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# DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## DISTRICT 1

### POST-ITS FOR THE POSTS

*WINTER 2022-2023*



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#### Current Standings *(As of this printing.)*

District 1	94.83%	Department	95.80%
District 1 Auxiliary	106.13%	Department	101.41%

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#### From the Commander: Commanders, Comrades and Auxiliary

This year has been moving quickly. The District had many events from Recruiting at Holy City Brewing and Freedom Fest at Credit One Tennis center. My District Commanders' Special Project was a hit. Congratulations to Post 10256 for best ornament. Pearl Harbor was very successful with 2 WWII veterans attending. Past National Commander Hal Roesch gave a great speech and Post 10624 had a great luncheon for everyone.

I want to thank Ted Tufts for working so hard on our newsletters. District 1 will receive an award at the Department. Posts that were mentioned about their newsletter were Post 445, 3433 and 12102

Patriotic Pen winners for the District are:

1st Place Matthew Ponkow from Post 3137. He placed second in the Department Congratulations

2nd Place Nara Kofler Symons from Post 10624

3rd Place Ella Orvin from Post 10624

Voice of Democracy

1st Place Lillian Harrell from Post 10624

2nd Place Ayayna Crafton from Post 3433

3rd Place Grant C Kilpatrick from Post 12102

Teachers

Grade K -5 Summer Abukhomra Divine Redeemer Catholic School from Post 10256

Grade 6-8 Gerily Leland Cario Middle School from Post 445

Grade 9-12 Cameron Evans Phillip Simmons High School from Post 10624

Other Post winners coming from the Department are as follow:

Cadet Awards

Civil Air Patrol Cadet- SMSgt Jachai Schweitzer Post 12102

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Naval Sea Cadet: PO2 Nathan Wrigley Post 3137

Public Safety Awards:

911 Dispatcher Murzette Sherrie Hilton from Post 10256

Firefighter Frank Hauber from Post 10256

Huge hand to everyone who helps make these awards possible.

Upcoming events everyone needs to focus on MEMBERSHIP, if you are at or over 100% National still needs your help. Continue recruiting.

Hopefully you are working on the Jackie D Martin Volunteer Award. This can be given to a Comrade or Auxiliary member who volunteers their time to help others.

Criteria for the following Award: Jackie D. Martin Volunteer Award

- 1) Must be a member of a Post, comrade or auxiliary in good standing in District 1.
- 2) A member who best exemplifies the spirit and enthusiasm of volunteerism.
- 3) A member who, by example, motivates others to become more involved in Post and community service.
- 4) A member whose conduct in the Post and community exemplifies a positive image that adds to the prestige of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its mission of service.
- 5) All service is to be done in the true spirit of comradeship. Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any Officer, elected or appointed or any member in good standing with a short summary of why this individual deserves the award. The submitter should send the nomination letter to District 1 and address it to the attention of District Commander. Cut-off Date for Letters of recommendation is 31 March of the award year.

An awards committee will review all letters and determine who is most deserving of the award. The award will be presented at the District Convention.

Department Mid-Winter will be Feb 16 -19 at Embassy Suites in Columbia unfortunately we will not be holding our Hospitality room due to conflicts with the Department's Schedule of Events

District 1 Mid-Winter will be on 25 Feb at Post 3433. Eat at 1 and presentation at 2 with meeting soon after We will be giving out our PP, VOD and Teachers awards. The uniform will be winter dress with a tie and your VFW Cap. I want everyone to look sharp.

**In Your Comradeship**

*Curtis Peterson*

District 1 Commander

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### **District 1 Newsletter for the Auxiliary**

District 1's next meeting is on 02/25/2023, at VFW / Auxiliary 3433 at 10154 Bell Wright Road, Summerville. Lunch at 1 pm and Meeting at 2pm.

District 1's Membership as a whole, as of today 02/07/2023, is at 105.59% and we have 9 out of 10 Auxiliaries above 100%+. I definitely see the work that everyone has done on membership and we are growing in membership and numbers = what a fantastic job everyone is doing!!

