



The Patriot

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



May - June, 2024

Commander's message

Dear Comrades,

Thanks to all the officers that stepped up to be elected for the up-coming year. We are set for the new year to keep our Post on the right path for success. District 7 has elected theirs and we will do many good things to keep the VFW on a path for helping our veterans. Our Post has been busy raising funds to keep our promise to help. Thanks to all who participated on making it successful event. Last month we have been busy participating on several fundraisers that help our community and veteran's.

Memorial Day is coming up and we will be involved a few events. Look at our calendar for how you can participate. We look forward to participating in such events as we make our VFW host's their endeavor's.

We welcome all units wanting to help. Triangle Blue Star Moms has chosen us to meet at our Post so welcome them when they meet during our Taco Tuesday when you see them. They have sacrificed their children for the good of our county.

This year will bring new beginnings for us as we have finally finished our renovations. Be a part of our change. Thanks to all whom have made a difference!

Respectfully,
Jesse Mendoza, Commander

From the Auxiliary President

To our members,

Congratulations to all of the newly elected Post and District Officers. I hope everyone has an exceptional year.

Memorial Day will soon be here. There will be several services in the Raleigh and Garner area. Check the website and Facebook pages to see when and where they will be. Even if you travel for the long weekend, find a service to attend if possible.

We are very excited to have the Triangle Blue Star Moms meeting at our Post. If you think you may be eligible to join them, let me know and I will put you in touch with one of their officers.

Thank you for having the confidence in me to elect me as your Auxiliary President. I thank everyone for their unselfish service to our organization. Team-work makes the dream work and I firmly believe we have the best team in the state.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Teena Barbour
Auxiliary President

2023-2024 Officers

VFW Officers

Commander Jesse Mendoza
Sr. Vice Comdr Matt Cross
Jr. Vice Comdr Chris Villano
Quartemaster 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

2024 VFW Legislative Goals

Below is the list of the Legislative Goals and focus items for 2024 that the VFW has asked us to help get passed by Congress. Although the categories are the same, the individual focus items in each category change each year. The categories are:

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

Under the category of Education, Employment & Transition Assist, we need to focus on the following items to ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, by working through Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL to:

- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, child-care stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of *de-limiting dates*.
- *Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.*
- *Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.*
- *Expand small business, hiring preference, tax incentives, and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.*
- *Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.*
- *Conduct oversight of VA's Transition Assistance Program to ensure compliance with the law and require the inclusion of accredited claims representatives.*
- *Eliminate red tape preventing effective use of education and employment benefits.*
- *Provide housing relief for surviving spouses.*

All these 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. Press a button and an email will be drafted to your legislators asking them to support or oppose that bill. Use their words or modify them to add your own text. If you modify the text, there is a higher chance that it will be read, because it is different from other letters. For example, start the letter by including words about how this law impacts your life directly.

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

- Thanks to Etta Ball, who is faithful in thinking of all of our members who are ill, grieving, or in need of a little cheer to get them through rough times. She mails cards to each of them.
- Thanks to Joy Clifton, who is working on creating a little memorial area behind our Post near the patio, which will include a memorial and bench to sit and think about our lost members throughout the years.

VFW State Convention in June

The State Convention will be held the weekend of June 6-9 at the Embassy Suites, 204 Centreport Drive, Greensboro, NC 27409-9783. Phone number for reservations is 855 605 0319. There will be registration and meetings on Friday and Saturday, a banquet on Saturday evening and the new Council meeting on Sunday morning. Make your reservations early, as the rooms go fast.

VFW Installation of local officers in May

Installation of the new Post and Auxiliary officers will be held at the May meeting in accordance with the By-laws. The new officers will take effect immediately after the Department Convention in June.

VA resumes visits to patients

The Durham VA had planned to resume visits to patients for Bingo parties in the CLC starting in January, but we had to cancel the visit in January and March due to outbreak of illness at the VA. We will try again in May on the 3RD 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 at his house by 1:00^{PM} and share rides for the trip to the VA.

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 into groups to cover all 5 Garner nursing homes.

