



# FOCUS



Volume 8, Issue 2 February 2017

## Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – Johnny Baker
- Detachment Vice Commander—Willie Morgan
- Detachment Vice Commander—Victor Graulau
- Detachment Vice Commander—Jeff Lee
- Detachment NEC—Linwood Moore
- Detachment Alt-NEC– Robert Borkovich
- Detachment Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain-Robert Wilson Sr.
- Detachment Historian-Richard Pregnell
- Detachment Sgt At Arms-James Logan
- Detachment Judge Advocate-Steve Gower

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## Veterans Day Fishing Tournament

Squadron 327 (Norfolk) held a Veterans Day Fishing tournament to benefit Operation Comfort Warrior. The following is the article published on the national Legion Website on the event.

A 30-minute conversation between a Sons of The American Legion member and the owner of a fishing pier in North Carolina where an annual fishing tournament is held resulted in nearly \$5,000 in donations to the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program.

While visiting his beachside residence in Avon, N.C., Steve Gower, a member of SAL Squadron 327 in Norfolk, Va., met Joe Thompson. Thompson, owner of Koru Village Oceanfront Resort and Spa and the Avon Fishing Pier, shared



**Squadron 327 Fishing Tournament volunteers and participants. \$5,000 was raised for Operation Comfort Warriors.**

with Gower that he wanted the third annual PBR Classic Fishing Tournament to benefit wounded veterans. Gower shared about OCW and Thompson thought the program "seemed like a perfect fit," he said. "Working with Steve and his team was nothing short of inspiring ... great group of guys."

The fishing tournament was held over Veterans Day weekend last month that involved more than 50 fishermen reeling in blue fish and red drum off the Avon Fishing Pier. Tournament registration fees, sponsor fees, raffle prizes, 50/50 drawings and donations all benefited OCW. **Con't pg 3**

## About This Issue

We are at the midway point in the year. Squadron 327 held a very successful fundraiser in Avon, North Carolina on Veterans Day. See cover story above.

As we finish up the winter season and look to spring we

Will continue the 'Knowledge Is Power' Tour with an article on American Legion Baseball and Flag Education. Looking beyond our Spring Conference in March is Children and Youth month in April. We have an article from the National

Children and Youth Committee promoting Children and Youth month. We hope you enjoy this issue.

If you have any activities with pictures, please send them to me at SonsVA-DetADJ@comcast.net.

# Commander's Corner—Johnny Baker



**Detachment Commander Baker introducing his officers at the State Convention.**

My fellow SAL members we have reached the midway point in the year. Reviewing the membership reports I know that most of you are working the membership but we still have several Squadrons that are below the membership goals for this point in the year. It is time to start

calling your members and remind them that their membership is due. The case may arise that you need to start going to see your members and have meet with them in person to find out why they have not renewed.

The time has also come when we need to start getting information together for the Consolidated Reports. Please send in a nominee for SAL Member of the Year. We will be having our Conference in March in Virginia Beach. Please try to send a representative from your Squadron to these meetings so that any information can be brought back to the squadron and shared with your members.

If you have any Questions please contact your area Vice Commanders and they will get you the information you

need. If you have any Questions for me please contact me at [nx62065@hotmail.com](mailto:nx62065@hotmail.com). **Johnny Baker, Detachment Commander**



**Det Cdr Johnny Baker, Det Vice Cdr Victor Graulau, Det Sgt At Arm, James Logan, and Maggie Smith at Fall Conference raising Funds for the Commander's Project, St. Jude's.**

## Adjutant's Blog—Spring 2017

We are a little more than half way through the year and Spring is near. This means Spring Conference is close and other Spring time activities will be happening soon.

If you have not registered for Spring Conference, the deadline has been extended to February 25, 2017. If this deadline is missed, registrations will be taken at the Conference. Registration forms will be attached to this issue of the Focus.

If you have not started tracking your volunteer hours and donations for this year, please begin pulling that information together. Consolidated Report Forms will be available at the Spring Conference. For those Squadrons not attending the Spring Conference, we will mail them to you.

