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- Post Restoration Project
- Charleston Fisher House

National Commander’s Visit
March 3rd to March 7th, 2019
Details on Pages 10 & 11

Brett Reistad, National Commander
Adjutant’s Remarks

Nick Diener
Department Adjutant

Fellow Legionnaires,

The American Legion Department of South Carolina had another very successful year in 2018. Our membership is growing, our financial position is strong and improving, and our programs continue to be “second to none.” Now with your help, we must continue to move forward during 2019 and build on our success.

The next few months will be busy for the Department. National Commander Brett Reistad will visit our state March 3-6. You will find his tentative itinerary of events in this issue. Please make every effort to attend the events including going to the Capital as he addresses a joint session of the legislature. Also, during the address we will be recognizing Senator Thomas C. Alexander (Oconee County) and Representative W. Brian White (Anderson County) as The American Legion Department of South Carolina Legislators of the Year. The visitors seats in the balcony need to be full with our Legion family.

Our programs are already in progress. The Department Oratorical Contest will be held at Department Headquarters on March 9 at 10:00 am. These finalist are always amazing and everyone is invited to attend. Believe me, you will not regret it.

Palmetto Boys State and Nathan M. Wolfe Law Cadet Academy registration are underway. Please dig deep to sponsor attendees and please get your registrations in as soon as possible. Both programs fill up quickly so do not delay.

District Commander Elections for the odd number districts are also coming up soon. District Commanders are one of the most crucial positions in the Department. They are your future leaders that represent your posts on the Department Executive Committee and provide information back to your posts. Take the time to evaluate your candidates and choose wisely.

With all this going on, we must be very careful to not let our membership efforts fall to the side. We are doing well on membership, but we must keep working if we are going to grow. Please keep working hard and remember “Every ONE counts!” We also need your support of National Commander Reistad’s “Buddy Check” project March 11-16. Every post was mailed information on this project and you will find information in this issue as well.

Thank you to each of you for your hard work and support of The American Legion and Department of South Carolina. Your Department leadership and staff are working hard to support you. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance.

For God and Country,

Nick I. Diener
Department Adjutant
Commander’s Corner
John H. Britt, Department Commander
2018-2019

Greetings Legionnaires,

As we now start a new year, we’ve made great strides in moving forward as a Department. Our membership is in a positive position and we keep moving up. We reached our 85% goal and we must now look to the next one. These are the hardest ones to reach, but with your hard work and dedication we will reach the 100% mark. I am asking you to dig deep and help us make this happen.

Our Rifle Raffle is moving forward, ticket sales are steady and strong. The committee has done an outstanding job in pulling this together. I ask for your support in this project. This not only helps the Department, but also each Post that participates. These are funds that are extra income for the Post that can be used to improve programs of the Post.

My project for the year is to raise $7,500 for the Fisher House Project at the Columbia Veterans Hospital. The families of the veterans need our help in the time when their family member is in this facility. They need our help and love in this time of need. We are Veterans helping Veterans. This is something we can do with very little effort. Thank you for your support.

It is not long before it is time for the next Convention. Please give consideration and plan to attend. Information has already gone out about the convention and is also on the webpage.

Thank you for being member of The American Legion and for the support you have given me.

For God and Country,

[Signature]
John H. Britt
Department Commander
Dear Post Commanders and Adjutants:

The American Legion was built on the power of personal contact. A century ago, when our organization was established, there was no other good way to grow and fulfill our purposes. Today, in honor of The American Legion’s centennial, I’m asking you to do what our founders did. Make personal contact with members and former members of your posts and districts.

Call it a “buddy check.” Ask them how they are doing. Ask if there is anything The American Legion can do for them. Perhaps they have been sick, lost a spouse or just need to know someone cares. Perhaps they simply forgot to renew their membership because no one called.

This is not a membership campaign. It’s a comradeship campaign.

Inside, you will find some steps you and your fellow Legionnaires can take to make personal contact with current and former members to let them know they have friends in The American Legion who want them to be part of our dawning second century.

For God and country,

Brett Reistad
National Commander
The American Legion
EVENT TOOLKIT

BUDDY CHECK
A NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING

AMERICAN LEGION

A PLAN FOR MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT
**BUDDY CHECK: A NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING**

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. National Commander Brett Reistad has called for a Buddy Check during our National Week of Calling around the Legion’s 100th birthday as a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help. Perhaps they have been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew or rejoin. No matter their situations, we can do as our founders did by making personal contact with veterans in our communities.

