

# VFW Post 4667 Newsletter

Commander Sr. Vice Commander Jr. Vice Commander Quartermaster Adjutant Chaplain Judge Advocate Surgeon Trustees James Haulsee Porter Heath William Falke William Sword Cecil Carter Bill Baldwin John Thompson James Brown Cecil Carter Roger Haulsee Roy R. McNeil

## December 2005



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#### **Lifetime Membership Fees**

Attained Age	Fee	
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 Bill Sword for details		

### **COMMANDERS CORNER**

My fellow comrades,

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may each of us pause and thank God for the freedom we have and pray for those who have fought for that freedom. Please keep our troops in your prayers and ask God for their safe return.

It seems the younger generations have forgotten the sacrifices that thousands of Americans have made to keep this nation and its citizens free. As we work in our community, let us share our experiences so that our service and sacrifices will not be forgotten. May we be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

As we come into the Christmas season, I hope each of us finds the joy and peace in Christ that the shepherds and wise men discovered so long ago. May the New Year bring peace and joy to your lives. God bless each of you, your families, and this great nation.

I thank all of you for the many hours of hard work and sacrifice you have contributed to the work of the VFW and to our community. In order to continue this great work into the future, we must continually strive to increase our membership. Our large membership numbers ensure that our voices will be heard by those who make legislative decisions which affect us, our benefits, and those of our families. With your continued support and dedication, our post will continue to be successful. - James Haulsee, Commander

#### 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.

07-19-05 08-01-05	Celozzi, Dominic P. Wineberger, Marion	PO Box 56 463 Wassona Drive	Rural Retreat Marion
08-21-05 L	Slagle, Clarence L.	PO Box 44	Marion
09-02-05	Reedy, Marvin	642 Rugby Road	Mouth Of Wilson
09-07-05	Chatham, William H.	PO Box 15	Sugar Grove
09-08-05	Clyburn, Fred W.	PO Box 131	Rural Retreat
09-13-05	Doane, Ronald K.	PO Box 682	Saltville
09-21-05	Dowell, Samuel F.	PO Box 1078	Chilhowie
09-24-05 L	Williams, Burleigh E. Jr.	826 Henry St.	Marion
10-07-05 L	Combs, Robert L.	213 Old Mill Rd.	Chilhowie
Note: Robert	L. Combs served as past Post	Command from 1961-1962	4
10-13-05 L	Dean, HerbertJ. Sr.	PO Box 35	Sugar Grove
10-13-05	Henderlite, Lewis K.	230 Rocky Hollow Rd.	Atkins
10-16-05 L	Wolfe, Joseph W. M.	PO Box 283	Chilhowie
11-03-05	Vance, Richard B.	432 Vance Drive	Chilhowie
11-12-05	Sexton, Arthur	8183 Lee Hwy	Rural Retreat

## DONATIONS

Since July 1<sup>st</sup> the following donations have been made to our communities:

End of school party	125.00
1 · ·	125.00
1	200.00
	200.00
	1,000.00
1	1,000.00
•	1,000.00
	1,000.00
	1,000.00
	1,000.00
	350.00
	400.00
-	300.00
-	400.00
1	400.00
	300.00
	300.00
1 0	599.70
1 6	125.00
1	500.00
	300.00
	250.00
	325.00
1	300.00
	400.00
	250.00
-	250.00
	550.00
1 0	400.00
	300.00
Support troops return	250.00

#### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Christopher B. Barker	Danny L. Deuell Sr.	Michael Gregory
Andrew T. Hughes	Steven R. Lawrence	Robert K. Niehoff
Timothy R. Odom		

#### **DISTRICT MEETING**

The Ninth District meeting will be held at Francis Marion Post 4667 on January 29, 2006 at 11:00 AM. State Representative - Senior Vice Command Charles "Doc" Crouch.

### AUXILIARY NEWS

The Auxiliary Officers are: Della Kinser/President, Cora Lee Catron/Senior Vice, Louise Hampton/Junior Vice, Lena Wyatt/Treasurer, Lila Johnson/Conductress, Lorraine Heath/Chaplain, Reba Matheson/Patriotic Instruction, and Nancy Hill/Secretary.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2 PM. We are now collecting dues \$19.00. Please mail them in as soon as possible.

Life members pay you cancer insurance \$4.95 a year. Mail to Lena Wyatt, Treasurer, 702 Railroad Dr., Marion, VA 24354.

Auxiliary Christmas Party will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Post at 1 PM, meeting following. Bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange at the party.

We won't meet again until 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in January at 2 PM. Any questions call 783-2826.