The Detachment Constitution and By-Laws were emailed out late last year. If you have not received a copy, please let me know. We are requesting that

All Squadrons send a copy of Constitution and By Laws in to Detachment.

Lastly, please consider Legion College in August. We had a great program last year with a lot of new Sons members attending for the first time. It will be at the same location in Richmond/Midlothian in August 2017.

We are going to leave the contact information that was included in the last issue of the focus in this space. If your Squadron has any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Past Detachment Commanders. If we can assist, please let us know.

Here are some of those Past Detachment Commanders and their email addresses. Linwood Moore—NEC ([woodman989@Aol.com](mailto:woodman989@Aol.com)), Bob Borkovich—Alternate NEC

([vapittfan959@yahoo.com](mailto:vapittfan959@yahoo.com)), Jeff Evans, Detachment Finance Officer ([vacobblers@cox.net](mailto:vacobblers@cox.net)), Steve Gower—Detachment Judge Advocate ([stevegover@cox.net](mailto:stevegover@cox.net)). Scott Williams—Detachment Adjutant ([SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)), and Clint Bolt—Detachment Scholarship Chairman ([sonscdbolt@aol.com](mailto:sonscdbolt@aol.com)). We are here to serve and to help in any way possible. We all want the same things. We want our organization to be successful and for all of our Blue Cappers to be successful in their support of our programs. So, please feel free to reach out to any of our Past Detachment Commanders for assistance. **Scott Williams—Detachment Adjutant**



**Remember—Veterans Appreciation Day, May 20, 2017**

# Veteran's Day Fishing Tournament

*From pg 1* "I preach OCW all the time and what people love most about it is that 100 percent of donations support wounded veterans. That's instrumental," Gower said. "So at the tournament, people really went all out for what we were doing for OCW and The American Legion family. We had more people thanking us for doing what we were doing to give back to veterans. It was really

American Legion material and interest in the organization.

"The support we received and the generosity of all in attendance was impressive," Gower said. The Legion and OCW was so well received that OCW will once again be the beneficiary for next year's fishing tournament. "Everybody had a great time and everybody learned a lot from it, and I'm looking forward to next year. It's going to

are making cards for veterans, which Gower said, "will put a smile on a lot of veterans' faces." *From the American Legion Website.*



**National VA & R Chairman, Clint Bolt and National VE & E Vice Chairman, Jeff Evans sell raffle tickets at the OCW Fundraiser on Veterans Day in November 2016.**



**Top photo—one of the fish caught in the OCW Fishing Tournament in November. Bottom photo – table with OCW giveaways at the Fishing tournament.**



**Various photos with VA & R Chairman , Clint Bolt, Squadron 327 Commander, Fred Vaccarella, and Detachment Judge Advocate, Steve Gower with participants in the OCW Veterans Day Fishing Tournament.**

touching."

A table filled with OCW giveaways, Legion brochures and membership applications was set up at the pier and manned by Gower, Squadron 327 Commander Fred Vaccarella, SAL Past National Vice Commander Jeff Evans and SAL Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee Chairman Clint Bolt. Gower said the Legion table set-up and the sharing of the work of the Legion family for veterans, servicemembers and their families resulted in a lot of distribution of

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to be a whole lot bigger," Gower said

Thompson agreed.

"The tournament was a huge success. Our intentions are to grow it ... grow the tournament, grow the benefit," he said.

Several OCW giveaway bags were left over from the event, which gave Gower the idea to fill with handmade Christmas cards from children to give to veterans at VA's in Virginia. Nearly 15 elementary schools in the Chesapeake, Norfolk and Portsmouth area



**National VE & E Vice Chairman, Jeff Evans and Squadron 327 Commander, Fred Vaccarella with a participant at the OCW Fishing Tournament .**

## Upcoming Events

- Spring Conference
- State Convention
- Legion College

- March 10 to 12, 2017
- July 14 to 16, 2017
- Aug 11 to 13, 2017

# Detachment of Virginia Wants You!!!

We want you!! Yes, we want you! While we are looking for members to grow our Detachment, we need members from our Squadrons to step up and serve at the Detachment Level. So, where is the help needed?

