



Focus

Official Bulletin

For God and Country

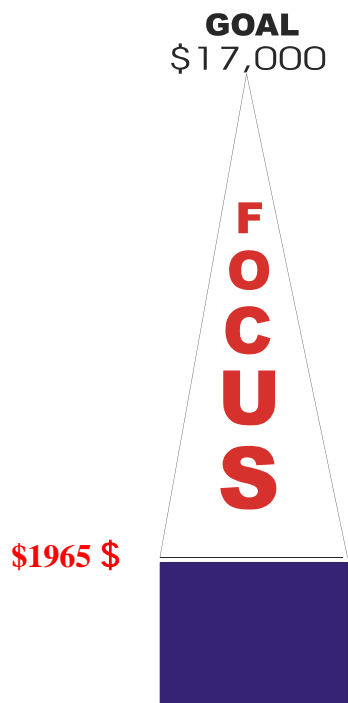
American Legion Post 1

Bulletin #4-56

May - June, 2004

Post 1 Is On The Move!

The Bulletin Board



Donation Spire

The "Donation Spire" will appear in each issue of *Focus* to show without words the progress toward the \$17,000 goal. Remember, an average donation of \$18 per member will reach the goal.

THURSDAY, May 13th – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8. Elect officers. Elect Legionnaire of the Year. Vote on Budget.

THURSDAY, June 10th – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8. Special Awards. Recap the year. New Commander Speaks.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 4th Thursday Each Month at 6:30 PM. Post 1 members are invited to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, RALEIGH UNIT #1 – Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the trailer beside the Post 1 building. Ladies come at 6:30 and eat dinner (\$5) at 7:00 PM with the Legionnaires. Prospective members are welcome. For more information, call: Betty Jean Faulkner 872-2755 or Mattie West 231-7753.

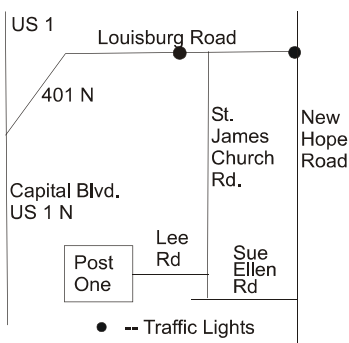
WWII MEMORIAL DEDICATION VIEWING – May 29th, Carolina Ale House, 4512 Falls of Neuse Road, 2 PM. Encourage WWII veterans to attend! Offer a ride to those who need a ride to get there!

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES – May 30th at National Cemetery, 501 Rock Quarry Road, 2 PM

SATURDAYS, May 1st and June 5th POST HOME CLEANUP A cleanup will be held on the first Saturday of each month from 8 to 10 AM. Please call George House (872-1399) and ask what tools will be needed.

SPOUSES WELCOME – Legionnaires are encouraged to bring their spouses or "significant others" to membership meetings, social activities, and other events.

Directions to Post #1



America Forever Dances – Saturdays. May 1st & June 5th at 7:30 PM. Admission \$5 per person. Star Tickets will be honored, but no more Star Tickets are being sold. Specially selected CD Music - Big Band, Country, Western, Latin, Slow Dance, etc. Free Bar. Finger Foods and Breakfast.

America Forever Dance Classes – Sundays, 2:30 PM, Tuesdays, 7:30 PM. Free dance lesson on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Each class lasts about 1½ hours. Pay for 6 lessons, and get 9 hours of paid instruction plus free instruction.

Attend Meetings! You'll be glad you did!

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2nd Vice Commander

George House 872-1399

3rd Vice Commander

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Memorial Day

Pat Daley

VA Bingo

V. Wayne Adams 848-1149

DMS Committee

Garnett Shropshire 876-0467

Baseball

Joseph Tobert 781-1490

Colin Furr Nurse Scholarship

Ryland (Tom) Collins 662-7958

Post Auxiliary Liaison

Betty Jean Faulkner 872-2755

Entertainment and Social Activities

America Forever Dances

Selected CD Music – Free Bar – Food

Saturdays, May 1st & June 5th, 2004

7:30 PM

Admission: \$5 per Person

Want an Active Social Life?

