



# The Patriot

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



September - October, 2023

## Commander's message

Dear Comrades,

Welcome back! After a two month closure we are open back up with a new look. Please come by and look at the upgrades that have been accomplished. The back has a deck that we will look at turning into our cookout area. Further work is needed for us to turn this into a covered patio outside. The new windows installed have brightened the space in the main room. The game room has opened new possibilities that will look gr., We will be returning to normal with Taco Tuesday picking back up in September. Let's keep this on our calendars to attend and help out. We will be holding a benefit cook-out in October with a poker run.

The next big event will be the trunk or treat at White Deer park. We will be giving out candies to the trick or treaters in attendance. Last year we had thousands of kids participating. We expect the same. Show up in costume to give out candy and smiles to the kids.

With the closure we did not meet and set the agenda at. for the new year and our Post. With the new renovations many changes to the old Post have given way to a new look inside. Our overall goal as a VFW has not changed. We continue to work on our upcoming Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs. School is starting and we need to let them know of these programs that kids can participate to win recognition. See you at the judging!

Respectfully,  
Jesse Mendoza, Commander

## Auxiliary President's message

Sisters and Brothers,

It's great to be back home! It looks amazing!! Thank you to everyone that donated their time and energy to get the Post reopened. It has definitely been a challenge, but teamwork makes the dream work. The repairs and upgrades have been a definite positive. Please help keep it looking nice.

Our youth programs are underway. Please check the website for relevant applications and rules. The VOD and Patriot Pen deadlines are October 31<sup>st</sup> so please let your friends and family know. And don't forget the Teacher of the Year competition that has the same deadline.

Anna's bear fundraiser has begun and you can enter at the Post. The drawing will be November 11th. It would make a great Christmas present.

Please remember to report the things you do. We can't get credit for our hard work if you don't. Check the website and Facebook page for updates, as quite often there are updates and changes.

Teena Barbour, 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	Helen Carter
Chaplain	Etta Ball
Secretary	Helen Carter

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

Post Home: 919-772-1062

Post email: [GarnerVFW@yahoo.com](mailto:GarnerVFW@yahoo.com)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/vfw10225](https://www.facebook.com/vfw10225) - House Committee: Jeff Hicks, Bob Carter, opened

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### Chaplain's message

To our members,

Summer is coming to a close, football, world series and NASCAR racing All those endings and one start of a season.

I for one, try to always look forward. I hope we sponsor White Deer Park again at Halloween. We get our name out and have fun with the kids. Our mission is non-profit, but we must be wise with our money and help out veterans and families, but we can help those people who plan properly. We are here to help - not to bail out!

God bless us all.  
Bob Carter, Chaplain

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### 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:

- Thanks to Joy who did so much to both prepare our Post for the shutdown and then worked with the crew that actually did the work.
- Thanks to our building owner who is refreshing the building without cost to us. He wants to see us remain as a happy tenant and helps in any way he can.

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### 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 formerly held them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every other month at 1:30 <sup>PM</sup>, but need to check with the VA to see if that schedule still works for them.

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### Chicken BBQ

Oct 20 there will be a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser sponsored by the Sons of the Legion from 11:30 to 5:00 <sup>PM</sup>. Presales only. Orders are required by the week before, \$13.00 per plate.

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### Fund Raiser Raffle

The Auxiliary has a Fund raiser raffle underway with the drawing at our November meeting. This is to raise funds for our own Anna Holm who is progressing up the chairs to be the Auxiliary State President in 2025-26. That's only 2 years away and traveling around the state is not cheap!

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and you could win a stuffed bear, custom made for you or a family member or friend, wearing the uniform of your choice (Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard, doctor, nurse, police officer or fire fighter). This could be a great gift for the holidays. See the [flyer](#) on our website for more information.