**How do I organize a Buddy Check?**

1. **Gather up a team** to call or, if possible, personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 calls just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.

2. If you don’t have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.

3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. **Print several copies of the lists.**

4. **Divide up the call list among your team members.** Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.

5. **Start calling** – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion’s 100th anniversary.

6. **Use the spreadsheet to record your calls and identify those who haven’t been members since 2014, 2015 or 2016.** For each former member who rejoins from those years, your post receives a $5 reward.

7. If you are making it a group effort, where many members of your team are calling on a particular night or time, **invite the local media** to show The American Legion celebrating its 100th birthday the personal way: by checking in on their buddies in the community.

8. Make sure you thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.

9. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your post’s payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).

10. **Leave contact information** in case the member or former member can’t take the call or needs anything in the future.

**Rewards for Renewals and Rejoins**

An added benefit to the Buddy Check is the opportunity to improve membership, and the national commander is offering new rewards this year for departments and posts that exceed targets and return members to the organization.

**DEPARTMENTS** that achieve 100% of their 2019 membership goals by the Armed Forces Day target date on May 8 will receive $2,500. An additional $5,000 will be awarded to each department that hits 105% of its goal by the Delegate Strength target date.

**POSTS** receive $5 for each 2014, 2015, 2016 expired member who rejoin his or her post for membership year 2019. After the incentive program ends on May 8, 2019, checks will be disbursed to each post through their department headquarters.

To receive credit for renewing a 2014/2015/2016 expired member, you must renew that member in your post and use his or her current membership ID# found on the expired listing.

**TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS**, the 2014/2015/2016 expired members lists can be easily retrieved from the Report Server on myLegion.org

**STEP 1:** Select “Reports/Labels” on the left-hand menu.

**STEP 2:**

- **POSTS** - Open Post Reports folder, click on Revitalization folder to see: Un_Renewed Letters, Un_Renewed_Labels, and Un_Renewed Roster
- **DISTRICTS** – Open District Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing
- **COUNTIES** – Open County Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing

*Find Members in my Area – now includes last paid 2014/2015/2016.*
SAMPLE SCRIPTS

The following scripts can help you and your team make buddy checks on members and former members. Use these, modify them or draft your own before reaching out.

MEMBER WHO HAS NOT YET RENEWED:

Hi [MEMBER'S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from your American Legion Post [XXX.] I want to thank you for your membership and see how things are going for you and your family.

We're getting ready for The American Legion's 100th birthday [DATE/EVENT] and want to make sure you're aware. We want to be caught up with our renewals by then. I'm calling to check to see if you need assistance with your renewal, or anything else. Remember, your fellow Legionnaires are here for you.

Thanks again for your service and for your membership.

If you need anything, call me anytime at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or email me at [xxxx@xxx.com]

Let's stay in touch!

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

Hi [MEMBER'S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from our Legion post. As part of the American Legion centennial, we're calling just to say thanks for your military service and let you know how much we appreciate your membership.

We're also calling all post members to see how they're doing and if the post can help them in any way. I also want to make sure you know about [100TH BIRTHDAY EVENT INFORMATION]. The National Commander recently contacted me. He reminded me that members like you are the reason The American Legion has a voice in Washington, D.C., where he testified a few days ago before Congress in support of our fellow veterans.

He told me to tell you thank you on his behalf.

Let me know if there is anything we can do for you or your family.

My mobile number is [XXX-XXX-XXXX] and my email address is [xxx@xxx.com]

See you soon!

RECENTLY EXPIRED MEMBER:

Hi [FORMER MEMBER'S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] down at the American Legion post. I want to thank you for your membership ... and to see how you're doing.

If there is anything we can do for you or your family, just stop by the post or give me a call on my mobile at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or email me at [xxxx@xxx.com] any time.

Right now, we're celebrating the American Legion's 100th anniversary and want to make sure all of our members and former members understand we're here for them and hope they can be a part of our centennial celebration [or second century].

LONG-EXPIRED MEMBER

Hi [FORMER MEMBER'S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from American Legion Post [XXX].

