FISH STEW

- $10/BOWL FOR UNLIMITED STEW
- INCLUDES ONE BEER TICKET REDEEMABLE IN MOTHER EARTH TAP ROOM
- CAST YOUR VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE STEW!

ENTER THE COMPETITION!
- $50/TEAM ENTRY FEE
- CASH PRIZES/TROPHIES FOR FIRST, SECOND, THIRD PLACE
- DEADLINE TO ENTER: FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT KINSTON'S G.I. JOE MUSEUM, A PROJECT OF "SALUTE! A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS"

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2016
MOTHER EARTH BREWING
11:00AM - 2:00PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ERIC CANTU AT (252) 560-8031 OR cantuveteran@yahoo.com

211 N. HERRITAGE ST. KINSTON, N.C.
Phil Cumber, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, donated his painting of the iconic WW2 Time Magazine photograph “Sailor Kissing Nurse” to the Manley Reese Long VFW Post 2573.

In 1995, Cumber was working at Thalian Hall when he created this painting. The 50th anniversary of WW2 was to be celebrated there, and the artist wanted to contribute. A couple of hours before he went to work, he made his favorite iconic photograph come to life in a painting. When he arrived with his piece, it was immediately applauded, and took center stage at the World War II 50th anniversary. After the celebration, the painting was taken to the old USO and where it had been hanging in an office since 1995.

Cumber wasn’t happy his painting had been hidden in an office for more than 20 years. He decided he wanted the painting to be seen and appreciated by those who would understand it best, his fellow veterans. On Veteran’s Day, Cumber donated his painting to Manley Reese Long VFW Post 2573. The VFW post was happy and honored to have the painting grace its walls. Visitors may come to see the painting between the hours of 2 and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday at the VFW at 2722 Carolina Beach Road.

Mary Byrne Wallace is canteen manager and senior vice president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Manley Reese Long VFW Post 2573.

(Special thanks to Joe Stanley of Manley Reese Long VFW Post #2573 Wilmington, NC for sharing this story.)
The Council of the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans of America and Local Chapter #892 and the VFW Post #2771 are participating in the Sixth Annual Freedom Classic. The United States Naval Academy baseball team will play a three-game series February 26-28 against the United States Air Force Academy in Historic Grainger Stadium in Kinston, NC.

The two academies have been participating in this classic for the past six years with the Air Force Academy winning 9 games and the Naval Academy winning 7 games. The event will feature pre-game ceremonies before each game to honor veterans, active military and prisoners of war and those missing in action. The five military branches will be honored with a performance by the Special Forces Association Parachute Team, the Vietnam Veteran Helicopter Association and the Air Force Color Guard from Seymour Johnson A.F.B. The city-owned Historic Grainger Stadium opened in 1949 and will play host to over 2000 spectators. Games begin 6pm Friday, 2pm Saturday and noon on Sunday at the stadium located at 400 E. Grainger Avenue in Kinston, NC.

Kinston-Lenoir County Parks and Recreation Director Bill Ellis said; “We would like all the Veterans from around the state to come and enjoy the festivities and the baseball games. You are seeing the best kids in America playing the greatest game in America at one of the greatest stadiums in America. These baseball players will be the future officers of the Navy and Air Force.”

Tickets are $5 for adults, $4 for students, seniors, veterans and retired military. Active Duty military receive free entry. Visit ncfreedomclassic.com for more information.

(Thanks to Commander Eric Cantu for this contribution)
VFW Ladies Aux 6060 and the Honor Guards of VFW Post #6060 taught the Boy Scouts Packs 125, 127, 158, and 170 what the 13 Folds of the American Flags means on June 25th. Honor Guards (Back row) left to right: John Roby, Terry Wise and Howard Holman did the folding of the flag while president of Aux, Christine Spence (left in pink shirt) read what each fold meant. Aux Sister Patricia McGarrigle gave history of flag while Sister Louise Hill educated the Packs on the ‘Don't to do’ with the flag. After the folds of the Flag were completed, Cub Scout Drew Wood played taps. President Spence held a question and answer session for the Cub Scouts.
At the 19 November 2015 Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program Committee Meeting at the Asheville VA Medical Center members of the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Asheville volunteers were recognized for 57 years of perfect attendance. Pictured are (from left to right) Cynthia Breyfogle, Asheville VA Medical Center Director; Willie Glance, Asheville Representative for the North Carolina Hospital/VAVS Program; and Janice Holm, Asheville Deputy.