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**3137:** Besides having the best view of any Auxiliary in the US – they have surpassed the 100% Annual Membership goal for 2022 – 2023. As of today, 02/07/2023, this Auxiliary is at 115.26% and still has several more months to go – keep it going IOP. Also, the IOP Auxiliary wanted to remind everyone that they still have Memorial Bricks available to purchase and the ones that have previously ordered their bricks they are coming in and being placed – come see and/or order one soon.

**3433:** Auxiliary will be doing a Salute to Veterans at the VA Clinic on February 14th by giving out snacks, drinks and personal care items. Also, this Auxiliary took \$2,500.00 in Christmas Gifts to the Victory House at Christmas. What an outstanding accomplishment for this Auxiliary. Keep working for our Veterans.

**5091:** Auxiliary 5091 worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on their Valentines for Veterans project – made 80+ valentine cards and attached pencils and candy suckers to each card. The CORPS will be spreading the love to William Jennings Bran Dorn V.A. Medical Center and Veterans Victory House.

**9509:** This Auxiliary did stockings for “Towns for Troops” and helped pay for 133 of them to be shipped overseas to the 118th Alpha Unit out of Moncks Corner.

**10256:** We will be and have been handing out snacks quarterly at the VA Clinic. A Veteran’s Widow lost everything when their freezer broke so we restocked it with food for them. Currently we are 104.49% Annual Membership and this 100% was met prior to 12/31/2022, deadline. We have visited Veterans in assisted living, collected coats for those in need, and made holiday food baskets for those in need.

**10624:** The Wreaths Across America (WAA) was a tremendous event at the Beaufort National Cemetery. Another year that every grave received a wreath. The ceremony was absolutely breath-taking and goose bumps was definitely felt by everyone in attendance. The crowd on-hand was ready to distribute the wreaths and District 1 Commander (C. Peterson) and District 1 President (S. Peterson) had an opportunity to put wreaths on Walter C Fulda and Curly Houck for VFW / Auxiliary 3433 and a personal one for a friend: Louis Castiglione. The Auxiliary 10624 did a Christmas Party fund raiser for the Fisher House. This was a joint effort between Auxiliary and Comrades in raising \$700.00 dollars. We are currently beginning our preparations for the our Scholarship dinner and winners in April.

**12102:** This Auxiliary shipped and wrapped Christmas presents for the Veterans at the Victory House. Many Christmas cards were written by individuals within the auxiliary and they were distributed to the veterans and those in the Memory Care Unit – pinwheels were given to the patients. The Auxiliary and Comrades will be having a joint scholarship awards evening on Wednesday, 02/08/2023.

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## From the District Quartermaster



### District 1 Releases New Website

In the last few weeks, VFW District 1 released its new website at <http://vfwscd1.org/>. Our goal is to provide information, resources, online methods for conducting VFW business and a leading by example as District #1 in promoting the VFW mission.

From the home page online, you can pre-order the District 1 Polo Shirt, make donations and later this month, pay your District Dues for the District 1 May Convention. ABOUT US - Information about District 1 and posts linking to post websites and social media. JOIN – to promote growing membership in the VFW. DONATE – to send funds electronically based on purpose. And still more to come.

We're just getting started and the website will expand as we continue to develop new areas. If there's information, updates, corrections, or additions you would like to see, let us know.

Commander - [Curtis Peterson](#)  
Chief of Staff - PSC [Ted Tufts](#)  
Quartermaster - [Dennis Hamilton](#)

### It's Election Season

We are well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the VFW administrative year and time to begin planning for the future. There's still plenty of business remaining in 2022-2023 to complete, but it's also the time to plan for 2023-2024 and the leadership of our Posts, District, Department and National. All posts who are first to hold elections should be getting prepared with candidates for elected, appointed positions and delegates for the upcoming cycle.

### District Delegate Fees

Have District Delegate Fees paid no later than 15 days prior to District Convention. **Later this month, District 1 will be sending out the annual dues letter and invoice to all the posts.** If this is not paid your post will be in arrears with District and your post will not have a vote at the District Convention

### Department Delegate Fees

Have Department Delegate Fees paid no later than 15 days prior to Department Convention. The Department QM will send out roster with dues around April 15 annually. If this is not paid your post will be in arrears with Department and your post will not have a vote at the Department Convention and you may be at risk of being suspended.