Just wanted to touch base with you, see how you're doing and find out if there's anything we can do for you or your family.

Right now, we're celebrating The American Legion's 100th anniversary and want you to be aware of [EVENT, IF ONE IS PLANNED]. You and your family are invited to join us as we celebrate the beginning of our second century.

If there's anything we can do, give me a call on my mobile at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or email me at [xxxx@xxx.com] anytime.

Thanks again for your military service.

ACCESS THESE SCRIPTS ONLINE AND MODIFY THEM TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS
WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP
QUICK ANSWERS TO WHAT THE LEGION DOES

NATIONAL
1. Stands as the nation’s largest and most prominent voice for effective VA health care and disability benefits, GI Bill education and career opportunities. More than 3,600 American Legion service officers are handling over 700,000 veterans’ cases at any one time, across the country and around the world. No other organization provides as much free service for veterans and their families.

2. Mentors thousands of children and youth through healthy, educational, competitive and patriotic programs, including Boys Nation, Oratorical Competition, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, flag education, Scouting, Junior ROTC and more.

3. Supports our nation’s troops and a strong Department of Defense through innumerable programs and services for active-duty, National Guard and Reserve components, as well as resources for military families and advocacy for military retirees.

DEPARTMENT
1. [What the Department does in support of veterans]

2. [What the Department does in support of children and youth]

3. [What the Department does in support of troops/national security]

POST
1. [What the Post does in support of veterans]

2. [What the Post does in support of children and youth]

3. [What the Post does in support of troops/national security]
The American Legion
Department of South Carolina
National Executive Committeeman
Michael D. Strauss

National Commander Brett Reistad's nationwide effort to support The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program to financially assist needy military and veteran families with minor children at home broke a single-month record in grant distribution during January’s federal government shutdown $1,030,163. As of Dec. 1, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance national program had disbursed $204,807 in cash grants in 2018, assisting 338 minor children of 160 veterans in need of shelter, utilities, food and clothing. In November alone, 17 families representing 46 children received $23,776.78 in American Legion TFA grants. So you can see the money raised has been put to great use.

The excitement has been building for the 100th year for a while now. The 100th anniversary official day is March 15th, 2019. Have you considered an event at your post to celebrate? It's not too late. Show the community why we are the largest and strongest Veterans organization. March 14th begins the sale of The first American Legion commemorative coins came off the press recently during a ceremonial striking at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Reistad commented "I am proud that all surcharges received from sales of American Legion commemorative coins will help us continue to fulfill our mission. Whether it is delivering hope in a time of need, advocating for veterans’ benefits, giving college scholarships to our nation's youth or providing much-needed assistance to veterans, service members and their families, The American Legion will be there."

Seven different "FATHEAD" wall clings are now for sale to help members of The American Legion celebrate its centennial and share its story in local communities. The clings, which adhere to wall surfaces without damaging them when they are moved and reused, range from a 120-by-48-inch display of the Four Pillars of American Legion service, to new and vintage constitutional preambles and logos in a variety of sizes. The items come in a variety of prices and can be ordered through American Legion Emblem Sales by visiting https://emblem legion.org and searching for "Fathead," or calling (888) 453-4466.
National Commander Brett Reistad’s
Tentative Itinerary for his official visit
March 3, 2019 to March 7, 2019

3/3/19 Sunday: Ntl Cmdr Reistad arrives, —1:54 pm, escorted by ALRSC to hotel.
4:30 pm, escorted by ALRSC to W. Columbia Post 79, dinner and meet & greet hosted by Post 79, Post Commander, Billy Oswald.

3/4/19 Monday: 8:00 am Arrive SHAW Air Force Base, tour coordinated by District 11 Cmdr Jack Lonergan.
1:00 pm: Depart Shaw.
3:30 pm: Meet & greet hosted by Rock Hill Post 34, hosted by Post 34, Post Commander Thomas Ayers.
5:00 pm: Depart Indian Land.
6:00 pm: Meet & greet hosted by Indian Land Post 250, Post Commander Richard Steininger.

3/5/19 Tuesday:
9:00 am: Breakfast hosted by Chapin Post 193, Post Commander, John Siemers.
11:30 am Lunch hosted by Greenwood Post 224, Post Commander, Thomas Gaskin.
1:30 pm Depart Post 224
2:30 pm: Arrive at Anderson Nursing Home Post 184, for a visit with the veterans, hosted by Anderson Post 184, John Nixon, Post Commander.