Learn to Dance! Join our *America Forever Dance Classes*.

A free dance class is given on the second Tuesday of each month. The lesson starts at 7:30 PM and last about one and one-half hours. All dance students, Legionnaires, spouses, and guests are invited. *These free dance classes are for everyone.* This is your chance to look before you join our dance class!

Want To Be Invited Often To Parties?

Learn to dance! Join our *America Forever Dance Classes*

The class schedule is: Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM. Instructors: Hal & Edna Lindsey.

Attend on Sunday and/or Tuesday. Some students attend both Sunday and Tuesday.

Want To Keep In Touch?

The *Entertainment Information List* contains the names and addresses of members and guests who want to receive information about entertainment activities. Only those whose names appear on the list receive entertainment information between issues of *Focus*. If you want to be placed on the list, please contact:

Hal Lindsey
215 Lord Berkley Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
834-1943 hlindsey1@nc.rr.com

Post Activities & Messages

The Gavel

Your membership is vital to Post One and to the American Legion.

As you know, the American Legion is made up solely of veterans who served during wars or conflicts, as some call wars. We need every member, and every new member that members can recruit.

Why? We need every member to help fight the bureaucrats in Washington who think the Veterans Administration can function on less money at a time when the ongoing wars are adding new veterans to the VA's responsibility.

The President – mind you I have been a registered Republican since I turned 18 – has submitted a budget that

cuts between 1.3 and 4 billion dollars from last year's VA budget.

I do not understand adding thousands of new men and women to the VA roles, and cutting spending knowing that regular military veterans, National Guard, and Reserves will need VA benefits down the road.

If you understand what I am say-

ing, you will understand why I say that not only does the American Legion need your membership to push for veteran's rights, but also *you* need the American Legion to push for *your* veteran rights.

We have many veteran groups, but as individual groups, we have very little clout. If we could get the majority of eligible veterans to join the Legion, we would have the clout that we need. This in no way suggests that you drop your membership in other groups.

There are 750,000 eligible veterans in North Carolina. About 47,000 are Legion members.

Post 1 has almost 1000 members now. We still have approximately 160 members who have not signed up for 2004. A few of the 160 have moved away. A few have passed on. *We desperately need the rest of you to renew!*

During our membership renewal campaign, three members said they will not renew because we are always asking for more money. Please keep in mind that the American Legion survives on dues, donations, and money-making projects. Dues and money-making projects fall short of needs; we must ask for donations. *If you do not want to donate, then don't donate, but renew your membership to give the Legion the clout needed to protect your veteran rights.*

David Toothaker, Commander

WWII Memorial Trip

If you want to go by bus to the dedication, we have a bus for a one day trip to Washington DC on Sat., 5/29/04.. Call American Classic, 2516 Little Devine Road, Selma, NC 27576, 919-965-8079.

Leaving from the Raleigh area, the cost will be \$35 per person; from the Greensboro area, \$55 per person.

You must order your seating tickets by e-mail: www.wwiimemorial.com. Seating for those in wheel chairs is available but must be requested.

E-mail Saves Money

Commander Toothaker needs to add your e-mail address to the growing list of Legionnaire addresses. Saving money in small amounts adds up. When he can communicate by e-mail, we save the cost of stationary and postage. Please send an e-mail telling him to add your address to the list.

dtoothaker@nc.rr.com

Chair Weaving Class

The American Legion Post 1 is making available a chair weaving class. The class will involve all skill levels, and will involve cane weaving chair seats, backs, and stools.

The choice of materials includes: natural cane, press cane, rush, reed, and sea grass. Bring your own chairs or stools, and expect to finish one or more projects during the class. Chairs and stools should be in good repair, and surfaces should be finished.

Chairs and/or stools will be available from the instructor if you give advance notice.

Classes will be held on Monday nights for three hours in August and September.

The instructor will donate his time and expertise. A number of American Legion projects will benefit from this chair weaving class. All the enrollment money will be used for these projects.