Blue Star Moms group meets at Post

The Triangle Blue Star Moms group has formed in Garner. They will be meeting at the Post on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00^{PM}. Since that is a Taco night, they will meet upstairs after they eat their tacos. Welcome to the members.



The group is made up of mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are veterans. They support each other and their children while promoting patriotism. Their organization focuses on the mission every single day and will never, ever, forsake our troops, our veterans or the families of our Fallen Heroes.

Taco Tuesdays



This is a reminder that Taco Tuesdays are held each Tuesday from 5:00-7:00^{PM}. Come and join us for the \$1 tacos made to order for you, eat in or take out.

Chaplain's message

To our members,

Well, Spring has sprung and the VFW year is coming to an end. One more big project to do - Memorial Day. Remember to go to a cemetery and place flags, have a service or do both. Traditionally we do things in the morning to remember our lost veterans and start summer in the afternoon.

May is a month for Mother's Day on the 12th and two Memorial Days – Peace Officer Day on the 15th and the 27th for Veterans Memorial Day. June is for Fathers and flags – Flags on the 14th and Dad on the 16th.

Have a great summer!

Bob Carter, Chaplain

Memorial Day Programs

For Memorial Day, there will be several events that you might want to include in your schedule to honor service members of the past:

- Memorial Day service at Montlawn Memorial Cemetery in Raleigh. Activities include putting out flags on each of the graves in the Veterans section at 5:30^{PM} on the Thursday evening before the holiday. Then on Monday (Memorial Day) there will be a service at the section starting at 11:00^{AM}, comments, a wreath laying and ending with Taps and the flags returning to full staff.
- Garner Veterans Day program, held at the Veterans Memorial at Lake Benson Park, 9:30 - 10:30^{AM}. There will be speakers and a wreath laying.
- We will have Buddy Poppies available at our Post most of May, where members and guests can make a donation to our Relief fund to aid veterans in need.



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

Return Service Requested

2024-25 Officers

VFW		Auxiliary	
Commander	Jesse Mendoza	President	Teena Barbour
Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Matt Cross	Sr. Vice Pres	Stan Adamczyk
Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Chris Vilano	Jr. Vice Pres	Gail Creech
Quartermaster	Terry Chatfield	Treasurer	Theo Povondra
Chaplain	Bob Carter	Chaplain	Etta Ball
Judge Adv.	Terry Chatfield	Conductress	Tina Creech
Surgeon	Jerry Mark Jackson	Guard	Joy Clifton
Adjutant	Terry Chatfield	Secretary	Helen Carter
1 Yr. Trustee	J. Mark Jackson	1 Yr. Trustee	Etta Ball
2 Yr. Trustee	Marc Povondra	2 Yr. Trustee	Joy Clifton
3 Yr. Trustee	Kevin Plewniak	3 Yr. Trustee	David Ball
Service Officer	Jesse Mendoza	Historian	Gail Creech
House Cmte	Bob Carter, Matt Cross, John Fabian	Patriotic Instructor	Joy Clifton

Officers were elected at the April meeting, and will be installed at the May meeting.

New officers will take over after the Department Convention in June.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 POW/MIA Ceremony 12 Noon @ Capitol
5	6 Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	7 House Cmte Meeting 7:00 PM <hr/> <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	8 VFW & Aux Meeting & Installation 7:00 PM	9	10	11 Visit Nursing homes 10:00 AM
12	13	14 VA Hosp Visit Mtg – 1:30 at VA <hr/> <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20 Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	21 Sons of the Legion Mtg - 7:00 PM <hr/> <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	22	23 Set out flags at Montlawn for Memorial Day – 5:00 PM	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day @ Lake Benson Pk– 9:30 Montlawn – 11:00 AM	28 Blue Star Moms Mtg - 7:00 PM <hr/> <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	29	30	31 Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 PM	

June 2024

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						1 POW/MIA Ceremony 12 Noon @ Capitol
2	3 Karaoke Night 5:00-8:00 PM	4 House Cmte Meeting 7:00 PM <hr/> <i>Taco Tuesday</i>	5	6	7	8
					←-----VFW State Convention -----→	
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30						