4:00 pm: Depart for “The Ridge” in Laurens

5:30 pm Reception line for National Commander @ the Ridge

6:00 pm: Department Commander’s Homecoming, hosted by Laurens Post 25, Post Commander. Douglas Dilleshaw,

8:00 pm: Depart for Columbia

3/6/19 Wednesday

9:00 am: National Commanders Meeting for The American Legion Family at the Columbia Marriott

Noon: National Commander addresses joint session of the SC House & Senate, all American Legion Family members welcome to view the address from the balcony to show their support of The American Legion and the National Commander

1:00 pm: Depart for Charleston VA, and James Island Post 147

2:30 pm: Arrive Charleston VA. Briefing coordinated by PAO Tonya Lobbestael and PDC Joe Lysaght.

3:25 pm: Arrive Fisher House, tour

3:45 pm: Depart Fisher House

4:30 pm: Arrive Post 147, dinner hosted by James Island Post 147, Post Commander, Howie Caines

6:00 pm: Depart for Columbia

3/7/19 Thursday

5:44 am: Ntl Cmdr Departs South Carolina
The ALRSC is asking for your support! We are in the planning stages of our 8th annual American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund State Run. We will conduct a pre-ride March 9-10th and the ride will be April 27 – 28th.

How can you help? Support our efforts, either through financial donations (100% of all donations go to the Legacy Fund) or by showing support along the way (contact me for more information if needed). The ALRSC represents the Department of South Carolina and individual Chapters represents their posts. Even if your Post doesn’t have a Chapter, you have a vested interest in our efforts! Over the 1st 7 years, we have always been in the top 10, many times top 5 of all Departments in Legacy Fund donations at the National Convention. We have done that through the dedication of our riders and their sponsors. We want to continue our successes!

The ride this year will begin at Post 15, Sumter on Saturday morning and will proceed up through Camden, on Highway 1 to Society Hill and then down around Florence to a lunch in Hemingway. After lunch, we will ride from there to Jamestown, Georgetown, Conway and then ending at Post 178 in Murrell’s Inlet for an overnight stay. On Sunday we leave Post 178 and go through the low country over to Orangeburg and North, then on to Columbia for a rally at the State House around 1:00 pm. After the short rally, we will head to Post 6 in Columbia for an ending meal.

Can your Post make a monetary donation to support this worthwhile American Legion cause? Donations in excess of $500 are recognized with a nice plaque from national that you can display at your Post! If you want to help out, give me a call at the number below or contact your local ALRSC Chapter. With your help, we can continue to provide an opportunity for higher education to the children of our fallen and disabled military heroes.

I would also like to take the time to recognize Chapter 193, ALRSC (Chapin, SC) for recently organizing an honorable committal service of 3 previously unclaimed Veterans of the U.S. Army and 1 of the U.S. Navy. Chapter 193, in conjunction with other ALRSC Chapters, Patriot Guard Riders, and other Veteran oriented organizations helped ensure those who have honorably served our country were laid to rest at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, regardless of the circumstances in their life that left them with no family to ensure their burial. Great job to all who had a hand in this event.

Please contact me if you would like to have Riders come to your post and visit with you and your members and we will coordinate to make that happen.

L.Z. Harrison, Jr.
Director, ALRSC
Director, Chapter 6 (Columbia)
lzharrison@aol.com
Good morning Fellow members.

Thanks to all who helped us make our membership goals? We still have some Squadrons that have not reported in.

Remember, Face Book is a great place to show our support for our Veterans and their families. Post your activities so others will see what we do.

Remembering our goals for 2018-19:

Is for every Squadron to increase their membership by 5%.

Better communications of events between each of us. Support each other makes us stronger as a family.

Achieve 80% participation of attendees for our S.A.L. Convention in 2019.

A special Thanks to our Vice Commanders who have stood in for me during my family crisis at home.

On a closing note, June is not that far away. Please make plans to attend our convention in June in Columbia, SC, registration information is on the webpage at www.scarolinalegion.org under the Programs Link.

May God Bless each of you and “Thank You” for your contribution to make South Carolina S.A.L. for what it is.