Your instructor will be Bud Conner, instructor at John C. Campell Folk Schools. Call 851-1398 for additional information.

Burial and Memorial Benefits

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, honoring the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans.

This program was initiated during President John F. Kennedy's term, and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents under statutory authority.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the President's signature. The certificates express the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin, and loved ones. *More than one* certificate can be provided.

There is no form for requesting the certificates. Requests may be made in person at any VA Regional Office, or by US mail, with copies of DD-214 (veteran's discharge form), and a copy of the death certificate included. Send

copies; do not send the originals of the DD-214 and death certificate.

Mail requests to Presidential Memorial Certificates (402E12), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington DC 20420-0001

Jack R. Albright, Sr.
Post Service Officer

Rifles

The metal cabinet purchased some time ago to be used as a gun cabinet has been remodeled by Mike Clements and painted silver by Bud Conner.

Once the gun cabinet is fastened to a wall in a manner that meets regulations, Post 1 can acquire rifles.

With rifles on hand, a number of impressive parade and ceremonial opportunities open up. Post 1 can now step out in style with capabilities that many Posts do not have. Post 1 can take the lead in parades and ceremonies that are most impressive when rifles are used.

Some of the uses for rifles are: Drill Team, Parades, Funerals, Ceremonies.

Now we need volunteers to make all this happen!

Statewide Recognition

Did you notice that Post 1 has received statewide recognition in the *North Carolina Legion News*, Apr./May issue? Look at page 6 and see the photograph and writeup about our awards to the Raleigh Police and Fire Departments.

Policeman and Firemen Awards.

The March/April issue of *Focus* contained a brief reference to the Firemen and Policeman awards made at the February 12th Membership Meeting. The *NC Legion News* carried a photograph of the group involved in the ceremony.

The pictures below show all of the participants, and the Legionnaires involved in the presentations. Mayor Meeker also participated.

Firemen of the Year Plaques were presented to Captain Ronnie Mizell and Lieutenant Clay Hicks. A Policeman of the Year Plaque was presented to Sargent Albert O'Connell.



Legionnaire
Commander
David
Toothaker



Mayor Meeker
Fire Chief Stanford
Fire Captain Ronnie Mizell
Mrs. Jennifer Mizell



Mayor Meeker
Police Captain Deck-Brown
Police Major Shermer
Scout Chadwick O'Connell
Scout Chandler O'Connell
Police Sargent
Albert O'Connell
Mrs. Jennifer O'Connell



Mayor Meeker
Fire Lieutenant Clay Hicks



Legionnaire
3rd Vice
Commander
Bud Conner

Photographs Taken At The Awards Ceremony At The Post 1 Membership Meeting On February 12, 2004

Photographs by Tom Setzer

American Legion Benefits

The Special Membership Benefits published in the last issue of *Focus* bear repeating because of their money-saving potential. These are explained in a brochure available at the Post Home: *Why You Should Belong To The American Legion.*

- Life, Health, and Dental Insurance
- Interstate Moving Services
- Car Rentals
- American Legion Visa Card
- Certificates of Deposit
- Money Market Savings Accounts
- Eye Care, and Laser Surgery
- Prescription Drugs
- Hotels and Motels
- Cell Phones and Equipment

Pop-Top Tabs

We still have many little cardboard houses made to collect pop-top tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. As you know, these little tabs pay for lodging when families in need have children receiving treatment at Duke Medical Center.

Pick up a little pop-top house at a Post 1 membership meeting.

The American Legion Helps

The American Legion offers an extensive array of help to Legionnaires and to military personnel both in service and leaving the service. Visit the American Legion Website for full details: www.legion.org The main headings of the website are:

- Family Support Network

- Financial Assistance
- Messages of Support
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Transition Assistance
- Jobs
- BDU's
- Youth Programs
- Support Links
- Join Us

WWII Memorial Dedication Ceremony Saturday, May 29, 2004

The Carolina Ale House at 4512 Falls of Neuse Road has invited veterans to their sports restaurant-bar to watch the dedication ceremony.