### National Delegate Fees (General Order #7 – 2022-2023 Series)

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 124th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

# Department Award Winners



## **Patriot's Pen Winners:**

Dept Winner - Haley Kathleen Justice, Post 9539 District 8

2nd place - Matthew A. Ponkow, Post 3137 District 1

3rd place - Callie J. McDougall, Post 6740 District 2



## **Voice of Democracy:**

Dept Winner - Zoey Hughes, Post 641 District 20

2nd Place Sarah Campbell, Post 9539 District 8

3rd Place Alyssa Hurdich, Post 10804 District 7

## **Cadet Awards:**

Civil Air Patrol Cadet - SMSGT Jachai A. Schweitzer, Post 12102 District 1

Naval Sea Cadet - PO2 Nathan Wrigley, Post 3137 District 1

JROTC - Josiah Fortenberry, Post 6932 District 9

## **Public Safety Awards:**

Law Enforcement Officer - James Paul Jernigan, Post 10804 District 7

911 Dispatcher - Murzette Sherrie Hilton, Post 10256 District 1

Firefighter - Frank Hauber, Post 10256 District 1

## **Communication Awards:**

Best Newsletter - District 1 (Honorable mentions: Posts 10804, 445, 3433, 12102, 6091)

**District 1 Newsletter has been submitted to National for the Media Contest.**

Outstanding Post Media - Post 6444 District 7

Outstanding District Media - District 1

Outstanding Website Award - Post 8738 District 2

## **Department Teacher's Citizenship Education Award.**

### **Overall winner:**

Kimberly Stokes

9-12 Grade

Post 11079 Elgin

District 2

### **First Place K-5:**

Summer Abukhomra

Post 10256 Goose Creek

District 1

### **First Place 6-8 Grade:**

Gerilyn Leland

Post 445 Charleston

District 1

Post awards will be presented at the February District 1 awards banquet.



## VFW Auxiliary Department President

Hello District 1 Auxiliaries,

I would like to congratulate the Auxiliaries of District 1 for reaching 100% in membership first in the Department. You were way ahead of our Department goal of 100% membership by December 31. I appreciate the tremendous love and support you have shown me as I have struggled to lead your Department this year. I know you are working hard to support our Veterans. Be sure to brag to your Program Chairmen about the wonderful things you are doing. Not only do you represent your Auxiliary but also the National Organization. It is great when we can show how much we support our Veterans of Foreign Wars on both the Department and National levels. Many of you have supported our special project, the TAPS program. For those individuals and auxiliaries that donate \$50 or more before the Conference you will be receiving a gold award. For those donating after the Conference and before the Convention you will be awarded the bronze award. Please consider donating to this important program. Let our family members of our dear departed Veterans know that we still love and care for them. Do not forget the 22 Veterans we lose to suicide a day and the families they have left behind. I see that many of you are working hard to become a Bumblebee Auxiliary. I look forward to you getting your award at the Department Convention in June.

Thank you for your support!


VFW Auxiliary E-Newsletter  
February 9, 2023

### MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES: Departments Reach 100%

2022-2023 National Membership Ambassador Jason Estell has a dream of increasing membership to half a million members this year, while National President Jane Reape is hopeful the organization will reach 100% in current membership again this year! With the Southern Conference in the lead as of the Mid-Year and the Big 10, Western and Eastern Conferences not far behind, we may be well on our way to meeting those goals!

Many Auxiliaries have reached 100% already, as have seven Departments! Each month, we will celebrate those that have reached this milestone.

Congratulations to Delaware (104.22%), **South Carolina (101.41%)**, Alaska (101.38%), Hawaii (100.74%), New Jersey (100.46), Louisiana (100.41%) and New Mexico (100.19%)!

Hugs , 

*Beth*

Proving we  ieve in our Veterans!