Help is needed in two areas. One, we need Squadron Members to serve on various Detachment Committees. And two, we need people to serve as various Detachment Officers.

Lets look at the Detachment Committees first. We would like to have our Detachment Committees have at least three people on each committee. Detachment Committees include Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Child Welfare Foundation and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Public Relations, Information Technology, and Membership.

We would like for each Committee Member communicate to the Squadrons they are assigned the various programs under their Committee. For example, if you were on Americanism, you should be focusing on Boys State, Girls State, Flag Education, National Emergency Fund to name a few. We would also like for a prospective Committee Member to be able to call various Squadrons in a given region to find out what activities they are doing to support Americanism programs.

We would like for our Committee Chairman and Committee Members to have access to a computer and the internet. From time to time a Committee Member may need to do some online research on programs within your Committee.

As a Committee Chairman, you will need to give reports at our Fall and Spring Conferences. The best Committee Report would be one that would promote and inform the membership on some of the programs on your Committee. At some point, we would like to have the Chairman, with assistance from his Committee members, submit an article for The Focus spotlighting some of the programs of your Committee.



It is a tremendous honor for your Squadron to have a Squadron Member serve at the Detachment Level, in any capacity.

The second area, where our Detachment needs Squadron Members to serve at the Detachment Level, are Detachment Officers. Our Detachment Officers where we need help are Detachment Sgt. At Arms, Detachment Historian, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, and Detachment Vice Commander(s)(3).

Detachment Sgt At Arms and Detachment Historian are good places for people to get in at the Detachment Level. This is a great level to see how things operate at the Detachment Level.

For Detachment Vice Commander, we would like for individuals to commit to three years. Two years as Detachment Vice Commander and one year as Detachment Commander. If you do well and are interested, you could serve in a position at the National Level.

For prospective Detachment Vice Commander candidates, in addition to committing three years, two as Vice Commander and one as Detachment Commander, here are some requirements for serving as Detachment Vice Commander. For the Detachment Vice Commander to move up to Detachment Commander we would like for him to have served as a Squadron Commander for one year.

We would like for the prospective candidate to have a steady job with some disposable income to cover expenses until they are reimbursed.

The candidate needs to look the part and be able to address the Legion Family in large group settings. This will help overcome the fear of speaking in front of large groups. When attending meetings, conferences, and conventions, you would be expected to be dressed in a coat and tie.

We would like the person to have a computer with basic computer skills. They need to be able to send and receive emails. They will also need to be able to coordinate and hold regular Conference Calls in their regions.

Lastly, we would like the person to have a cell phone and they would need to return calls and messages in a timely manner.

If you are interested in serving on a Committee or as a Detachment Officer, please feel free to contact Judge Advocate, Steve Gower (stevegower@cox.net), Clint Bolt (sonscdbolt@aol.com), or Scott Williams (sonsvadetadj@comcast.net).

We really are in need of help in all of these areas. We are a detachment of over 4,000 members and should be able to have people serving in these various positions. It is a very rich and rewarding experience to serve at this level. **Scott Williams Detachment Adjutant**



**Fall Conference attendees at the Saturday session of the 2016 Fall Conference.**

**Remember to Spring Forward—Daylight Savings Time Starts, at 2:00 AM on March 12, 2017**

# American Legion Baseball—Early Days

Baseball, hotdogs, apple pie, and Chevrolet! That's about as American as you can get, at least according to the 1975 Chevy advertisement. That's hard to argue with and the American Legion has embraced baseball since Legion Baseball was founded in 1925. Since then, American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. Millions of young men have played Legion Baseball over the years and have seen the organization as a stepping stone to manhood and served their country or community, or played the sport at the highest level in the MLB.