We have reserved the time from 1 to 3 PM, but veterans can stay longer. You are not obligated to order food or drink, but the Ale House's only income from this time period will be from food and drink. We hope you will spend a little money while there.

The Ale House has several large-screen televisions, and can accommodate about 400 people. I need to know about how many will attend in order to give the Ale House about two weeks notice. They need the information in order to have enough staff on hand.

Please call my house, 518-1928, and leave a message if I don't answer. Give me your name, phone number, and the number coming with you. Also give me your zip code, and if you need a ride, tell me. If you are willing to transport an elderly or disabled veteran, please tell me and give me your zip code.

We want as many WWII veterans there as possible. Invite all the veterans you know, and offer a ride to those who

need one. The Ale House has room for wheelchairs. Wear what you want. Bring your spouse.

Let's gain some new members from this event!

Commander David Toothaker

Memorial Day Ceremony National Cemetery 501 Rock Quarry Road Sunday, May 30th, 1:30 PM

The Raleigh Concert Band will start playing at 1:30 PM. The ceremony will start at 2 o'clock. Pat Daley is in charge of the program. At this writing, the details of the program are not available.

Boy Scouts from Troop 364 at the Methodist Church will place small flag. Joe Tobert also plans to ask the Boys and Girls Clubs to help place some flags.

To reach the National Cemetery, turn south off New Bern Avenue at the Highway Building onto Tarboro Street. Continue on Tarboro which becomes Rock Quarry Road. The Cemetery will be on your left.

Commander David Toothaker

Youth Suicide

Youth suicide is a very serious problem, and The American Legion has published a brochure: *Know the Warning Signs of Youth Suicide*. If you are a concerned parent, or know someone who could benefit from the information in this brochure, please pick up a copy at Post 1.

What Is the Entertainment Fund?

The money in the Fund comes entirely from donations and from

enrollments in the dance classes. *The dance instructors donate their time and expertise.*

The Entertainment Fund money is used to sponsor or promote Post 1 activities that are related to entertainment. Often equipment purchased for entertainment can be used for post activities other than entertainment.

Monthly dances are held on the first Saturday night of each month. Admission to these dances has been set at \$5 per person. Admission includes dancing, free bar, finger food, and breakfast. The free bar includes beer, soft drinks, and most alcoholic beverages – gin, vodka, bourbon, scotch, etc.

At \$5 per person for the limited number of people our dance floor can accommodate, live music dances have never paid out. The Fund makes up for the financial shortfall.

Dance classes are basic social dancing taught with a method that is unique in dance instruction. The cost is kept low to accommodate those who do not want to pay the cost of lessons at a commercial dance studio.

At Post 1, a donation of \$60 per couple is required for nine hours of regular instruction plus free instruction on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All of the money received from dance instruction is deposited to the Fund.

The Fund has purchased amplifiers, speakers, a CD player, microphones, and associated supplies and equipment.

This array of sound equipment is being used at dance classes, and at the monthly dances. Selected dance music CDs are used at dances and at dance classes. Attendance at dances has been very good, and by using music CDs, all the dances have paid out financially and made a profit that is deposited to the Entertainment Fund.

The sound equipment is being used at membership meetings and yard sales. The best part is that the equipment can be used at parades and ceremonies where music and/or voice is needed, and electrical power is not available.

The equipment can be operated entirely from batteries. There are two remote and one wired microphones on hand. At the moment the equipment includes four speakers, although the amplifiers can feed as many as eight speakers. The volume of voice and music is controlled separately.

American Legion Brochures

Reading all of the brochures available at the Post Home would take many hours. And then only part of Legion activities would be covered.

Here is a brochure called *Americanism – What Is It?* The brochure mentions the Oratorical Contest and Boys State. (There are separate brochures available on both these programs.) Another paragraph describes the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Participants use 0.177 caliber air guns on a firing range 33 feet long. Such a range should fit in the main room at the Post.

