



The Swamp Fox

VFW Post 4667 Newsletter

December 2002

Commander	William M. Sword
Sr. Vice Commander	James Haulsee
Jr. Vice Commander	William Falke
Quartermaster	John Null
Adjutant	Cecil Carter
Chaplain	E. Haskin Kinser
Judge Advocate	John Thompson
Surgeon	Edward Kuhn
Trustees	Cecil Carter
	Roger Haulsee
	Roy R. McNeil



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Lifetime Membership Fees

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Through 30	\$245.00
31-40	\$235.00
41-50	\$215.00
51-60	\$195.00
61-70	\$165.00
71-80	\$125.00
81 and over	\$85.00

See John Null for details

COMMANDERS CORNER

If you can recall back to your childhood days you probably new of or had a family member or friend of the family who served in the military. Most likely you looked up to this person with the utmost respect for serving to defend our country. Even upon the completion of their military service they remained a roll model to you. Just as when you were young, our children now view our military members and veterans as role models and mentors. Whether it is assisting with a school fishing trip, veteran's appreciation day, support to youth organizations, or participation in a parade you do influence our future generations - You are a role model.

Each monthly meeting I have shared my feelings on how appreciative I am of all my fellow comrades. The support I have received is unquestionable. I could never have asked to serve with such a good group of people. I am proud to be an American, a veteran, and a VFW member. Please do not forget the sacrifices that have been made by your fellow veterans.

I would like to touch on safety for just one moment. With the Holiday season approaching I would like to ask everyone to be extra careful. With the onset of cold weather more people will be using their wood stoves and fireplaces, a time when there is an increase in household fires. Also be careful on the roads. With the holiday parties that will take place some may not drink responsibly leading to injury of others. I want to see you at future meetings so please be careful. I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kuhn, Raymond W.	Rural Retreat	Rutherford, Roy W.	Marion
McVey, Donald R.	Marion	Tuell, Dan C.	Chilhowie
Robertson, Wesley D.	Marion		

A WORD FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Benefits of Self Discipline - Proverbs 16-25-32

Meditation - Each of us is solely responsible for our own deeds. Whether we do good or evil, we are accountable to God. Therefore, we need the self-discipline required to say no to sin and live pleasing to God. By God's Grace and Spirit, we can practice the self-discipline that receives His approval and also establishes for us a Christian reputation.
Haskin Kinser

RIFLE SQUAD AND FUNERAL DETAIL

As of July 1st the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail has participated in 22 funerals and 15 Color Guard details. We offer a welcome to Roy Gullion who has joined the Rifle Detail.

TAPS

It is sad to report that the below comrades have departed our ranks and gone before us to join that last great encampment of our Supreme Commander. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

11-04-01	Cardwell, Allen W	515 Shuler Hollow Rd.	Chilhowie	24319
04-19-02	Colley, Willis R.	652 Goolsby St.	Marion	24354
08-15-02 (L)	Reel, David R.	405 Browns' Sub. Div. Rd.	Marion	24354
08-21-02 (L)	White, Howard C.	318 Clinton Ave.	Marion	24354
08-25-02	Mason, William F.	1387 Caspian Ln.	Chilhowie	24319
09-10-02 (L)	Haga, Sr. Ronald L.	804 W. Chilhowie St.	Marion	24354
09-22-02	Winebarger, Larry C.	PO Box 824	Marion	24354
10-14-02 (L)	Fishel, James A. II	442 Wassona Dr.	Marion	24354
10-17-02	Berry, Marvin G.	PO Box 230	Chilhowie	24319
11-07-02	Rouse, William A.	18039 Confederate Rd.	Glade Spring	24340

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4667 are now collecting dues. Please Ladies pay your dues.

We are having our meetings in the afternoon. Every 4th Tuesday we meet at 2:00 PM at the VFW Post on Goolsby St. We will go back to 7:00 PM in April.

On December 10th we will have the Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party at 1:00 PM on Tuesday. We are having Pot Luck dinner. We will have turkey. Bring a \$5.00 gift. We welcome all of you new members.

The Ladies are selling tickets.

