



The Patriot

One who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interests



January – February, 2024

Commander's message

Dear Comrades,

Here we are welcoming 2024. Finally, getting our Post home finished. We have a few things to work on to put the final touches to the hard work that has been done. Last month we participated in the Wreaths Across America both in Raleigh and Garner, giving to Murdoch Center, funded a veteran in need with DAV, Wake County Angel Tree and helped one of our own from the Gunny Fund.

Our American Infidels Veterans MC has appreciated all we have done and check put the certificate posted. We look forward to more fund raisers they are willing to host for us. The Sons of the American Legion Post 232 and American Legion Riders Post 232 continue to hold fundraisers that benefit veteran's organizations as well. Let's not forget our Taco Tuesday's by VFW Auxiliary, VFW member's, AIVMC, and SAL every Tuesday of the month. They have been a hit! Help out whenever you can.

I have been asked about a membership committee. You can help on those occasions where we set up a table to inform veteran's about why we fight for them. Let's get together and brainstorm where we can best recruit. More help and more voices! Git 'ur done!

Here is to a productive 2024!

Respectfully,
Jesse Mendoza, Commander

Auxiliary President's message

Sisters and Brothers,

Another year has come and gone and I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season.

We have done so many things and participated in so many events this year even though we were closed for a couple of months. I would like to thank everyone that participated in any way in any of the events (especially last minute ones) that we have taken on.

VA visits and nursing home visits have resumed. If you were interested in attending any of these contact, Helen Carter or Terry Chatfield.

Council of administration meeting is in February at the Embassy suites in Greensboro. I would urge you to make your reservations now if you plan to attend.

For life auxiliary members, it is time to pay your yearly cancer dues of \$10.

Report the things you do for veterans and their families and activities in the community. Check our webpage and Facebook, as there are links to articles of interest, Department and National news. There are also updates on things that are scheduled after the newsletter has gone to print.

I look forward to a prosperous new year.

Teena Barbour
Auxiliary President

2023-2024 Officers

VFW Officers

Commander	Jesse Mendoza
Sr. Vice Comdr	Matt Cross
Jr. Vice Comdr	Chris Villano
Quartermaster	Terry Chatfield
Chaplain	Bob Carter
Adjutant	Terry Chatfield

VFW Auxiliary Officers

President	Teena Barbour
Sr. Vice President	Stanley Adamczyk
Jr. Vice President	Gail Creech
Treasurer	Anna Holm
Chaplain	Etta Ball
Secretary	Helen Carter

Newsletter Editor: Helen Carter (919-801-4524)

Post Home: 919-772-1062

Post email: GarnerVFW@yahoo.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/vfw10225 - House Committee: John Fabian, Bob Carter, Matt Cross

2023 VFW Legislative Goals

Below is the list of the Legislative goals and focus items for 2023 that the VFW has asked us to help get passed by Congress. They fall into the following six categories, one of which is explained in each edition:

- Budget
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Educ, Employment & Transition Assist
- Health Care
- Military Quality of Life
- **Nat'l Security, Foreign Affairs & POW/MIA** 

This issue's focus is on Nat'l Security, Foreign Affairs & POW/MIA which focuses on fully supporting service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world Congress and DOD must:

- Preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission..

All of the issues are explained on the VFW website at: www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service, which includes a tool that will show the text of any bills which address them, who introduced it and who supports it. Just press a button and an email will be drafted to your legislators asking them to support or oppose that bill. You can use their words or modify them to add your own text. Remember, if you modify the text, there is a higher chance that our legislators will read it, because it is different. And maybe you have a good example of how this law impacts your life directly.

Remember our friends

As we do each year, we read the names of all of our members who have passed on over the years. We don't want to forget them – ever! So, whether they passed on this year, or over 40 years ago, their names will be read. For those who have been members a long time, we hope that hearing those names brings back fond memories of these friends.

Thanks to our volunteers!

It is a good thing when we have so many members to thank for their contributions that we cannot list them all here. We try to also add it to our “thanks” page on our website where a full list of all who helped with various events. But here are a few extra special thanks this month:

- Joy Clifton, Gail Creech and Teena Barbour do so many things at our Post for the Post, Auxiliary, Canteen and the other groups that meet in our building. They are there most days, and never fail to step up when someone needs something else done. We should have more members like them.