The league was first proposed at an American Legion state convention in South Dakota when it was noted that the American Legion could assist in the training of young Americans through athletic games and that athletic competition teaches courage and respect

for others while fostering their growth into active citizens. From that convention came an agreement to draft a resolution that was then presented at the ensuing national convention in Omaha, Nebraska and was fully supported by National Commander James Drain. The resolution read:

*“RESOLVED: That The American Legion...inaugurate and conduct baseball leagues and tournaments for local championships, and that local champions determined by the competitions be given opportunity to compete in departmental, sectional and regional tournaments, and that a junior world series championship baseball series be conducted at each national convention...”*

1926 saw the vision become a reality when posts in 15 states organized and sponsored teams and conducted championship tourneys. Postseason tournaments at the state and regional levels culminated with a national champion-

Ship that was held in Philadelphia with a team sponsored by a New York post beat a team from Idaho. After the first year, it was learned that the format of the season was a success, but that came at a price of nearly \$50,000. In early 1928 The Legion's first donor to that expense was professional baseball and with that support the program was thriving, that is until the great depression came along in 1933 when Major League Baseball had to withdraw its support. . In 1935 the MLB was able to renew its pledge which is still intact today with a \$40,000 annual contribution, which in today's budget, comes to about 3 percent of the total budget. **Jim Borgman, Vice Chairman, SAL National Americanism Chairman**

## Flag Education

In 1989 I began my Sons of The American Legion state level career in The Detachment of Maine that office was Americanism I have always gravitated towards Americanism. One of the burning issues at the time was flag desecration in particular the burning of the American Flag. It was rampant at that time and I hate to say it still is. The attacks on the symbol of our country have been many, varied and relentless. As you can see this spans almost thirty years and I felt at the time that I could assist by developing a Flag Education Program and make it available to the Squadrons in the Detachment. This being done I set out on my own mission to see how the program worked and what the response would be. I had a tremendous amount of support with this from my Squadron and with their help we tried to educate as many people as we could.

It was considered a success and soon my duties changed to other concerns in the Detachment.

Over the years through the many parades I have been in and in my job I have seen many sports events that shows how much Flag Etiquette can be maligned and disrespect to the American Flag. It has been a concern over the years and I have given plenty of thought about how we can try to get the general public to display and respect the Flag correctly. It seems that the youth of our country is an important piece of this puzzle. Generations have come and gone since 1989, so we need educate each generation over and over again. Although it may have been a success we were not successful because we should have continued that program into perpetuity.

The American Legions stand on Flag desecration is clear and their position has

changed in all of the years. Recently a statement was made by our president-elect who thought that there should be penalties for desecration of the flag. So does The American Legion although they do not offer any ideas on what those penalties should be. I am sure that the Supreme Court justices will deliver a fair verdict on any question that needs to be defined.

I believe that The Sons of The American Legion have a responsibility to their eligible veterans to help protect and educate the public on proper flag etiquette. We also have a network in place and squadrons can reach out in their areas to achieve this very lofty goal. Our communities have come to rely on the many projects and programs that





**Con't pg 7**



# MySAL – Squadron Sign Up Form

The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a FREE and secure internet site to assist Squadron Adjutants in their day-to-day membership processing duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to National Headquarters' membership system.

Features include:

-  View and Edit squadron membership
-  Generate reports
-  Reports available in CSV file format allowing users to work with the data in other applications such as Microsoft Excel and Access
-  Squadron Inquiry

Payment process for individual membership dues does not change. Your Squadron must continue to transmit membership cards and dues payments to your State Headquarters.

**Fill out this form and mail or fax to us to register. Please type or print.**

Yes! We would like to sign up for MySAL Officers Portal:

State \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:** Does not have to be Squadron Adjutant. The information below indicates who to call with any questions and where to send correspondence and registration instructions once authorization to release data is received from the state headquarters.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (required) \_\_\_\_\_



Signature required, must be Squadron Adjutant only

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_



Signature required, must be Post Adjutant only

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To: The American Legion IT Division  
 Product Support Specialist  
 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216  
 Fax: 317-860-3130 Phone: 800-433-3318**

## Flag Education—continued

**From pg 5** assist people, youth sports, and organizations that help kids, Police, Fire Departments and the list is endless. I have always said that if you were to take an American Legion Post out of a town it wouldn't be very long before it would be missed and that town would not be as vibrant as it once was. I believe that part of our responsibility is to promote the ideals and patriotism that our eligible veterans displayed and to carry on for God and country. We also have a responsibility to our country and collectively we as Sons of The American Legion have the energy, the commitment, we have the network to deliver Americanism programs across this country and beyond. So it would seem to me that this type of project could actually be developed and put into our Squadron By – Laws

as a Standing Committee.