For God and Country,

Boyd Comer

Detachment Commander

South Carolina

2018-19

boydcomer@bellsouth.net
Greetings Legionnaires,

It is hard to believe that this year is quickly coming to an end in less than four months.

It has been wonderful visiting some of the Post/Units this year, especially the most recent presentation of “The Four Chaplains” which included a presentation by the Spartanburg Sheriff’s Department. Thank you Inman Post 45 for hosting such a fabulous and moving program.

I am very much looking forward in joining Commander John Britt in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. And then shortly after, participating in the activities surrounding the National Commanders Visit.

If I do not get to see or meet you sometime soon, I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming 101st Department Convention.

Happy Birthday Legionnaires! For 100 years veteran’s like you have continued to serve our great nation by helping our veterans and their families. As we move into a second 100 years, my hopes and prayers are that The American Legion continues as a viable advocate for veterans. It will all start with us.

Thank you, Commander Britt, Department staff, and all the Legionnaires that I was privileged to meet during my time as President of the Auxiliary.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans and their families.
For God, Country and Veterans,

Pat Jarvis
President
ALA Department of SC
100 YEARS LONG - 100 YEARS STRONG

Our CENTENNIAL CONVENTION is just around the corner. Before we know it, we will all be gathering in Columbia to celebrate this glorious event for The American Legion and the Department of South Carolina. Remember, this is our convention and the more Legionnaires we have attending, the greater the Convention will be for the Department.

The Centennial Committee and Department Commander want to THANK YOU for making our fund raiser - selling of Hats, Shirts and Coins - a success. This has allowed us to arrange a “Meet and Greet” for all Legionnaires attending the Convention. We will have “lite finger food” and a “free bar” until the funding limit is met for the drinks and then it will go to a cash bar. This reception will be on Friday evening, May 31st, scheduled to start at 5:30 PM. Please come out to socialize and enjoy the Convention atmosphere!

There is also still time to register your Post history on the National Website, www.legion.org/centennial. This is an outstanding way to get the history of your Post out there so that the Communities, State and Nation will know what and how we support the Legion Veteran’s programs.

Jim Kvam
Centennial Committee Chairman
843-607-1015/j.kvam@comcast.net
MEMBERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Thank you for your steady push with Membership but we aren’t there yet; we’ve got to keep the momentum going. We’ve gotten 41 Posts to sign into the ONLINE PROCESSING System— if you haven’t done it yet you really need to try it— saves you time and your Post money.

I want to congratulate the 29 Posts who are at 100%+ and the 13 Districts (to date of 2/5/19) are over the 85% mark with membership. So many of the Posts and Districts are so close to these land marks but now we are pushing for the 90% mark. Let’s getter done for your Posts and the State of South Carolina— MAKE YOURSELVES PROUD-

You should have received a letter from National concerning a Program called ‘BUDDY CHECK”- All Post are to do this the Week of March 11-18– get a group together at your Post and make these calls to check up on any member or former member whom you’ve lost touch with. We need them and they need us. You will be receiving a list that’s been compiled for your area starting back in 2014 to 2017. Reach out to these people and check on them– I promise it will be to your benefit as well as theirs. Please report back to your District Commanders on how you’ve done– don’t forget your 2018 members you haven’t heard.

Please contact me or Jim Jarvis if you have any questions on membership, membership Processing or Buddy Check:

Darlene Walton 803-622-0300, djwalton26@gmail.com.
Jim Jarvis 803-479-0630 or jim4navy@gmail.com

THANKS AGAIN - It takes a Team to Win- & there is No “I” in TEAM– Good Luck– God Bless Our Veterans!!!
RIFLE RAFFLE

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$16,930.00

The posts, to date, have made $16,620 for their posts coffers.

Keep those tickets coming, if you need any more, just let me know at djwalton26@gmail.com or 803-622-0300
Veterans Resource Fair

March 29, 2019
10am – 2pm

1100 Gervais Street
Columbia SC, 29201

South Carolina Statehouse
North Lawn

This is an opportunity
for Veterans to connect
with local agencies and
organizations that provide
resources to Veterans and
the community.

