



The Patriot

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



January – February, 2012

Commander's message

Comrades,

I hope that all of yourselves and your families had a safe and happy Holiday Season!

All progress seems to come to a standstill during the last half of December due to the holiday season. Now that it is January, it is time to get ramped back up for another busy year of helping veterans!!

With the war officially over in Iraq, a plethora of soldiers will be returning home after perhaps several tours in that country. In addition, 10,000 U.S. troops left Afghanistan in December, with the remaining 91,000 troops scheduled to depart NLT December 2014. The drawdown of OIF/OEF troops will bring added challenges to supporting America's combat veterans. In order to effectively meet the challenges that the VFW Organization will face over the next several years, it is important for us to start formulating plans now.

As far as individual contributions of time and effort from our Post members, I would like to modify the famous line from JFK's inaugural speech: "Ask not what your Post can do for you, ask what you can do for your Post". I ask you for your time and effort towards veteran's causes, not as "just some" charitable organization, but as VETERAN'S OF FOREIGN WARS! Our "Combat Veteran" status reflects that fact that we have all survived and excelled in difficult times, sometimes performing miracles with little information or support. It is time once again to harness this attitude and energy to help our fellow returning veterans.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Post meeting! Until then, please take a moment to pause and remember your return from war, and some of the challenges that you faced. Let's make sure that this next generation of returning veterans benefits from our collective experiences.

I invite all members to send me an e-mail with any suggestions that you might have towards bettering our post to my e-mail address: vfwpostcommander@yahoo.com.

Your Comrade in Arms,
Mark Judson

Ladies Auxiliary President's message

Sisters,

2011 is behind us but I'd like to take this time to say THANKS to each and every one of you for all your hard work and dedication to our Post, Auxiliaries, and especially our Veterans. We had a busy November and December with all of the different activities, such as dedications, memorials, hospital visits, clean up days, troop send off, Christmas parties, but remember the need does not stop just because the holidays are over.

I am so proud to have such dedicated sisters that have taught me and continue to teach me that we need to work together to achieve our GOALS! My goal in 2012 is to continue to GROW in my knowledge and get new members to join. I'd like to see more members at our meetings, at the fundraisers, coming to Post clean-up day, helping out during our special activities. At our January meeting I challenge you to try and get a sister that has not been to a meeting to come join us. You might win a prize from my President's gift bag that I am starting in January. We will be doing our Heart cards during the month of February.

I'd like to welcome our new members. We are glad that you decided to join us! If you have any ideas, concerns, comments, I am here for you. If I can help, please let me know.

Remember to let Sandy Leu know if you do anything in the community, or our Veterans. She has been so wonderful to do our reporting for us and I can't thank her enough for all that she does.

Say a prayer for those that might be going through some rough times. Give Thanks to all who serve and are serving for without them we wouldn't be able to!

Sincerely,
Etta

2011-2012 Officers

VFW Officers

Commander	Mark Judson
Sr. Vice Comdr	Daniel Morrison
Jr. Vice Comdr	Richard Jansen
Quartermaster	Mark Bergman
Chaplain	Clarence Hayes
Adjutant	Brack Jordan

Ladies Auxiliary Officers

President	Etta Ball
Sr. Vice Pres	Anita Huffman
Jr. Vice Pres	Teena Barbour
Treasurer	Gerri Griggs
Chaplain	Dot Fulghum
Secretary	Helen Carter

Men's Auxiliary Officers

President	Scott Hood
Sr Vice Pres	Ed Leigh
Jr Vice Pres	Dave Ball
Treasurer	Robert Smolensky
Secretary	Robert Smolensky
Chaplain	

Newsletter Editor: Helen Carter (779-6314)

Post Home: 772-1062

Post email: GarnerVFW@yahoo.com

House Committee: Ken Skinner, Allen Daniels, Charles Britt

In Memoriam

Joseph Bailey Upchurch - J.B. Upchurch, 87, of Rolesville, passed away October 22, 2011 at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Mary Owen Upchurch; children, Joy Strobel (Phil) of Raleigh, Jean Moody of Knightdale, Jimmy Upchurch (Juanita) of Angier and Patty Heath (Danny) of Leland; special granddaughter, Pam Beach; 9 additional grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. J.B. was preceded in death by his son Joseph B. Upchurch, Jr. A World War II Navy Veteran, he served with Raleigh Police, US Postal retiree, and was a member of The Moose, VFW, American Legion and AMVETS.