1st \$125.00 gift certificate from Food City

2nd \$100.00 gift certificate from Food City

3rd \$75.00 gift certificate from Food City

Drawing will be held on December 10, 2002 at Food City at 5:00 PM. You do not have to be present to win.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Judging will be held the first week of December. Winners will be listed in the March edition of the Swamp Fox.

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Post will hold its annual **Christmas party** (Ho Ho Ho) on Sunday, **December 8th at 2:00 PM**. All community members are welcome to attend. Come on out and join in - bring the children and grandchildren for a fun afternoon. Each child attending will receive a present.

DONATIONS

Since July 1st the following donations have been made to our communities:

Sugar Grove School	300.00
Smyth County Social Services	300.00
Marion Dixie Baseball	500.00
Chilhowie Elementary School	420.00
Marion Civitan Club	600.00
Southwest Virginia Cloggers	300.00
Agape Outreach Ministry	350.00
Marion Little League	300.00
Marion Senior High School	500.00
District Three Government Cooperative	500.00
Smyth County Association of Retarded Citizens	300.00
Marion Recreational Department	1497.00
Fall Carnival at Salem, VA	300.00
Kristan Stump (Bugler)	50.00
Boy Scout Troop 190	150.00
Marion High School Football	50.00
Salvation Army	100.00
Marion Primary School	100.00
Marion Lions Club	200.00
Boy Scouts of America Troop 93	300.00
Marion Little League	100.00
Davis Memorial U. M. C.	30.00
Marion Senior High School	100.00
Halloween Candy	80.70
Emory & Henry - Kelly M. Ellis	1000.00
Virginia Highland Community College - Ashley Davidson	500.00
Gardner Webb University - Mary E. Jones	1000.00
Virginia Tech - Brian J. Crewey	1000.00

TOTAL: \$10,927.70

DISTRICT 9 MEETING

The next Quarterly District 9 meeting will be held on January 12, 2003 at Marion Post 4667. Registration begins at 10:30 AM, at 11:30 AM we will start the Joint Session, and at 12:00 noon we will start the meeting, Representative Lawrence F. Mattera, State Commander will be attending.

Attend a district meeting and show your support for our Post and the VFW. If you plan on attending let Bill Sword know so he can plan on ordering the appropriate number of lunches (which, by the way is *free* to you).

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLES

The Red Kettles will be starting up on November 26th. As you all know this is the main fund raising event for the Salvation Army in Smyth County. Last year the Red Kettles collected over \$46,000.00. Our goal this year is \$50,000.00. If you would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following Captain's:

Bank of Marion Polly Carlton 783-7836 or Bill Pugh 783-2056
Food Lion John Taminger 783-2905
Wal-Mart B J Atwood 782-1931
Ingles Tom Ewald or Bill Smith 783-7703
Food City Ed Pennington 783-344
ABC Stores Ken Osborne 783-9717
Chilhowie Food City: A L Dungan 646-3515
Bank of Marion, Chilhowie Branch Jim Haulsee 646-2514, Doug Price 646-8284,
Richard Snow 646-3094, or Jack Wheeler 646-8482
The Saltville area will be covered by VFW Post 7328 Barry Green 496-3236 or Hugh Helton 496-3306

We appreciate all the time that the volunteers have donated during past events. With the economic situation in Smyth County an increasing amount of donations are required to help those in need. With you help we can make a difference.

Donations by mail can be sent to: Salvation Army, PO Box 133, Marion, VA 24354. If you mail a donation in please designate it as "Red Kettle" on the "memo" line.

For further information please call Sue Thompson at 783-8785.