I stated in an earlier communication that many of our Americanism programs are already developed for use by The American Legion and Flag Education is no exception. There are assorted publications available for a modest fee at The American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales. Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette - \$1.00, Our Country's Flag Comic Book - \$.75, Light of Liberty Comic Book - \$.75, Pledge of Allegiance Comic Book - \$.75, The Flag Code \$.20, and a DVD 'For Which It Stands' - \$9.95.

The DVD comes with different segments to either break it down in to parts or run a 20 minute video and a teacher's guide to accomplish the lesson. There is special pricing available for all of these items when purchased in bulk of 100.

You can even go through the Let's be right on Flag etiquette booklet pick out the areas that you feel are important to the group that you will be teaching. The lesson should be enough to whet the student's appetite for more knowledge; all students depending on their age are given a copy of one of these publications so that when the class is over it really is just the beginning of their Flag Education. It would be important to include some hands on training such as the folding of the flag. This will assist in driving home the lessons as well.

Let's give back to our communities by offering an educational experience that will definitely keep on giving.

**Don Allisot, National Americanism Commission, The Sons Of The American Legion.**

## Children & Youth Month—April

“Celebrated as “Children and Youth Month” Since 1938, April is the perfect time of the year to demonstrate that The American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

Post families can host a child or youth themed community event (Children's Award ceremony), invite a subject matter expert to present at a meeting (Children's Miracle Network – CMN, Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), collaborate on a project with a local school (collecting donations for Children's Home); or any number of other activities.

Children represent the future of our nation and it is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to

service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States.”

The above came directly out of The American Legion, Children and Youth Programs pamphlet that can be received from the Americanism Commission of The American Legion, I did edit a little bit, but the wording was really, really good to begin with.

The pamphlet is divided into just a couple of categories, including stating and awesome mission statement: The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to: Assume care and protection for children of Veterans. Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concerns for

maintaining the integrity of the family home. Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible. AND Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Category 1: Family Emphasis Programs include, but not limited to: Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance. Both programs assist the financial situations of the child in the home directly.

Category 2: Child Safety Programs include: Gateway Drugs: harmful effects of drugs; Warning signs: suicide; Halloween Safety: warning of personal safety; Missing Children: identification programs to help ID children that have gone missing for whatever reason. **Con't pg 8**

## Children & Youth Month—April—con't.

**From pg 7** Category 3: Children's Charities Programs that are handled through National Headquarters are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation that issues grant for educational and research studies on children health concern: diabetes, sickle cell, and cancer just to name a few; and The American Legion Endowment Fund: money available to assist Veterans and their families to adjust while struggling to return to a normal life, which started back in 1925. They are a great deal of things that, we as members of The American Legion Family, can do ourselves for the children of this country. Here are a couple of easy and fun things that we can do, and enjoy food at the same time. Ask your local IHOP (International House of Pancakes) when their Pancake Appreciation Day is, usually the 2nd Tuesday in February. Donations go to the Children's Miracle Network and you get a free stack of pancakes. Dairy Queen also gives money to CMN when you purchase a blizzard; this is usually in March, but again ask.

Children and Youth month is APRIL. Please try and carry out an activity of some kind. If all else fails, make a donation to one of the charities listed above preferably either CWF, NEF or the Endowment Fund. **Ronnie Grist, National Children & Youth Committee Member**

We hope that all of our Squadrons will choose to do an activity in support of Children and Youth Month in April. If your Squadron has an event - fundraiser, speaker, or other event, please let us know. Please send a picture or two to be put on our Detachment Facebook page or to be included in the next issue of the Focus. We want to promote the activities we do in support of the American Legion Family.