God bless
our men and
women in service

This is a FREE event!
For All
South Carolina Veterans!
HELP US HONOR ALL SOUTH CAROLINA VIETNAM VETERANS

RIDE to the STATE HOUSE

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Celebration Ride
(you don’t have to ride to participate — all Vietnam Vets encouraged to attend)

Friday
March 29, 2019

- Bikes assemble for Meet-n-Greet 9 AM at the
  SC Military Museum
  1 National Guard Road, Columbia SC
- 60 designated bikes will carry State and
  Military colors to display on State House steps
- Police escort departs 10 AM to the State House
- Ceremony starts at 11 AM

SC Governor McMaster will take part in the ceremony.

Major General Steve Siegfried, a Vietnam Veteran, will be the guest speaker.

Vietnam Vets who have not previously been pinned will be pinned after the ceremony.

Vietnam Resource Fair 10 AM-2 PM for Vets to connect with local agencies before and after the ceremony. SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DETAILS
When Fisher House Charleston Manager Vicki Johnson welcomed the first family to the 16-suite home-away-from-home that provides free accommodations for families of Veterans receiving care at Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in January 2018, she wasn’t quite sure what to expect. But she knew this house was going to be a special place. One year, and some 750 families later, Johnson and her team have seen firsthand the impact of being near their loved ones in a comfortable home where they are “loved on” has had on the guests who stay there.

She tells the story of a Veteran who brought his wife to stay at the house, believing he would never survive the next day’s surgery. As he pulled Johnson away for a private conversation, he demanded, “Promise me she won’t be alone.” And in that moment, Johnson’s promise was made and her team’s mission was clearly defined.

“Those are the moments that matter here,” said Johnson, “him being able to know his wife was taken care of so he could focus on getting better.” So, the team made sure the wife ate regularly, had transportation to and from the hospital, and a warm, comforting welcome when she returned.

“We excel in the hugging, loving, Kleenex passing, dessert serving,” said Johnson, an Air Force Veteran herself, who adds this is the most meaningful thing she’s ever done.

Six days later, that Veteran walked through the doors at Fisher House Charleston with a huge smile, exclaiming he survived surgery and was now cancer free! Those are the days of joy for Johnson.

But there are also days of sorrow when the Veterans or families are struggling with health issues and the stresses of unknown futures. It’s in those moments that Johnson is reminded how important it is to have the right staff and volunteers to do everything from carrying luggage to cooking meals to lending an understanding ear each day.

“When they come to stay with us they become part of our family,” explained Johnson. “We share in the joy when the cancer is gone and the surgery went well, and we also share in the sorrow when the outcome does not go well.”

That family includes some 35 volunteers who give their time regularly; more than 1,000 volunteers who have contributed over the past year; the local nonprofit Friends of Fisher House Charleston, which raises donations to sustain the local operation; the Fisher House Foundation; and Trux and Durbin Emerson, who worked tirelessly for several years to raise the funds to build the house.

For Johnson and the entire team, it’s a purpose unlike any other.

“At the end of the day,” she concluded, “you know you’ve made a difference for the families.”
American Legion Post 1 Restoration Project by Home Depot

On Tuesday, December 4th, "TEAM DEPOT" arrived at Post 1 in Florence. This was an installation crew provided by the Home Depot Foundation and our local store. The Foundation awarded Post 1 an $11,000 grant to renovate the building. The local store plus some other stores provided volunteers to install new laminated floors, ceiling tiles, landscaping and repaired the front entrance. New interior doors are being replaced and additional work will be done.

Post 1 members worked with the "TEAM DEPOT" crew. They swept floors, moved materials, remove trash, prepared ceiling tiles for placement and painted. The Home Depot crew was magnificent. They worked focused on completion, no matter what the obstacles. They went above and beyond every minute.

The leader and one of the hardest workers was Assistant Sales Manager (ASM), Ron Holiman. From day 1 he moved heaven and earth to make this project happen and Post 1 will be forever indebted to him and his team for helping Post 1 start its rebuilding program. Post Commander Ken Curran was assisted by Legionnaires Buddy Hicks, John Struhr, Vic Phillips, David Johnson and Carroll Bonner.

The amazing team of volunteers from Home Depot were: Kyle Utt, Store Manager, Ron Holiman ASM, Chad Cooper, Anthony Forrest, Paige Royall, John Stricklin, Daisy Prosser, Jack Harrington, Josh Hart and two members from Fayetteville, NC.