Margaret "Peg" Brady, 80, died Sunday evening, Oct. 9, 2011, at Wayne Memorial Hospital. An Auxiliary member, Peg was herself a veteran of the US Air Force and was a member of St. Michael's Base Chapel at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. " She is survived by her husband of 57 1/2 years, John R. Brady; six wonderful children, 15 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her brother, Tom Underwood. In addition to her parents, Peg was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Janessa; a brother and a sister-in-law.

Chaplain's message

Let's start out the new year on a look into our way of talking. There are thousands of words in our language. When we get upset over something, we should stop our swearing by not using the names of our God and Jesus Christ in inappropriate ways. No other religion will allow the use of their gods in swearing. We should not either.

The Old Testament, thru the Ten Commandments, tells us how to get along with people. The New Testament, thru Jesus Christ, also incorporates the Ten Commandments -- plus it shows us how to get into the family of God, which tells us how to get to heaven.

Clarence Hayes (Padre)

Thanks to our Volunteers

A special "Thank You!" and recognition to the VFW volunteers for their contribution of service and/or food since the last newsletter.

- Oct 22 – Post Clean-up: VFW – Allen Daniels, Don Leu; LAux – Sandi Johnson-Leu, Alice Daniels
- Oct 26 – Presentation to Garner Veterans Memorial: VFW – Mark Judson, Allen Daniels, Tom Morey; LAux – Etta Ball; MAux – Scott Hood
- Nov 1 – VOD & Patriot Pen: VFW – Allen Daniels; LAux – Joy Clifton, Etta Ball

- Nov 2 – VA Hosp Visit: LAux: Sandi Leu, Helen Carter, Anita Huffman and Ann Barnhouse
- Nov 4 – Steak night: Allen Daniels, LAux – Gerri Griggs, Sandy Leu, MAux – David Ball
- Nov 10 – Nursing home visit – Sandi & Don Leu, Helen Carter, Ann Barnhouse, Clarence Hayes
- Nov 11 – Raleigh Parade – Allen Daniels, Mark Judson, Clarence Hayes, Anita Huffman, Helen Carter, Scott Hood, Bob Smolensky
- Nov 11 – Poppy distribution – Helen Carter
- Nov 11 – Aversboro Baptist Church: VFW – Jesse Mendoza; LAux – Etta Ball, Dottie Fulghum, Cathy Brewer, Gerri Griggs, Sandra Johnson-Leu, Ann Barnhouse, Teena Barbour
- Nov 16 – Christmas stockings for troops: LAux – Etta Ball, Sandra Johnson-Leu, Anita Huffman; North Garner Middle School (NGMS) Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club
- Nov 19 – Post Clean-up: VFW – Mark Judson, Allen Daniels, Don Leu, Dick Jansen; LAux – Dottie Fulghum, Gerri Griggs, Sandra Johnson-Leu, Connie Thompson, Anita Huffman; MAux – Robert Smolensky
- Nov 24 – Thanksgiving – VFW – Allen Daniels, Dick Jansen, Don Leu; LAux – Gerri Griggs, Connie Thompson, Sandi Johnson-Leu & many others helping
- Nov 20 & 25 – Essay judging: Bob Carter, Sandi Leu, Connie Thompson, Ann Barnhouse, Helen Carter
- Troop Christmas Pkgs – Etta Ball,
- Troop Christmas – Women's unit – Connie Thompson
- Dec 3 – Garner Christmas Parade- VFW – Mark Judson; LAux – Joy Clifton, Anita Huffman; US Army Reserve
- Dec 4 – Army Christmas Party – Allan Daniels, Charlie Stell, Doc Lee, Joy Clifton, Bob & Helen Carter, Sandi & Don Leu, Helen Sloan, Scott Hood
- Dec 3 & 10 – Army Christmas Party – Bob & Helen Carter
- Dec 17 – Post Cleanup – Mark Judson Done Leu, Allen Daniels Anita Huffman, Sandi & Don Leu, Alice Daniels, Ed Leigh, David Ball
- Dec 18 – Memorial Service – Mark Judson, Clarence Hayes, Allen Daniels, Sandi & Don Leu, Etta Ball, Anita Huffman, Jeff Keith
- Tom Morey – for dedication & hard work
- Don Leu – for taking cans to recycling center
- Sandi & Don Leu – for taking donations to Jubilee House
- Sandi Leu – for submitting all reports
- Helen Carter – for website and newsletter
- Anita Huffman – for cleaning upstairs storage area

Apologies if anyone was missed. Please send a description of your volunteer activities to Anita Huffman so recognition of your support can be recognized.