**Squadron 284 November Boston Butt fundraiser. Squadron 284 does this every November to raise funds for their Community Service programs**

## Membership –Harvesting Super Heroes - An Update

In keeping with our Commander's theme this year of 'Cultivating our Youth', our membership theme this year is 'Harvesting Membership'. It takes members to carry out the various programs the Sons support.

The 'Big Idea' for our membership theme this year is that the more members we recruit, renew, reinstate or harvest, the more successful our programs will be. Or, we will be able to help more veterans and children in our communities. Our membership goal for this year is 4,675 members.

We are approaching our Spring Conference at Virginia Beach where we hope the Detachment will be at 80% with Squadrons having a minimum 70% renewal rate and all Squadrons being at 80% or higher in membership.

Incentives are Detachment Individual Recruiting Awards for recruiting three New members, Chuck Belles award for squadrons achieving 110% membership, and 100% Squadron Ribbons.

Congratulations and thanks to the following Squadrons for reaching 100% - Squadron 233 (Richmond—Varina), Squadron 55 (Fredericksburg), Squadron

156 (Orange), Squadron 157 (Madison), Squadron 166 (New Market), Squadron 28 (Dumfries), Squadron 130 (Falls Church), Squadron 176 (Springfield), Squadron 29 (Danville), Squadron 3 (Roanoke), Squadron 93 (Buchanan), and Squadron 217 (Big Island).

Remember, all you have to do is ask—a new member or existing member who has not renewed. It takes everyone to be successful in our organization. **Scott Williams - Detachment Adjutant**



## 2016 Fall Conference Photos



**Detachment of Virginia held its annual Fall Conference in Williamsburg in October 2016. In the photos above, were our fundraising efforts for our Commander's project 'St Judes', our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting, Friday night and our regular session Saturday afternoon. We were privileged to host SAL Leading Candidate for National Commander, Danny Smith from Nebraska. We turned in \$2,410 in donations at the Fall Conference.**

## Leadership College Our Future Leaders

Each year, The Sons Of The American Legion holds a Leadership College in conjunction with the American Legion Leadership College, in August. The 2016 Legion College was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian from August 12 to 14.

We had a full class and covered topics from Membership 'How To's', Programs, Reporting, and Ambassador's Training for Squadron Officers.

Last year's SAL Legion College was different than past years. We had several officers and committee chairman talk about programs and various aspects of leadership. We spent more time on fundraising and how to do fundraisers. The group also shared different ideas on fundraisers that their respective Squadrons do each year. We covered some of the standard topics like membership and reporting. Both of which are important

to the success of our organization.

What topics do you want us to cover at this year's Legion College? How can we make it better for our Members? What can we do to get more people to attend our Legion College. Please try to send at least one member from your squadron this year. Please email ideas to Steve Gower (SteveGower@cox.net) or Scott Williams (SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net). Mark your calendars now for 2017, August 11 to 13 in Richmond.

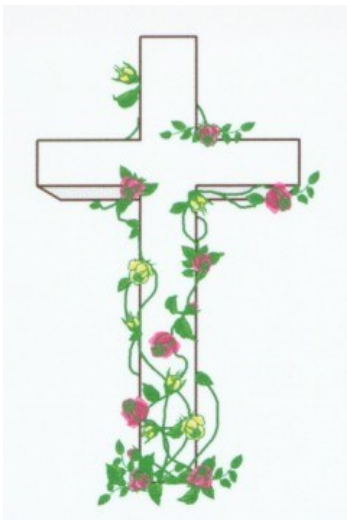


**Left-Candidate for AL National Commander, Denise Rohan addresses the Sons class. Top, Sons class in session. Bottom, Detachment Commander Johnny Baker, hands a Sons graduate his Legion College Diploma.**

# Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of these Squadron members in your thoughts and prayers. Kenneth Young (Squadron 25), H R Jones (Squadron 146), Gayle Wilmoth (Squadron 1097), Kenneth Collins (Squadron 1097), Arthur Moser (Squadron 1097), Dwight Holmes (Squadron 67), Robert Faison (Squadron 2), Harry Ferrell, Jr. (Squadron 325), David Surin (Squadron 162), John Surin (Squadron 162), Dwight James (Squadron 67), Mike Hatcher (Squadron 8), Donald Sparrow (Squadron 56), Bob Hansen (Squadron 330), Robert Morris (Squadron 79), John Burgess (Squadron 2), Leaman Wilson (Squadron 28), David Shook (Squadron 177), Elton Riffe (Squadron 77), and Martin Skurski (Squadron 53).