The American Legion will be forever grateful to the Foundation for assisting Post 1 revitalize South Carolinas oldest post for future Legionnaires and the community to enjoy.

Kenneth M. Curran    Post Commander
Fred H. Sexton American Legion Post 1
VAVS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2019
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DORN VA HOSPITAL
Darlene Walton, VAVS REPRESENTATIVE
Department Health Administration, Veterans & Veterans Affairs
Sub-Committee Chairman

Jeffrey Soots, Associate Director:
Addressed the meeting with up-coming events and projects at Wm Jennings Dorn.

83,000 patients seen past year-

Parking Garage- front of Bldg 106 -was having the first floor concrete poured- delay was weather keeping the footings from setting up- projected completion time- Aug. 2019

1) 2nd Parking Garage has been approved-adjacent to the first-to be started by Jan. 2020.

2) Seeking approval for 3rd parking garage to be located at far-right corner of Dorn property.

3) 20,000 sq. ft. clinics to be built in Rock Hill, Sumter, Orangeburg- will take 18 months to completed.

4) Designs are being made up for the Florence clinic.

5) Dorn has received approval from Historical Society to tear down 3 Quarters on Campus to be rebuilt back to original design.

6) Fisher House to be built to the right side/ front of Campus.

7) Renovations of the Quarters next to Regional Office is (Future Primary Care Clinics will be housed there. They will be constructing a free standing Dental Clinic, Podiatry/Prothesis Clinic, and Optical Clinic.

8) Their new PATIENT PROGRAM is to promote (1) Trust, (2) Accessibility (3) Quality of Care.
10) AMBASSADORS: They will be in Red Coats, they will assist in answering questions, directions, and assistance while at DORN

Reminders on how each Post can assist those at Dorn.

A) Donate to the Fisher House through the American Legion Headquarters at P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063. This is Commander Britt’s project for the year, let’s all get behind him.

B) Personal Hygiene Products (soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, brushes, combs, toothpaste, shampoo, razors)

C) Back Packs, tote bags, suitcases on wheels.

D) T-Shirts, sweatpants, Socks, undergarments

E) Telephone cards

F) Gift cards in $25 increments.

G) Inexpensive shoes, Women’s bathrobes

H) Reading Glasses

I) Magazines (three months or less)

J) Pre-packeted non perishable food items, pre-packaged snacks, cookies

For Veterans setting up Housekeeping:

Mops, brooms, dustpans, trash cans, pots and pans, dish soup, sheets & blankets, laundry soap, etc.

Also, Check out your local transition centers.
Contact: Rachel Price
Palmetto Conservation Corps Director
Phone: 803-771-0870
Email: rprice@palmettoconservation.org

February 21, 2019—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palmetto Conservation Foundation is Encouraging Veterans to Join the Palmetto Conservation Corps

*Palmetto Conservation Foundation Is Hiring Crew Members*

Columbia, SC (February 21, 2019)—Palmetto Conservation Foundation, a non-profit organization, is accepting applications from veterans to serve as crew members on its Spring 2019 Palmetto Conservation Corps.

The Palmetto Conservation Corps is South Carolina’s only trail-based AmeriCorps service and job-training program for young adults. PCF operates the program with three objectives:

**To help build and maintain the mountains-to-sea Palmetto Trail.**

In 2017-18, the Corps helped build three new Trail passages in the upstate, finish a three-quarter-mile elevated Trail boardwalk through Wateree Swamp in the Midlands, rehabilitate Trail passages in the lowcountry and build miles of trail through Pickens, Oconee and Greenville Counties. PCF trains Corps members for these tasks and more.

**To assist state agencies and FEMA with disaster relief.**

The Corps assisted with relief and recovery efforts following Hurricane Matthew in the Lowcountry, Hurricane Irma in the Upstate, and forest fires in the Upstate.

- **To share knowledge and passion about environmental stewardship with the broader community through targeted service-learning projects.**
Crew member applicants do not need any conservation experience, but do have to possess a love of the outdoors. They must be willing to complete 900+ hours of work well as part of a team. Corps members receive a living allowance throughout the service term and an education award at the completion of the term.