Beth Tufts, President  
VFW Auxiliary  
Department of South Carolina 2022-2023

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ONE SURGEON

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) 4th Quarter Meeting December 14, 2022 Here are the highlights of our 4th Quarter Ralph H Johnson VAVS Meeting: Voluntary Services Manager Dwight Kress delivered the opening comments concerning current news and projects at the VA Medical Center. . The Soldiers Angels food distribution is scheduled to be held at the Elks Lodge on the 2nd Tuesday of each month . Spread the word that funding is available and Ralph H Johnson VA Medical Center is Hiring for undergrad and graduate positions! . Tax preparation assistance will be available in the near future and is offered by trained volunteers on Tuesday through Thursday. Stay tuned for more details. . Masks are still required when entering the hospital. The biggest veteran needs for this Winter are still non perishable food items, sweatpants (all sizes), along with newly added, protein drinks, coats, and bus passes. Volunteer needs are Patient Escorts, Coffee Cart, Virtual Communications with Vets, and Drivers. Many of the previous projects that have been mentioned in my1st through 3rd Quarter VAVS Reports, including the expansion of Outpatient Clinics, Inpatient bed capacity, and Long term care facilities are still on the long term agenda. If any of you are interested in pursuing a volunteer opportunity or would like additional information on any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email. Best to all.

*Buddy Gillam*  
District 1 Surgeon

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## Membership

Comrades, District One membership is growing but very slowly. I encourage you to work on your continuous members who are due between now and the end of the membership year. Explain to them paying early not only helps the Post but the District and Department as well. Try to get them to pay up for two years but converting to a life membership is best all around. The District Commander spends time sending out membership lists to each post. He is doing the work up for you by getting this information so take advantage of this and start working the list.

As we all know, membership is a priority, and the Commander-in-Chief wants to be very clear, recruiting new and reinstating those who have not renewed is his number ONE priority. He would like everyone to recruit at least ONE member this year. Without question membership is growing and at the pace we are at, we as an organization should be at 100% by April and 102% by year's end.

So now, as we get closer to the end of the year it's time to start thinking about who is going to lead your Posts and Districts. We've all heard it when the nominations come up, CRICKETS or not me, or everyone looks the other way when the floor is opened for nominations.

Do not wait until that time to start looking for your next leadership. Commanders, Sr's, Jr's QM's if you are not looking to stay in office for another term now is the time, and frankly it past the time to start looking and talking to members who you think will be a good fit for your Post or District. Someone not necessarily replacing you with your thoughts and ideas but who is going to lead in a responsible way with their ideas.

Don't just throw in the towel when no one steps forward and pressure a friend or and this happens more often than not,

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the new member at the meeting gets roped into taking an office. You are doing them, the membership, post and district a disservice. Unless you have a strong training program and a team willing to help them along, at all costs do not go in that direction. And do not take advice from the barstool commanders. They are good at telling us what to do but you don't see them in the room at election time.

Too often when the new leadership takes over, they go into the office cold. Many times, there is no turnover from the outgoing, just a toss of the keys and here you go, have fun. Commanders, your Sr. Vice, was elected by the membership and during your tenure should be training that person to replace you. Likewise, the SR, Jr, QM should also be doing the same. Communication is the key not only to your post and district but within your leadership team. Good luck to all and looking forward to seeing many All State and All American District One Posts.

*Ted Tufts*

Membership Chairman

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## VFW National Convention

NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING – 124th National Convention housing will officially open Feb. 17, 2023. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention). The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Phoenix, Arizona – July 22-27, 2023, including a tentative agenda.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

## General Orders No. 7

## 2022-23 Series

1. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 124th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

2. Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination,

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election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

3. Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.

4. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

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<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>



We want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).

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## COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

**Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts and Departments for the month of February 2023!**



**Our veterans need the VFW now more than ever, and we need a strong membership base to fulfill that mission.**

This month, we are once more focusing on total membership growth. Each Post that leads their Division in total membership increase will receive a \$1000 award deposited into the Post account - but there's an additional challenge!

In order to qualify for this award, the Post must show at least a 2% membership increase in February. That means getting out there recruiting new members and retaining our existing ones!