If your Squadron has any members who have passed away, please email Linda Hardwick ([membership@valegion.org](mailto:membership@valegion.org)), Scott Williams ([SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)), and Detachment Chaplain, Robert Wilson, Sr ([robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com))



# Around the Detachment...



Bottom left photo, Fredericksburg Kid's Expo. Detachment Commander, Johnny Baker promoting American Legion Children and Youth Programs.



Squadron 325 assisted American Legion Post 325 in their efforts to raise funds for Salvation Army in December 2016.



Detachment NEC Linwood Moore, Department Commander Dave Stein, and Department Auxiliary President, Sallie Rossman at Day on the Hill in Richmond.

17th District SAL participation in the district's Four Chaplain's ceremony. With James Price and Walter Coon-Thurman.



Detachment of Virginia held its Mid Winter Meeting and Wreath Laying Ceremony at American Legion Post 320 and the Fredericksburg War Memorial. We were honored to hots Ken Warner, SAL Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander for the 2017—18 year. We made Mr. Warner our Distinguished Guest.

## WANT TO ADD A SQUADRON?

If your post does not have a Squadron and is interested in starting up a Squadron, you need 10 members to charter a Squadron. It also needs to be approved by the sponsoring American Legion Post.

If you need more information about starting a Squadron, please feel free to contact Detachment Commander Johnny Baker, Detachment Vice Commander, Willie Morgan (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Jeff Lee (Western Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Victor Graulau (Northern Region), or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. We would be glad to help you in any way to get a Squadron started.

### THE FOCUS

The Focus is the Detachment of Virginia, Sons Of The American Legion's E-Letter or newsletter . This is a great tool for our Squadrons to promote their activities and accomplishments. Every Squadron does something within the Detachment. It can be putting flags on veterans graves to a Fisher House Fundraiser to having a Squadron Member who is an Eagle Scout to a Child Welfare Foundation Fundraiser. We want to hear what your Squadron is doing.

It does not take that much time to put a simple article together for The Focus. A few of our Squadrons contributed articles to this issue. The basic points or questions the article needs to answer are as follows: 1. What was the event? Dinner, Raffle, etc. 2. Who held the event? 3. What was the event for? 4. When was the event held? 5. Where was the event held? 6. Other highlights from the event... 7. What were the results from the event? How much did you raise?

We are in REAL need of getting articles from our Squadrons on their various activities. We received over 35 Consolidated Reports this year. We know Squadrons are active. We want to hear from you!

Please send your articles to Scott Williams at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)

Find us on 

Like us on Facebook - Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Virginia. We currently have 310 likes. With our membership at 4,500, we should have 450 likes on our Facebook Page. This is one great way to promote our activities and accomplishments. Please like us today to keep up with our Detachment Activities.

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, [American Legion Auxiliary](#) and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.

Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

### **\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

Please send all email correspondence to the Detachment Adjutant at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net). I have been told that there have been email messages sent to the Detachment Adjutant which were never received. However, we do not check the old email account—[SonsVADetADJ@yahoo.com](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@yahoo.com). Please do not use this email address anymore. We rarely check that email account. Thank You!!

**Detachment Officers and Committee Members Needed** - If you are interested in serving at the Detachment Level—either as an officer, committee chairman, or committee member, please contact Detachment Commander, Johnny Baker, NEC, Linwood Moore, Alt NEC, Robert Borkovich, or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. It is a great honor to serve and represent your Squadron.



### Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

#### "The Focus"

**Articles and information contributed by:** Detachment Commander Johnny Baker, Linda Hardwick (Department Headquarters), Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, Don Allisott, SAL National Americanism Commission, Ronnie Grist, SAL National Children and Youth Committee, and Jim Borgman, SAL National Americanism, Vice Chairman. **Photographs provided by:** Kevin Chaplin, Detachment NEC, Linwood Moore, Ron Hesson, and various other SAL members.

**Edited By:** Scott Williams

**REGISTRATION AND RESERVATION FORM**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION-THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY-SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – AMERICAN LEGION**  
**RIDERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA SPRING CONFERENCE – MARCH 10-12, 2017**  
**VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**  
 2800 SHORE DRIVE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23451

**PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Requests for accommodations must be received by February 15, 2015.

The registration fee of \$6.00, including persons sharing rooms, Juniors and Sons, must accompany this form.

**YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND ANY FUNCTION OR REQUEST A ROOM.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:**  
 ALFRED STEWARD (757) 573-3966 or email QUESTIONS to: AL at alfredsteward@aol.com

CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION  
NUMBER

**REGISTRATION – TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND EVENTS: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ POST \_\_\_\_\_ SQDN \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

Reg Nr: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (LEG/AUX/SAL) ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Reg Nr: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (LEG/AUX/SAL) CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Reg Nr: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (LEG/AUX/SAL) STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Reg Nr: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (LEG/AUX/SAL)

NOTE: To register additional persons use separate sheet of paper

	# ATTENDING	COST PER PERSON	AMOUNT
REGISTRATION FEE	_____	\$6.00	\$ _____
<b>PLUS EVENTS</b>			
	# ATTENDING	COST PER PERSON	AMOUNT
<b>E</b> FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO	_____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
<b>V</b> SATURDAY BANQUET	_____	\$ 37.00	\$ _____
<b>E</b> SATURDAY DANCE	_____	\$ 6.00	\$ _____
<b>T</b> COMPLETE EVENT PACKAGE	_____	\$ 54.00	\$ _____
<b>S</b> PRIME RIB or FISH _____	_____		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL (REGISTRATION FEE + EVENTS)</b>			\$ _____

NOTE: Make your check for the events and Registration Fees payable to the **2nd DISTRICT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS – COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH SUITE REQUESTED**  
 Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. **SPECIAL REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING**  
 DAILY RATE \$102.46 per day including tax. Check in time is 4:00 p.m. Free Parking onsite.

**Reservations must be made through the Reservation Committee. DO NOT CALL HOTEL!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION  
NUMBER  
**RIB or FISH**

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: King Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Double Bed \_\_\_\_\_

**TO GUARANTEE SUITES – MAKE SEPARATE CHECK FOR ONE NIGHT'S ROOM RATE PAYABLE to**  
**VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL for one night OR GUARANTEE BY CREDIT CARD by completing the following:**

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF CARD (VISA, MC, AMEX, ETC) \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORMS AND CHECKS TO: 2nd District Activities Committee, c/o Al Steward, 4643 Fern Oak Ct., Virginia Beach, VA. 23462.**



# SQUADRON 293 DAYTONA 500 PARTY



Come on out and join  
in the fun as we kick  
off the 2017 Sprint  
Cup Racing Season  
with the:  
Great American Race

The Daytona 500!!

February 26, 2017  
1 to 5pm

Raffles, 50/50s

Proceeds to benefit  
Sons Of The  
American Legion  
Programs

Potluck Bring a Dish  
To Share, Squadron to  
provide sandwich  
Platters (Donations for  
sandwiches accepted)

Event will be at American Legion Post 293, 21<sup>st</sup> Street Purcellville

For more information contact the Post at 540 338-0910 or Dan Miller at  
703-727-0007

# Sons of the American Legion

## Squad 284



# Boston Butt Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**



# \$30 each

Pick up by 1 pm

**505 Springdale Avenue  
Colonial Heights  
at the top of the hill**



All proceeds fund  
our community service  
projects and scholarship program



Tickets available  
from any SAL member  
or call Linwood at 804/240-3062