While building trails, Corps members learn about natural science and best practices to protect sensitive habitats from degradation. They share their expertise on school campuses with teachers and students while creating environmental learning spaces.

To apply for the positions email Rachel Price at rprice@palmettoconservation.org containing a resume, cover letter, a professional reference and a personal reference. For more information visit www.palmettoconservation.org

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**About Palmetto Conservation**

The mission of Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) is to conserve South Carolina’s natural and cultural resources, preserve historic landmarks, and promote outdoor recreation through trails and greenways. Founded in 1989, PCF is a statewide nonprofit organization with headquarters in Columbia. PCF’s largest and best-known project is building and maintaining the mountains-to-sea Palmetto Trail. In 2016, PCF inaugurated the Palmetto Conservation Corps to help interested young adults in South Carolina learn skills in trail maintenance and construction, assist with disaster recovery, and develop as the next generation of conservation stewards and leaders. The Palmetto Conservation Corps is South Carolina’s only trail-based AmeriCorps service program for young adults. To learn more about Palmetto Conservation, the Palmetto Trail and the Palmetto Conservation Corps, visit www.palmettoconservation.org and Facebook/palmettoconservation, or call 803-771-0870.
ANNOUNCING THE 2019 SFC CHARLES A. JUDGE JR. MEMORIAL STAND DOWN

Fellow Legionnaires, it is with reverence and honor that we announce the 2019 SFC Charles A. Judge Jr. Memorial Stand Down.

This event is planned in honor and memory of an outstanding hero, Charles A. Judge Jr. SFC Judge, a native of Landrum, SC served for 21 years in the S.C. Army National Guard including a tour of duty in Iraq. His numerous service awards include the Army Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Parachutist Badge and Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Charles was one of the original founders of Stand Downs held in the upstate. He served as a coordinator many times and used his Army engineering MOS skills to provide unparalleled expertise in the area of logistics. His passion and covenant to Stand Down was relentless. He was a key leader in the growing number of veterans served each year and the outstanding outcomes that resulted from his diligent work. He effectively sought every opportunity for improvement and expansion at each event. One of his main goals was to make life better and brighter for each and every veteran he encountered.

While stationed at Ft. Jackson, Charles was tragically killed on July 24, 2016, as he went to the aid of a young woman escaping violence. He sacrificed his life to fulfill his ultimate duty to serve and protect. The 2019 SFC Charles A. Judge Jr. Memorial Stand Down is a fitting tribute to his undeniable valor, heroism, and life's service to our country and our veterans.

The Stand Down will be held on Friday, March 15, 2019 at the USC Upstate University Readiness Center, Spartanburg, SC from 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. (doors close at 2:00 P.M.) Stand Down will offer a day of FRRE SERVICES, GOODS, and RESOURCES to homeless veterans, Continued on next page
veterans at risk of becoming homeless, and veterans in need (self-defined as to his/her need) and their families. Participants in the past have come from counties throughout the upstate of SC and contiguous counties of NC. All veterans are always welcome regardless of where they live.

Veterans will be offered a multitude of services to include employment opportunities, medical screenings, VA benefits information, housing opportunities, Chaplain services, social services, comfort kits, clothing, haircuts, meals, ruck sacks and more!

So how can you help? 1) spread the word in your local veteran community and elsewhere; 2) serve as a funding sponsor (100% of proceeds directly benefit the veterans served via our 501c3 non-profit organization, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Boiling Springs, SC); 3 serve as a volunteer.

For more information, visit our website at charlesjudgestanddown.wordpress.com/ or contact us toll free at 1-844-978-2633.

We hope you will consider supporting and/or participating in the SFC Charles A. Judge Jr. Memorial Stand Down. Join the many past community members, fellow Legionnaires, volunteers from all walks of life and countless others as we honor Charles' lifetime of service and his commitment to serving all veterans in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig Burnette, Vietnam Veteran '69-70, Post 200 Member,

Commander Britt’s special project, the Columbia Fisher House, has received donations of $2390.00 to date. His goal for this project is $7500. We know we can do it, we just need those contributions to keep coming in, thank you all for supporting our Department Commander and this very worthy endeavor.

Many of you have sent word your donation is coming. All contributions for the Department Commander’s Columbia Fisher House Project should be sent to The American Legion, P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063

For God and Country, Nick I. Diener, Department Adjutant