In addition, any Department that raises their membership percentage by 2% or more in February will receive a \$1000 award as well! We need everyone involved, getting out there to do the work and increase membership because  
**EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!**



This contest will count the Post and Department's total membership from February 1st through close of business February 28th. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.

## **VA Topics & The Veteran Community**

### **VA to pay for all emergency mental health care.**

Starting Jan. 17, all veterans will be able to access emergency mental health care free of charge at any Veterans Affairs medical facility or outside clinic, regardless of whether they are already enrolled in department health care services.

Department officials announced the new policy on Friday as part of nationwide efforts to prevent suicide among veterans. According to the latest department data, about seventeen veterans die a day by suicide.

“Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve, no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they’re enrolled in VA care,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a statement. “This expansion of care will save veterans’ lives, and there’s nothing more important than that.”

Calls to veterans suicide hotline spiked over New Year’s holiday Compared to New Year’s Eve 2021 and New Year’s Day 2022, the call volume each day was up almost 30%.

The new policy applies to all veterans with any separation status except a dishonorable discharge, regardless of whether they qualify for other VA medical services.

About 18 million veterans are living in America today, but only about half are currently enrolled in veterans’ health care through the department.

Since 2019, all VA medical facilities have been required to provide same-day access to emergency mental health care to veterans.

Under the new policy, VA will either waive costs for care or — in cases of visits outside the VA system — provide reimbursements for emergency mental health care. Those costs include appointment fees, transportation costs and other related follow-up expenses.

The new plan also calls for VA to cover the costs of up to 30 days of inpatient or residential care for treatment of those mental health issues and up to 90 days of outpatient care if veterans are experiencing an acute suicidal crisis.

The move is based on legislation adopted by Congress nearly two years ago. House Veterans’ Affairs Committee ranking member Mark Takano, D-Calif., who authored the measure, praised the department on Friday for its implementation.

### **'Widow's Tax' on Survivors Will Be Completely Gone as of Feb. 1 Benefit Checks**

Feb. 1 benefits checks won’t have the so-called “widow's tax” reducing income for the surviving spouses of military retirees who participate in two programs.

Until 2020, survivors couldn’t receive the full amount of two survivor benefits at the same time. Under the rule known as the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) "offset," the government reduced payments that were part of that program by the amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) that beneficiaries received from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DIC is generally for the families of veterans who died in the line of duty or as the result of a service-connected injury or

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illness. With the Defense Department's SBP, by contrast, veterans elect whether to pay premiums that will guarantee their spouses or other beneficiaries a percentage of their retirement pay after they die. That choice is typically made upon retirement.

The monthly DIC payment for a veteran who died on or after Jan. 1, 1993, is \$1,562.74 for 2023. Without the change in law, the government would have reduced SBP beneficiaries' payments by that much.

The decision to eliminate the "widow's tax" was a "huge win" and "the right thing to do," Mark Belinsky, director of currently serving/retiring affairs for the Military Officers Association of America and an Army retiree, said in a phone interview. The SBP is a "very good plan," he added.

Congress came to the idea that the reduction was unfair and laid out a process in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to gradually close the gap.

Rather than just changing the reductions to SBPs, the law began giving affected survivors an additional allowance to make up the difference, and as of the upcoming payments, the offset will no longer exist.

The reduction required when veterans participated in both programs deterred some from choosing to contribute to the SBP. Coinciding with the change to the deductions, the VA will give veterans a rare second chance to enroll this year.

The SBP is much more financially supportive than most forms of private life insurance. After a retiree dies, the SBP pays a beneficiary up to 55% of the retiree's monthly retirement pay, adjusted for inflation, for the rest of the surviving spouse's life or until a child reaches an age cap.

Those who enroll during the open season, which lasts until Jan. 1, 2024, will have to catch up on paying the premiums they missed since retiring, plus pay interest and "any additional amount" deemed necessary to maintain the "soundness" of the Defense Department's retirement fund, according to the new law.

Current enrollers can also opt out during the open season but will not receive a refund on the premiums they've already paid.