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### Competitions announced

It is time again for our annual competitions for students and teachers. The following entries are all due on October 31. Full details are available on the National VFW website:

- Voice of Democracy – competition for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students where they write and record a 3-5 minute essay on a specific topic. This year's topic is: **What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?** Then submit the recording, a typed script and the completed entry form.
- Patriot's Pen – competition for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who write a 300 - 400 word essay on the topic: **How Are You Inspired by America?** All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics.
- Current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible to enter the **Citizenship Education Teacher** competition. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award.

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### Poker Run Fund Raiser

There will be a Poker Run fundraiser on Oct 7 at xx <sup>PM</sup> starting at Harley Davidson and ending at the Post. Cost is \$20.00 per biker and \$10 for their passenger. Food is available for non-riders for \$10. Prizes, 50/50 and other items will be auctioned. The event is sponsored by the Riders, Sons, VFW and American Infidels VMC.

## 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 Health Care which focuses on ensuring that service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares. Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Expand geriatric extended care services, nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.
- Improve VA's prescribing and deprescribing practices.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Ensure Affordable Care Act parity and access for VA and TRICARE users.

All of the issues are explained on the VFW website at: [www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service](http://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.

## In Memoriam

**Faye Newkirk** – Faye Stanley Newkirk, 81, passed away on June 29, 2023. She was born in Angier, to the late Colon & Louise Stanley. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Tammy Howington and her sisters, Dell Pollard and Carolyn Smith. She is survived by a daughter, Teresa Young (Husband, Aubrey), her brother, James “JD” Dewey Stanley and 2 grandchildren. She was a long time member off the Auxiliary. Faye worked as a technician for ITT and later as a waitress. Faye was loved by so many people. She was always on the go, and it was her “bubbly” personality that made her such a pleasure to be around. Her memory will live on in all that knew her. Donations can be made to your local SPCA in her memory.

**Al Almaguer** - Alfred Michael Almaguer, Jr. passed away on August 20, 2023, at the age of 75, leaving his wife Paula Almaguer; his daughter Celeste Tarbell and his son Aaron Almaguer, and five grandchildren. He was a long time Life Member of our Post and served as our Post Commanders in 1993-94. Al served two tours in the Army in Vietnam. The family asks that memorial contributions be made to either the Shriner's Children Hospital or the Wounded Warrior Project.

## Building opened again!



Work on the upgrades to the building are nearly finished now – and we're in the building. We're also ready to plan the grand opening to show off the building with a PARTY!

During the upgrades, we found a few basic repairs that needed to be done that we were not aware of - like leaky walls and weak flooring. So, they have been repaired and our Post home is MUCH SAFER than before.

## State Council Meeting

The fall State Council meeting will be Sept be 29-Oct 1 at the Greensboro Embassy Suites, 204 Centreport Drive Greensboro. Meetings and training on Friday, and Saturday, and the Council meeting on Sunday.



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

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## National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in each September is set aside as Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Recognition Day. As of the latest update on May 22, 2023, more than 72,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the total, approximately 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific region, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (such as ship losses and known aircraft water losses).

During September, our Post home will be decked out in yellow ribbons, to remind us of the plight of the missing and their families. Our Post & Auxiliary will sponsor a special ceremony at 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> on Friday, Sept. 15, to honor the POWs and MIAs from all wars. Please come and join us for this special service. The public is welcome.

Also, the Legion Riders holds a public ceremony at noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at the Vietnam Memorial at Capitol Square in Raleigh to honor the NC POWs and MIAs who are still missing from that conflict. This service has been held each month since 1987 when the memorial was dedicated, and will continue until the last man has been returned. Please join us each month if you can.

And now would be a good time to contact your legislators and press them to keep up the search for answers. This is an important program to support, for if we do not press our legislators, who will?

For the latest news on POWs and MIAs, check out the US Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency's website at <http://www.dpaa.mil>. This site is updated each Friday.

### Still missing and unaccounted for:

Middle East/Africa - 6
Cold War Missions - 126
Vietnam War - 1,578
Korean War - 7,492
World War II - 72,187