12TH ANNUAL VFW POST4667 ROY ERNEST MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1st Place Team Steve Mc Grady, Bobby Walker, John Copenhaver, Bill Wagner
2nd Place Team Dallas Brown, Dwayne Sprinkle, Al Ferguson, Sam Burkett
3rd Place Team Bob Lincoln, French Sturgill, Harold Headlee, James Gordon
Longest Drive: Steve McGrady
Closest to pin on par 3 holes: Jessie Sage, Dallas Brown, Marshall Guy, French Sturgill

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The following Post members have accepted a position on the Veterans Memorial Committee:

Marshall Guy	John Arthur	Thomas Bartley
Henry Brant	Cecil Carter	Algie Crouse
Claude Dean	John Harmon	Herbert Hart
Roger Haulsee	Roy McNeil	Andy Snow
John Taminger		

Should you have any comments and/or recommendations on the memorial please contact one of the above people.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are all aware of the donations that VFW Post 4667 makes to our communities each month. Last year we donated approximately \$98,000.00 and this year we are expected to donate approximately \$102,000.00. These donations are vital to a number of local civic groups, organizations, church groups, the public school system, youth organizations and emergency services throughout the county. The *donations are made possible through the funds raised by Saturday Bingo.*

Each Saturday afternoon the *same dedicated volunteers* show up to help out. We are losing some of these fine volunteers and need people to help. If you are able to help even one Saturday a month it would be appreciated. Donations can only be made possible by *you* getting involved.

If you would like to volunteer contact John Thompson or just come to Bingo on Saturday evening, which starts at 6:00 PM.

JIM MASON GOES HUNTING

Jim Mason, A Vietnam veteran and resident of Smyth County, was one of four veterans selected from a nationwide drawing to participate in a National VFW sponsored hunting trip to Montana. You might wonder what is unique about this, being selected for a hunting trip is nothing special. Well Jim and all other veterans who were selected are all amputees. Jim is restricted to a wheelchair. I said restricted to a wheel chair and not limited by it. Jim displays more can do and will do spirit than a lot of people without any physical limitations. Speaking at the October VFW meeting in Marion, Jim commented on how proud he was upon hearing of his selection to participate in the hunting trip. We offer congratulations to Jim on his selection and the antelope he was able to kill, from his wheelchair, at a distance of 300 yards.

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL AMENDING VFW MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Opens Door to Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger Pay Recipients

Washington, D.C. Oct. 18, 2002—The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States today announced that President Bush has signed legislation amending the veterans organization's congressional charter to extend membership eligibility to members of the armed forces who receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

“It's not about membership numbers,” said VFW Commander-in-Chief Ray Sisk on the charter change, which will open doors to membership for thousands of service members, including those serving overseas in the war against terrorism. It is about doing what is right. We have long fought for this, and it is especially relevant today with so many young men and women in harm's way.”

Membership in the elite organization previously had required a service member to serve in a war zone or receive an occupation, campaign, expeditionary medal or combat action ribbon.

The bill, which now becomes Public Law 107-242), was signed by the President Oct. 16. Representatives Chris Smith and Lane Evans introduced the bill, with support from Representatives George Gekas and James Sensenbrenner, as well as Senators Charles Schumer and Patrick Leahy.

For info on HR 3838 visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:h.r.003838>:

ASBESTOS RELATED CANCERS

Many veterans, especially those of the sea services, were exposed to asbestos during the middle decades of this century. Due to long latency periods, some lung cancers (specifically mesothelioma) may be directly related to in-services exposure. Free medical information is available at 1-877-367-6376, or www.mesotheliomaweb.org.

ARRANGING BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

- Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and veterans having met minimum active service duty requirements and having been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, unremarried widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children, are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried, even if they predecease the veteran. Members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who die while on active duty or while performing training duty, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.
- Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance. However, families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, by collecting the veteran's military information, and by calling the cemetery where burial is desired prior to the time of need.
- VA will provide a gravesite, graveliner, headstone or marker, Presidential Memorial Certificate, U.S. Flag, perpetual care of the gravesite, and will open and close the grave at no cost to the veteran's family. Services provided by funeral directors and other related costs, usually including transportation of remains, must be paid for by the veteran's family.
- VA's Veterans Benefits Administration pays a burial and plot allowance to those veterans eligible by law. For information, please contact the nearest VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000.
- The veteran's full name; rank; branch of service; date of entry and discharge; serial, social security and VA claim numbers; date and place of birth; and, date of death should be provided, if possible, to establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