The new chance to enroll became law when President Joe Biden signed the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act on Dec. 23, 2022. Until the forms and processes for enrollment become available, the Defense Department recommends that retirees update their information in the myPay system. Forms are in development and will be available by February at <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23>, according to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

### **Keep Up With Military Pay Updates**

Military pay benefits are constantly changing. Make sure you are up to date with everything you have earned.

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## ***A message from the District Commander.***

*To All,*

*So, you hear about a Posts wanting to dissolve the auxiliary. Why would you want to dissolve an auxiliary? My answer is "no way" because while we were serving our country from some tyrant country.*

*Who was home taking care of the kids, the bills, the housing, and anything else out there? Plus, worrying about losing a loved one. Spouses, kids, mom, dad, grandparents. Your Auxiliary member*

*Yes, the Auxiliary can be dissolved because they are under the VFW charter.*

*So answer these questions before you decide to bring this up in your meeting.*

- *Who does the event organization?*
- *Who does the cooking?*
- *Who is cleaning up?*
- *Who is there at the last minute when something needs to be done?*

*The Auxiliaries!!*

*You could lose members because that Auxiliary member you removed will move to where the Auxiliary member transfers too because he supports their spouse.*

*Do you see your Bar Lawyer getting up off the chair to help. No because he feels he deserves to sit, talk, and drink and that he feels that he has done his duty. My fillings are that becomes toxic*

*Oh, now you worry about the Auxiliary getting more members than Comrades*

*Yes they can, why because their membership tree is broad and viable base. While for us to become a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars is only one way and to Serve in A Foreign War*

*As comrades we forget about who served before us. Your great grandfather, grandfather, father, and mother. If a family member has their copy of DD 214 to show proof, then let us welcome these families into our most valuable organization to help serve and care for Veterans.*

*To my Auxiliary Family*

*Thank you for caring, worrying, and loving your veterans. Me personally where would I be without You.*

**LOST!!!**

**Keep beelieving!!!**

**Love from a Veteran who loves his Auxiliary.**

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### New for District 1.

Comrades and Auxiliary

As you know we have been working on District Polo Shirts for members to buy and wear at District events. Hopefully with our promotion to sell them to district members that when other members from different districts will wow and create competition with each district to promote a better family atmosphere. The attachment is the color of our shirt and logo.

The cost for this shirt will be \$30.00. We will use the small profit towards District programs.



District 1 webpage is now up and running it is <http://vfwscd1.org/> and we are using this site to order shirts. There are many plans for the use of this site to make D1 better so keep watch for future updates.

We now have a banner to post around District events including at the Department



The Department Website [vfwsc.org](http://vfwsc.org) has lots of good information. The home tab has an announcements section that has the current updates added to the site. Check this often to see new updates. and the About, Resources and News tabs are continually updated. Any post who uses the VFW Website Solution program and has the news section enabled will see items added to the Department news. If you are using the Calendar section you will see District and Department events on your Calendar. If you are not using the VFW Website Solution program for our website you might want to check it out. You can find information on [vfwsc.org](http://vfwsc.org)

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## Post 10256—Goose Creek

Meet our newest member, Matt Frazier. Former Nuclear Electronics Chief Petty Officer. Singed him up while working at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.



Check it out, Goose Creek! More #creekart has popped up in the City at VFW Post 10256 & Auxiliary. This beautiful mural pays homage to our Goose Creek veterans in the community. Thank you for your service.

Thank you to Charleston County School of the Arts seniors Abby Short and Emily Apostolico for bringing your talents to the Creek! Last weekend, they led a team of SOA Visual Artists and Charleston County School District teachers in painting this project.

The mural is located at 104 Stephanie Drive.

#GooseCreekSC #creekrising #Creekart  
#mural

Great work from Charleston County School of the Arts.