Air gun competitions might be a source of revenue for the Post. I intend to look into this as an entertainment fund raising activity. Also, the post could sponsor the Program using help with startup expenses from the Entertainment Fund

Here is a brochure called: *The American Legion National Crime Prevention Program*. The brochure contains 70 specific things that can be done to prevent crime. And here's a Legion ID kit – a place for fingerprints, personal information, phone numbers. The kit is intended for kids, but anyone can use it.

This brochure is another Legion eyeopener: *"Gateway" Drugs - It's Your Choice* The brochure attacks the problems with alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine.

Another important brochure is: *The American Legion and The Boy Scouts of America*

These are a few of many brochures available at the Post Home. Come to a meeting and pick up those that interest you and your prospective members.

Hal Lindsey

Post Officer Nominees

The nominating committee has presented the following nominees to be voted on at the May 13th membership meeting.

Commandeer – Bud Conner

1st Vice Commander – Tom Collins and David Toothaker

2nd Vice Commander – George House

3rd Vice Commander – Wayne Adams

Judge Advocate – John Hollis

Finance Officer – Paul West

Historian – Larry Rozier

Chaplain – Jack Albright, Sr.
Sargent at Arms – Charles Birdsong
Service Officer – Anne Conde and John Gibson

Directors at Large – Milt Walker, Joe Tobert, and David Toothaker

Department Convention

The North Carolina Department Convention will be held June 10 thru 13 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Plan to attend, and go to the dance.

American Legion Birthday



Betty Jean Faulkner, President of the Post 1 Auxiliary, presents a birthday cake to the Legionnaires. Commander David Toothaker accepts the cake and thanks the Auxiliary for the remembrance.

Legion College

The Legion College is scheduled for July 16 & 17 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Last year eight attended. Can we reach ten this year?

The American Legion works in Washington DC to protect the rights and interests of veterans. The activities of the Legion are many and varied. Understanding the organization of the American Legion is important. All this and more is covered at the Legion College. Attend! It's time well spent!

Boys State Student Trooper

Boys State orientation is set for April 24th and May 15th at Post 1 at 10 AM. It will be very nice to have at least six members on each date to help out and show concern for the Program.

Student Trooper is progressing very well. One Student Trooper has been picked so far – a young lady from Millbrook High School.

Raleigh Post 1 American Legion 2004 Baseball Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>Notes</u>
5/23/04	3 pm	South Johnston High	Post 109	Raleigh Post 1	Scrimmage
5/27/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Dunn	NC
5/28/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Garner	NC
5/29/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Ahoskie	NC/DH
6/1/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Sanford	C
6/2/04	7 pm	Garner High	Garner	Post 1	NC
6/3/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Kerr Lake	NC
6/5/04	7 pm	Clayton High	Clayton	Post 1	NC
6/6/04	3 pm	Person High	Roxboro	Post 1	NC/DH
6/8/04	7 pm	Wake Forest High	WFR	Post 1	C
6/9/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Clayton	NC
6/10/04	7 pm	Erwin Tritan High	Dunn	Post 1	NC
6/13/04	3 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Roxboro	NC
6/14/04	7 pm	Chapel Hill High	Chapel Hill	Post 1	NC
6/15/04	7 pm	Millbrook High	Post 297	Post 1	C
6/16/04	7 pm	Lee County Senior High	Sanford	Post 1	C
6/21/04	7 pm	Green Hope High	Cary	Post 1	C
6/23/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Chapel Hill	NC
6/26/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	WFR	C
6/28/04	7:30 pm	Apex High	Apex	Post 1	C
6/30/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Post 297	C
7/1/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Apex	C
7/3/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	Cary	C
7/6/04	7 pm	Northern Durham High	ND	Post 1	C
7/8/04	7 pm	Optimist Senior	Post 1	ND	C
7/9/04	7 pm	Webb High	Kerr Lake	Post 1	NC

Head Coach - Andy Vaglio 625-6291 Athletic Officer - Joe Tobert 781-1490

NC = Non Conference DH = Double Header C = Conference

Schedule subject to change due to weather and field condition.

This Is Your Focus Bulletin