## **IMPORTANT 2005-2006 DATES**

January 12, 2006 Legislative Day on the Hill

January 13-15, 2006 Winter Council Meeting, Crown Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, Room Rates \$59.00 plus Tax based on single/double occupancy. Room Rates guaranteed until December 21, 2005. Reservation # 757-220-2250

March 5-8, 2006 Legislative/Community Conference

April 22, 2006 Department Commander and Presidents Homecoming, Staunton, VA info to come

June 15-18, 2006 State Convention, Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, Room Rates are \$85.00 per night Reservations 804-285-1234

August 26-31, 2006 National VFW Convention Reno, Nevada

September 15-17, 2006 Fall Council Meeting: Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg, Virginia-Room Rates are \$63.00 per night. Telephone # 434-528-2500

## POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## VA WARNS OF TELEPHONE PRESCRIPTION SCAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"Some unscrupulous scammers have targeted America's veterans, especially our older veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "VA does not call veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone."

The latest scam, currently centered in the Midwest, comes from callers who identify

themselves as working for the "Patient Care Group." They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the veteran's credit card number.

"VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Nicholson said. "And we've definitely not changed our long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of our veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

#### VFW DAY ON THE HILL IN RICHMOND

The VFW Department of Virginia will conduct its annual Legislative Day in Richmond on Thursday, 12 January 2006. Due to the fact that the State Capitol Building will be closed for renovation and new construction, specifics regarding some of our scheduled activities are not presently available. Based on my visits to Richmond on 5 and 17 October 2005, permit me to pass on what I do know as of 20 October:

1. We will commence our legislative briefing at 8:20 AM either in a meeting room in the General Assembly Office Building (GAOB) or in the Old State Library which will be used for sessions of the General Assembly.

2. Coffee and rolls will be available at snack shops on the sixth floor of the GAOB and in the basement of the Old State Library.

3. Visits to the offices of the 140 members of the General Assembly will commence at 9:00 AM and continue until 11:30 AM.

4. No cost parking will be available at the Virginia War Memorial located at 621 S.
Belvedere Street. Participants will be shuttled by bus to the General Assembly Office Building, beginning at 7:30 AM. The return shuttle to the Virginia War Memorial will commence at 12:00 Noon and continue until everyone is returned to their vehicles.
5. VFW and Auxiliary members who desire to use commercial parking closer to the State Capital are encouraged to get their parking spaces no later then 7:30 AM, otherwise parking spaces will be difficult to find.

More details will be provided in the December issue of the General Orders.

#### 2005 VFW POST4667 GOLF TOURNAMENT

This event was held on September 08, 2005 at Holston Hill Country Club.

This event started at 11:00 AM in which all players and guests enjoyed a wonderful lunching – hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings.

The tournament got underway at 12:30 PM. All said they had a great time on the course.

A break down of winners are:

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Ivan Guy	Paul Sauls	John Pickle
Marshall Guy	Bill Smith	French Sturgill
Homer Bowen	Ted Russell	Sam Burkett
Claude Davis	A. V. O'Neal	Bobby Baker

Longest Drive #1 John Pickle Longest Putt #9 Bill Wagner

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's #4 Bill Wagner #8 Paul Sauls #14 Moe Anderson #16 A. V. O'Neal

Looking forward for next year. - Jim Millinger

#### The 1973 Fire at the National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis, MO)

On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at NPRC (MPR) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files. The affected record collections are described below.

Branch	Branch Personnel and Period Affected	
Army	Personnel discharged November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960	80%
Air Force	Personnel discharged, September 25, 1947, to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.)	75%

No duplicate copies of the records that were destroyed in the fire were maintained, nor was a microfilm copy ever produced. There were no indexes created prior to the fire. In addition, millions of documents had been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the fire occurred. Therefore, a complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. Nevertheless, NPRC (MPR) uses many alternate sources in its efforts to reconstruct basic service information to respond to requests.

## VA PRESCIPTION CO-PAYS TO INCREASE BY \$1

WASHINGTON – Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities will rise by \$1, according to an announcement today by VA. The \$1 increase for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs will take effect on January 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

"Through sound management practices, efficient pharmacy operations and price negotiations that put veterans first, VA has been able to contain prescription drug costs," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, noting that co-payments paid by veterans will still be lower than similar expenses in the private sector.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group 1" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit, Nicholson said.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments – those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6 – will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by \$1, but their annual out-of-pocket expenses for VA medicine will remain capped. The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service – referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 – will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase. Outpatient medications not subject to co-payments include:

• Medication for treatment of a service-connected disability;

• Medication for a veteran who has a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;

• Medication for a veteran disabled by 50 percent or more for unemployability;

• Medication for a veteran whose annual income does not exceed the amount of VA pensions;

• Medications for health problems that may be linked to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans, to radiation exposure, to undiagnosed illnesses of Persian War veterans, or for new veterans within two years of discharge after serving in a combat theater.