*Michael Goad*  
Commander Post 10256



**Post 10624—Mt Pleasant**

**Pearl harbor memorial on December 7, 2022,  
aboard the USS Yorktown at patriots point.**



**Guest speaker was Past Commander-n-Chief Hal Roesch.**

10624 has been busy this year. On December 10th we held our annual fund raiser for the Fisher house and on January 13th for the National Home



**Veterans Day Parade 2022**

*Bill King*

10624 Commander



# Department of South Carolina 2023-2024

 **Curtis W Peterson Jr.**



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE  
JR. VICE COMMANDER**

## Biography

Curtis W Peterson Jr. enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1984 and served 20 years as an Air Cargo/Transportation Specialist and retired from Charleston AFB 2004 in Charleston, SC.

His first assignment took him to Dyess AFB Abilene, TX with 1st Mobile Aerial Post Squadron where he deployed on many assignments from Alaska, Hawaii, Africa and including Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Southwest Asia. He has fond memories and comrades from this unit that to this day still considers them family. His military decorations include the 3 Air Force Commendation Medals, 4 Achievement Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

After retirement, Curtis worked many different jobs and is currently an employee at Medical University of South Carolina working as Dock Master and Courier Services Supervisor.

Curtis joined VFW Post in 2013 and has served as Quartermaster 2013 – 2017. Within my time serving our Veterans. Currently serving as an All-American/All State Co-Captain District Commander. I have also served as Sr & Jr Vice Commander in District 1.

Curtis is a Life member of the VFW and Life member of the VFW National Home. He also is a member of the American Legion Post 136. His wife, Sharen, who is a member of the Auxiliary has served as an Auxiliary President for 6 years, District 1 President for 3 years and currently moving up the chairs in the Department Auxiliary.

All of Curtis' success, guidelines and principles have been taught and learned through the military; everyday has been a blessing to be called a Veteran and he would never exchange those experiences for anything.

# Department of South Carolina 2023-2024

## **Dennis M Hamilton**



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE**

★ **QUARTERMASTER** ★

### **Financial**

Management ▶ Technology ▶ Reporting ▶ Accountability



#### **Military Service**

1978 – 1982: US Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class, Boiler Technician, USS America (CV-66)  
Expeditionary Medal, Indian Ocean during Iranian Hostage Crisis in the Middle East.



#### **Education**

1984 – 1986: Associate Degree Computers and Electronics  
1986 – Present: Perseverance, Dedication, Hard Work, Life Experience



#### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

2015: Joined VFW as Life Member Post 3137 Isle of Palms  
2016 – Present: Post 3137 Communications, Website, Membership Email, Social Media  
2016-2022: Post 3137 Member of All State / All American Team, 6 Consecutive Years.  
Various other Committees and Positions  
2017-2019: Post 3137 House Committee  
2019-2020: Post 3137 House Committee Chair  
2020-2022: Post 3137 All State / All American Quartermaster  
2021-2022: Post 3137 Website & Social Media Award - [vfwpost3137.org](http://vfwpost3137.org)  
2022-2023: District 1 Quartermaster, Department National Home Chair, Member of the SC Department Budget and Finance Committee



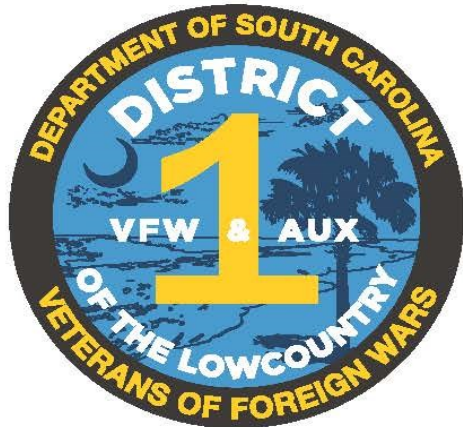
#### **Professional Career**

1986 – 2007: Standard Register Company HQ – Variety of Positions in Field Service, Sales, Support, IT Technology, and Management  
1992: Co-Founder with Logical Computing Solutions (Small Business)  
1995: Co-Founding Member with Panini North America (Small Business)  
2004 – 2019: Hamilton Innovative LLC, Owner/CEO/President until retirement in 2019  
Sales, Operations, Payroll, Quarterly / Annual Tax Filings and Business Filings with State(s) and Federal.  
2016 – 2019: Licensed SC Real Estate Agent (Residential)  
2004 – Present: Maintained QuickBooks bookkeeping for Hamilton Innovative, Applied Security Knowledge, VFW (Post 3137 / District 1), Bridlewood HOA