Men's Auxiliary President's Message

Brother

Thanks to everyone that participated in the ham raffle over the holidays. The ham was won by Dottie Backlund.

The next Men's Aux meetings will be on Jan 15th and Feb 12th. Please come out and support our Auxiliary. Don't forget Jan 14th will be the Men's Auxiliary Council meeting at the Cary Post 1 pm.

Scott Hood, President

Karaoke night planned

Following both the January and February steak nights, we will be having some Karaoke fun with Steve Pearsall starting at 8:00 PM. So get ready to "perform" for your friends, and to have some fun.

Cancer Insurance Due

It is time for the Ladies Auxiliary Life members to pay the \$10 premium on their Cancer Insurance if they want to be covered. This fee is included in the annual dues for the annual members, but Life Members must send us the premium each year if they want to be covered. Send your check to Treasurer Gerri Griggs in care of the Post.

Welcome new members

Please say welcome to the following member who joined our local family over the past few months:

Post:	Ladies Aux.
Mark Bergman	Sharon Morgan
Ralph Church	

VA Visit scheduled

Our next visit to the VA Medical Center in Durham to play Bingo with the patients will be on Jan 4th. Please come and help us bring a smile to the patients there. We leave the Post at 6:00 PM, or you can meet us at the Community Living Center (CLC) on the 2nd floor at the VA at 6:45.

Post eMail address

We now have an email address for the Post. It is GarnerVFW@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to send us information or a concern, can send it to this email and it will be taken care of. We ask that you do not forward mass emails, jokes, or any type of email other than informative or questioning emails.

Reporting our efforts

How many times do you assist a veteran or their family, and just think of it as being neighborly, or kind? Did you know that we get credit for such acts of kindness if approved at meetings?

All members, even those that do not live in the Garner area, need to let us know when they perform activities to help veterans or their families, or when they work in the community. Assistance to veterans (and their families) includes such things as hospital visits, visiting shut-ins at home, driving them to the doctor's office, bringing food or visiting bereaved families, etc. Other items that can be reported are donations of food, blankets, coats, etc. to veterans and veterans' charities. And don't overlook participating in patriotic activities such as celebrating patriotic holidays, or teaching students about veterans or how to pledge to the flag.

All of these activities count, but only if we know about them. The reports can be used to substantiate our non-profit status, and can even earn us recognition at our State and National conventions.

Please collect information of such activity including date, description, money spent, hours of participation, how many veterans or citizens were helped, number of members who participated, and mileage. Then mail the information to Sandra Johnson-Leu in care of the Post, or email it to her at ctrysun@embarqmail.com.

State Council Meeting

The State Council meeting is planned for the weekend of February 3-5 at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel. Reservations can be made by calling 919-872-2323, or you can just drive from home if you like. There is the VOD Banquet on Friday evening, and the general membership meetings on Saturday. Contact Helen Carter if you want specific schedule information.

Collection boxes

There are some new collection boxes at the Post on the table near the jukebox. Drop off the following items that we collect. Each box contains a flyer of eligible products, or check the websites listed below:

- Box tops for Education (boxtops4education.com)
- Campbell's soup labels (labelsforeducaton.com)
- Food items for local Food Pantry
- Clean, warm used clothing or new socks
- Used books for the VA Hospital



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

Non Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Garner, NC
Permit No. 40

Return Service Requested



The Patriot



What is the Value of a Member?

*Ten little members standing in a line, one lost his temper, so then there were nine.
Nine ambitious members offered to work late, one forgot her promise, then there were eight.
Eight creative members, had ideas made in heaven, one lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.
Seven loyal members got into a fix, quarreled over programs, and then there were six.
One member's suggestion did not survive, so he dropped out, and then there were five.
Five happy members, not one keeping score, 'til they fought over money, then there were four.
Four cheerful members who never disagree, 'til one complained of meetings, then there were three.
The three members left were feeling rather blue, so one joined a bowling league, then there were two.
Two tired members, and our rhyme is nearly done, one became a poet, and that left only one!
This one faithful member was feeling might blue, until he met another, and then there were two.
Two earnest members each enrolled one more, which doubled their numbers, giving them four.
Four determined members just couldn't wait, 'till each won another, then there were eight.
Eight excited members signed up sixteen more, an in another sixteen verses, there will be a thousand and twenty-four.*

EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT! PLEASE BE A TEAM PLAYER!