## VA TO PARTNER WITH U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO QUALIFY DISABLED VETERANS FOR PARALYMPICS

Disabled veteran athletes can now set their sights even higher and become eligible to compete in some of the nation's premiere athletic venues thanks to an agreement between the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"This is a tremendous opportunity for America's disabled veterans to excel and compete in elite level athletic competition," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The agreement between VA and the U.S. Olympic Committee will further inspire disabled veteran athletes to reach their fullest potential in sports competition."

Under the terms of the agreement signed today, participants in VA's National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic will now be able to qualify for positions on the prestigious U.S. Paralympic Team and the U.S. Paralympic National Teams. The Memorandum of Understanding between VA and the Olympic Committee means the department's marquee sporting events for disabled veterans can now serve as a pipeline in providing competitors for American Paralympic teams engaged in national and international competition.

"The United States Olympic Committee is honored to have the opportunity to serve those who have given selflessly and courageously to our country as members of the Armed Forces," said USOC Chief Executive Officer Jim Scherr. "The Paralympic movement began after World War II as a way to assist in the rehabilitation of injured military personnel. This new partnership between the USOC and VA will ensure that these efforts continue, and will provide new opportunities for our veterans."

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., U.S. Paralympics is a division of the USOC and was formed in May 2001 with the goal of enhancing programs, obtaining funding and providing competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities to participate in Paralympic sports. Its mission is to be the world leader in the Paralympic movement and to promote excellence in the lives of all people with physical disabilities.

The VA Winter Sports Clinic is co-sponsored by VA and Disabled American Veterans. It is an annual rehabilitation program open to all U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases, visual impairments, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations or other disabilities, who receive care at any VA health care facility.

VA's Wheelchair Games are presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, and are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition after having suffered spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments.

For more information, contact Richard Olague, public affairs specialist, VA Office of Public Affairs 202-273-4814; Darryl Seibel, chief communications officer (719) 866-4531, or Beth Bourgeois, communications manager (719) 866-2039, U.S. Paralympics.

#### Health Care

We provide a number of health care services.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for military service exposure, including Gulf War, Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards.

**Combat Veterans**- VA will provide combat veterans free medical care for any illness possibly associated with service against a hostile force in a war after the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998. This benefit may be provided for two years from the veteran's release from active duty.

#### Life Insurance

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is low-cost term life insurance for service members and reservists. Generally, coverage begins when you enter the service. It is available in amounts up to \$250,000. Generally, it expires 120 days after you get out of the service.

**Veterans Group Life Insurance** (*VGLI*) is renewable five-year term life insurance for veterans. It is available in amounts up to \$250,000. You may apply any time within 1 year from the date your *SGLI* expires.

**Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance**, also called *"RH"* Insurance, is life insurance for service-disabled veterans. The basic coverage is \$10,000. If your premium payments for the basic policy are waived, due to total disability, you may be eligible for

#### Toll-Free Service Benefits Information and Assistance

Each VA benefit has its own eligibility requirements. For more information about specific benefits, you may visit the nearest VA office or call:

#### 1-800-827-1000

**Special Toll-Free Numbers** 

Health Benefits Education Benefits VA Life Insurance Office of SGLI CHAMPVA Gulf War Headstones (status of claims only) Telecommunication	877-222-8387 888-442-4551 800-669-8477 800-419-1473 800-733-8387 800-749-8387 800-697-6947
,,	800-829-4833 877-838-2778

Apply for Compensation, Pension or Vocational Rehabilitation benefits on line:

http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov

### VA Web-Site Addresses

For more information and links to our regional offices, visit our web-site at:

#### www.va.gov

Look at our specialty pages:

Compensation and Pension Benefits Education – Environmental Exposure Health Care -- Home Loans – Insurance Minority Veterans – Women



# A Summary Of VA Benefits

## Putting Veterans First

## The VA pledges to:

- ✓ Treat you with courtesy, compassion and respect at all times
- ✓ Communicate with you accurately, completely and clearly
- ✓ Provide timely service to you
- ✓ Make our services accessible to you
- ✓ Fully answer your questions, concerns and complaints