- A copy of the veteran's official military discharge document with the character of discharge is also required. If this document is not available a copy may be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Record's Office, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100. This should be done prior to the time of need.
- At the time of need, a funeral director or the next of kin should contact the national cemetery where burial is desired.
- The same procedures are followed if the veteran's eligible spouse or dependent predeceases the veteran. In most cases, one gravesite is provided for the burial of all eligible family members and a single headstone or marker is provided. When both spouses are veterans, two gravesites and two headstones or markers may be provided if requested.
- Upright headstones are standard in most national cemeteries, however, some have both upright headstone and flat marker sections. Be sure to discuss these options with the cemetery director prior to burial.
- The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. The DOD program, "Honoring Those Who Served," calls for funeral directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's families. Veterans' organizations may assist in the provision of military funeral honors. In support of this program, VA national cemetery staff may assist to coordinate military funeral honors.
- Funeral services are not held at national cemeteries, but a final committal service may be performed at the cemetery. For safety reasons, these services are held in committal shelters located away from the gravesite. Burial will take place following the committal service. Immediate family members may be allowed to view the actual burial only if arrangements have been made in advance with the cemetery director.
- National cemeteries do not usually conduct burials on weekends or Federal holidays. A weekend caller will be directed to one of three offices that remain open to schedule burials for the upcoming week.
- Floral arrangements may accompany the casket or urn and will be placed on the grave after burial.

THE VIETNAM VETERAN AND AGENT ORANGE

Anyone who served in Vietnam is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide that was used extensively in Vietnam to kill unwanted plant life and to remove leaves from trees, which otherwise provided cover for the enemy.

Who is eligible? All service members who served in Vietnam.

What am I eligible for:

- Free medical care to Vietnam veterans with any health problems, which may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure.
- Special compensation for 10 diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure:
 - Chloracne
 - Hodgkin's disease
 - Multiple myeloma
 - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - Porphyria cutanea tarda
 - Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea)
 - Soft-tissue sarcoma
 - Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy
 - Prostate cancer
 - Diabetes mellitus

In addition, monetary benefits, health care and vocational rehabilitation services are provided to Vietnam veterans' offspring with spina bifida, a congenital birth defect of the spine. To find out more about diseases associated with Agent Orange visit:
www.vfwdc.org/NVS/Agent%20Orange/AO060401.htm

How do I file a compensation claim? VFW Service Officers can help you file a compensation claim for a current disability related to Agent Orange. To find a VFW service officer in your area visit: <http://206.246.115.210/NVS/sor.htm>.

You may also call the VFW's Veterans' Service hotline at (202) 543-2239.

What is the Agent Orange Registry Physical Examination - In 1978, the VA set up a register of Vietnam veterans who were worried that they may have been exposed to chemical herbicides. Any veteran who had active service between 1962 and 1975 and who expresses a concern relating to exposure to herbicides may participate in the registry. Eligible veterans should contact the nearest VA medical facility for an appointment.

Want to know more about Agent Orange? - To find out more about Agent Orange and presumed service-connected diseases visit: www.va.gov/agentorange/. To find out more about VFW's National Veterans Service Office visit:
www.vfwdc.org/NVS/Invshomepage.htm.

VFW Post 4667 meets the first Thursday of each month at our Post Home on Goolsby Street. Our fellowship and meal begins at 6:15 PM with the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM. All members are encouraged to attend meetings to learn about the VFW, keep informed on local veteran's affairs, learn how we can help our community, and enjoy fellowship.

The Swamp Fox is published in March, July, and December. We welcome letters or recommended articles to be included. Letters and/or articles must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Due to space limitations, letters should be brief and pertain to VFW activities, military news, or items of interest to veterans. Address letters to: FRANCIS MARION POST 4667, Attn: Editor Swamp Fox, P.O. Box 767, Marion, VA 24354 or email to John Arthur at johnarthurjr@area-net.com.

The Swamp Fox is available at: www.vfw4667.org. The Post web site is voluntarily maintained by comrade John Harmon. All comments or recommendation pertaining to the site should be addressed to john.harmon@jharmon.com

***For an Organization
to be a success it
takes a team effort -
Be part of the team
and participate...***

FRANCIS MARION POST 4667

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Inc.

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