**#STILLSERVING, WORKING, LEARNING, AND GROWING WITH OUR COMRADE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP TOWARD SUCCESS. I ASK FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT, SUPPORT, AND VOTE 2023.**



# Veterans of Foreign Wars VFWSC District 1 of the Lowcountry



**ENDORSES  
★ AND ★  
SUPPORTS**

# 2023-2024

## VFW & Auxiliary candidates for the Department of South Carolina



- ✓ **COMMANDER  
JIM FOX**
- ✓ **SR. VICE COMMANDER  
JANET CHISOLM-RICHARDS**
- ✓ **JR. VICE COMMANDER  
CURTIS PETERSON**
- ✓ **QUARTERMASTER  
DENNIS HAMILTON**

## AUXILIARY

- ✓ **SR. VICE PRESIDENT  
DONNAMARIE KING**
- ✓ **JR. VICE PRESIDENT  
MARIETTA HILL**
- ✓ **CHAPLAIN  
SHAREN PETERSON**

## Congratulations for a Job Well Done!



**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER  
EDWIN A. "TED" TUFTS II**



**PRESIDENT  
BETH TUFTS**



Hugs,  
*Beth*



**Beth Tufts, President**  
VFW Auxiliary  
Dept of South Carolina





<i>District 1 Officers 2022-2023</i>		<i>District 1 Auxiliary Officers 2022-2023</i>	
Commander	Curtis W Peterson	President	Sharen Peterson
Sr. Vice Cmdr.	RC Woodberry	Sr. Vice President	Patrice Lamb
Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Rex Brown	Jr. Vice President	Lynn Holgate
Quartermaster	Dennis Hamilton	Treasurer	Sandy Roland
Adjutant	PSC Betty J Hilliard	Secretary	DonnaMarrie King
Chaplain	Charles P Blankin	Chaplain	Kelly Wiggins
Inspector	PSC Robert W Holsclaw	Conductress	Betty Brewster
Judge Advocate	PSC Betty J Hilliard	Guard	Louise Greenhill
Surgeon	Henry C Gillam	Patriotic Instructor	Kathy Thomas
Trustee 1 yr.	Mike T Hadvavny	1 Year Trustee	Pat Pruitt
Trustee 2 yr.	Jim Barger	2 Year Trustee	Michele Jones
Trustee 3 yr.	Chris Manning	3 Year Trustee	Cliff Weaver
Service Officer	Ronnie L Jones		
Chief of Staff	PSC Edwin A Tufts		
Patriots Pen	William J King		
Voice of Democracy	Janet Chisholm-Richard		
Teacher Awards	James 'Smokey' Stover		

### District 1 Meetings 2022-2023

- Feb 16-19, 2023 Department Conference Embassy Suites Columbia
- Feb 25, 2023 District 1 Awards Ceremony Post 3433 Ladson, SC 1:00 pm
- Mar 1, 2023 Scout of Year
- Mar 25, 2023 Medal of Honor Day
- Mar 29, 2023 Viet Nam Veterans Day
- Mar 31, 2023 Jackie D Martin Volunteer Award due to District Commander
- Apr 1, 2023 All Awards due to headquarters
- Apr 9, 2023 Happy Easter
- Apr 15, 2023 Auxiliary Program Judging Columbia
- Apr 22, 2023 District 1 Round Table Post 3433 Time 1 pm
- Apr 29, 2023 District Picnic? Audits due to Department QM
- May 6, 2023 Beth's Homecoming Post 3433 10:00 am
- May 13, 2023 District Convention Post 9509 Moncks Corner, SC 1:00 pm
- May 29, 2023 Memorial Day
- Jun 22- 25, 2023 Department Convention

[VFW Dept of SC Webpage](#)

[VFW Dept of SC Auxiliary Webpage](#)

[VFW Dept of SC District 1 Facebook page](#)

[District 1 on the Department Website](#)

[District 1 Website](#)