**RESCISSION: VA Pamphlet** 

27-82-2, dated April 2002

VA Pamphlet 21-00-1

February 2004

a supplemental policy of up to \$20,000. Generally, you have 2 years after being notified of your service-connected disability to apply for basic coverage.	Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment			
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About VA	Disability Benefits	Vocational Rehabilitation &	Burial Benefits
Ve are the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, <b>"VA"</b> for short. Ve offer a wide range of benefits o our Nation's veterans, service nembers, and their families.	<ul> <li>We administer two disability programs. Both pay monthly benefits to disabled veterans.</li> <li>Disability Compensation: We can pay you compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.</li> <li>Disability Pension: We can pay you a pension if you are a wartime veteran with</li> </ul>	<b>Employment</b> We can help veterans with service- connected disabilities prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Some of the services we provide are:	<ul> <li>We offer certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased veterans.</li> <li>Headstones and Markers: We can furnish a monument to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran.</li> <li>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC): We can provide a PMC for</li> </ul>
What We Offer	limited income and you are no longer able to work.	Job Search: Assistance in finding and maintaining suitable employment	eligible recipients.  Burial Flag: We can provide an
<ul> <li>A benefits and services fall into nese major categories:</li> <li>Disability Benefits</li> <li>Education &amp; Training Benefits</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Home Loans</li> <li>Burial Benefits</li> <li>Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits</li> <li>Life Insurance</li> <li>Health Care</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Time Limits: There is no deadline for applying for disability benefits.</li> <li>Education and Training</li> <li>We pay benefits to eligible veterans, dependents, reservists, and service members while they are in an approved training program. Our major programs are:</li> <li>Montgomery GI Bill: Persons who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, are generally eligible. Some Vietnam Era veterans and certain veterans separated under special programs are also eligible. The bill also includes a program for certain reservists and National Guard members.</li> <li>Veterans Educational Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Vocational Evaluation: An evaluation of abilities, skills, interests, and needs</li> <li>Career Exploration: Vocational counseling and planning</li> <li>Vocational Training: If needed, training such as on-the-job and non-paid work experience.</li> <li>Education Training: If needed, education training to accomplish the rehabilitation goal.</li> <li>Rehabilitation Service: Supportive rehabilitation and counseling services.</li> <li>Time Limits: You generally have 12 years from the date we tell you in writing that you have at least a 10 percent rating for a service-connected disability</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>American flag to drape an eligible veteran's casket.</li> <li>Reimbursement of Burial Expenses: Generally, we can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other veterans, we can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a plot.</li> <li>Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Most veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.</li> <li>Time Limits: There is no time limit for claiming reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within 2 years of the veteran's burial.</li> </ul>
Who Is Eligible	<b>Program</b> (VEAP): This program is for veterans who entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976, and before	Home Loans	Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits
You may be eligible for VA <i>health</i> are benefits if you are a veteran.	<ul> <li>July 1, 1985, and contributed funds to this program.</li> <li>Survivors' &amp; Dependents' Educational</li> </ul>	We offer a number of home loan services to eligible veterans, some military personnel, and certain spouses.	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to certain survivors of:
You may be eligible for other VA enefits if you are:	<b>Assistance:</b> Some family members of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible for education benefits.	Guaranteed Loans: We can guarantee part of a loan from a private lender to help you buy a home, a	<ul> <li>Servicemembers who died on active duty</li> <li>Veterans who died from service-related disabilities</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>a veteran</li> <li>a veteran's dependent</li> <li>a surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran</li> </ul>	<b>Time Limits:</b> Generally, <i>veterans</i> have 10 years from the date they were last released from active duty to use their education benefits. <i>Reservists</i> generally have 10 years from the	manufactured home, a lot for a manufactured home, or certain types of condominiums. We also guarantee loans for building, repairing, and	Certain veterans who were being paid 100% VA disability compensation at time of death

<ul> <li>a member of the Reserves or National Guard</li> <li>an active duty servicemember</li> </ul>	date they became eligible for the program unless they leave the Selected Reserves before completing their obligation. <i>Spouses</i> generally have 10 years from the date we first find them eligible. <i>Children</i> are generally eligible from		improving homes. <b>Refinancing Loans:</b> If you have a VA mortgage, we can help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate. You may also refinance a non-VA loan.	spouses and children of deceased <i>wartime</i> veterans. The benefit is based on financial need. VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) shares the cost of medical
	age 18 until age 26. These time limits can sometimes be extended.	VA res	Special Grants: Certain disabled veterans and military personnel can receive grants to adapt or acquire housing suitable for their needs. <b>The Limits:</b> There is no time limit for a home loan, except for eligible ervists. Their eligibility expires otember 30, 2009.	services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans. <b>Time Limits:</b> There are no time limits for applying for the benefits described above.

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: Swamp Fox Editor, P.O. Box 767, Marion, VA 24354.

*The Swamp Fox* is available at www.vfw4667.org. Comrade John Harmon voluntarily maintains the Post web site. 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. P.O. Box 767 Marion, VA 24354 276-783-7971

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#### POST NEWSLETTER**THE SWAMP FOX**DECEMBER 2005