State Council Meeting

The winter State Council meeting will be Feb 2-4 at the Greensboro Embassy Suites, 204 Centreport Drive Greensboro. Meetings and training will be on Friday, and Saturday, and the Council meeting on Sunday morning. Also, on Saturday evening at the banquet, the announcement will be made of the state winners of the VOD and Patriot Pen competitions and hear their essays.

Auxiliary Cancer Insurance

Remember that Auxiliary members have Cancer insurance included in their membership dues. And our Auxiliary will match what National gives you. The premium on this match comes from a share of the annual dues we kept when you paid. But since Life members don't pay any annual dues, we can only afford to match what National gives you if you contribute to our local cancer fund. So, we ask Life members who wish to be eligible for this match, to make a \$10 contribution each year. Actually, \$5 for the cancer fund and \$5 for the Relief Fund. This annual fee is due each January. Make your check payable to the Auxiliary and mail it to the Post address.

VA resumes visits to patients

The Durham VA has resumed visits to patients, which means that our Bingo parties in the CLC will begin again. We are scheduled to hold them on the second Tuesday of all the odd numbered months (Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov), at 2:00 ^{PM} in the smaller meeting room near the door to the CLC patio area. Jeff suggested that we meet for the trip to the VA at his house, leaving at 1:15.

The Nursing Home visits are held on the second Saturday of the even numbered months (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, and Dec) at 10:00 ^{AM}. We start at Lawndale Manor, and split up the group among the 5 Garner nursing homes.

Karaoke Nights

The Post has a Karaoke night on the first and third Monday of each month from 5:00 to 8:00 ^{PM}. However, there will be no Karaoke on January 1st. We will skip that one on New Year's Day, and only have one night in January. So, get your voice into shape to sing along with the other members.

Paper Newsletter now sent via first class mail

For those who get the paper version of this newsletter, please note that we are now sending it via first class mail. The cost of the Bulk mail license is no longer cost effective due to postal rate increases and the number of members who get it online. So, if you have an email address, please share it with us so we don't have to pay for the postage. There always will be a few printed copies at the Post for new members and visitors, plus it is always on the Post website each month. So, you can read it there or print a copy from there.

Riders BBQ



On Friday February 16 there will be a BBQ put on by the Legion Riders. Put your orders in ahead of time so we have enough. Plates are \$14 per plate.

In Memoriam

Joyce Evans – we learned recently that Joyce Mae Evans, age 77, died in 2018. Joyce was a former life member of our Auxiliary after transferring from the Pine Level Auxiliary closed a few years ago.

Chaplain's message

Here we are going into a new year – 2024. Will it be full of joy or despair? Well, the answer is yes to both, birthdays, holidays, and yes, we may lose a loved one. And you can also be sure it is leap year as it is a Presidential election year. One more day of hot air and political ads. I am looking forward to a good and bad golf scores, the marriage of a granddaughter and how knows what else. So, we all know life is what you make it.

Bob Carter, Chaplain





Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary
South Wake County Post 10225
1706 West Garner Road
Garner, North Carolina 27529
Post web site: www.vfw10225.org

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The value of a \$20.00 bill

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this. He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" -- Still the hands were up in the air.

Well, he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" -- Still the hands went into the air.

My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless.

But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who DO LOVE you.

The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day	Officers Meeting 7:00 PM <i>Taco Tuesday</i>			Riders December meeting and Christmas party 7:00 PM	POW/MIA Ceremony 12 Noon @ Capitol
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Durham VA Bingo 2:00 PM <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	VFW & Aux Meeting 7:00 PM			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	Sons of the Legion Mtg - 7:00 PM <i>Taco Tuesday</i>				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<i>Taco Tuesday</i>			Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 PM	
28	29	30	31			
		<i>Taco Tuesday</i>				

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	5	3 POW/MIA Ceremony 12 Noon @ Capitol
					←----- VFW State Meeting -----→	
4	5 Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	6 Officers Meeting 7:00 PM <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	7	8	9	10 Visits to Garner Nursing Homes 10:00 AM
←-VFW State Mtg						
11	12	13 <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	14 VFW & Aux Meeting 7:00 PM	15	16 BBQ 12:00 Noon – 5 PM	17
18	19 Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	20 Sons of the Legion Mtg - 7:00 PM <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	21	22	23 Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 PM	24
25	26	27 <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	28	29		