The SSG James B. Dennis VFW Post #6018 was the host site of the 2015 Community Homeless & Hunger Stand Down for the fifth year. Much needed services were provided to hundreds in the Cumberland County homeless population. Area dignitaries were onsite to support this event which included US Congressman David Price and Cumberland County Commissioners Glenn Adams and Charles Evans. Mayor Chris Rey greeted the 300 guests and hundreds of volunteers on behalf of the Town of Spring Lake along with City of Fayetteville Mayor Nat Robertson. The All American VFW Post and Commander Edward Beard were commended for their continuous service to the community.
A NAVY PILOT’S STORY
LTjg Ron Hubbard, USNR
Post #7034, Sparta, NC

We all have memories of our military service and with the passage of time our mind wanders back to our younger days in uniform. I grew up in Grayson county VA which was a rural area. There were Military Training Routes through the mountains and watching the low level high speed jets winding and weaving around the ridges and in the valleys was always a thrill. I had to do it. My last semester in college was when I joined the Navy and on inactive reserve until a vacancy in Aviation Officer Candidate School became available in May, 1971.

I thought I knew what was ahead since two older brothers had already become Navy pilots. I didn’t. The first four months were at Pensacola under the watchful eye of a Marine Corp Drill Instructor who seemed to always be around. With his attention to detail we learned to drill and other military necessities. Looking back it was a summer in which we learned teamwork and attention to detail.

We had to solo in the T-34 Beechcraft before moving on to the next phase which was jet training at Meridian MS. The Navy was introducing, as a cost saving measure, the Single Base Concept, in which students would stay at the same base until designated as a Naval Aviator, so it looked like Meridian was to be my home for the next 18 months. The Navy soon realized the restructuring for the SBC caused a shortage of students at Beeville, TX, so I was on the road to Texas after four months in Mississippi. The training at Beeville in the T2-C was a pleasure; most of the instructors had just returned from Vietnam and were all excellent teachers. The SBC also had a student shortage at Kingsville, TX, so off some more of us went. The Single Base Concept didn’t work particularly well for my class since we ended up going to every jet training base in the Navy.

A month or so before being designated as an aviator we filled out our preferences for the type of airplane and the base we would like to receive orders for. I asked for several different bases on the East Coast and every type of plane except the A-4 Skyhawk since I didn’t realize there were still three squadrons in the inventory. Shortly after getting my wings I had an enjoyable drive across the Southwest on my way to the West Coast to report to an A-4 squadron which was assigned to the USS Hancock, CVA-19.

It was disconcerting listening to the radio and the news of the Christmas bombing (1972) and it didn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out what was ahead after the Replacement Air Group (RAG) training. The Peace Accord was signed early in 1973 which ended our bombing of North Vietnam and in June I was on the way to WESTPAC to catch up with the Hancock which was still stationed on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. The day after arriving on board I was flying an A-4 off the North Vietnamese coast and we would patrol up and down, day and night. Four months after reporting aboard there was trouble in the Middle East, so across the Indian Ocean to the Gulf of Aden we went. We arrived back in the Philippines after 59 days at sea that time.

The ship arrived off the West Coast in January 1974 and all A-4’s launched to return to our home base of Lemoore, CA. The only problem was the base was fogged in and we had not flown instruments in over two months. All airplanes landed after an approach to minimums, which speaks well for the caliber of flight training the Navy offers.

So, less than three years after leaving rural Grayson County the Navy provided me the opportunity to see a lot of the US and travel three quarters of the way around the world. Quite an experience.
SOME SAY THEY’VE GOT YOUR BACK.

WE PROVE IT.

PROOF BY THE NUMBERS:

$5.9 billion: The amount in VA benefits that we helped to recover for veterans in the last two years.

$5 million: Total dollars in grants awarded to military families in times of crisis.

1,838,680: Service members and family members hosted at VFW events since 2005.

22: The number of times we have testified before Congress on vital veterans’ issues in just the last 12 months.

7.5 million: Number of free connections home we’ve provided for deployed service members.

1899–2014: The years during which we have been at the forefront in the battle for veterans.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

www.vfw.org
Come experience the great outdoors in Cary, North Carolina.

With our weekly workshops and kid activities we offer a great experience for the entire family!

Store Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9AM-9PM
Saturday: 8AM-9PM
Sunday: 10AM-8PM