



The Swamp Fox

VFW Post 4667 Newsletter

July 2004

Commander	James Haulsee
Sr. Vice Commander	Porter Heath
Jr. Vice Commander	William Falke
Quartermaster	William Sword
Adjutant	Cecil Carter
Chaplain	Bill Baldwin
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 Bill Sword for details

COMMANDERS CORNER

My fellow comrades: In my first message to you as your Post Commander, I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation for all your support. I believe that our Post has some of the finest people I have ever had the privilege of knowing and consider it an honor to begin service as you commander.

While our Post and its' members perform many wonderful services for members of this post as well as citizens of our communities, we cannot rest on our. Each day our numbers are declining as the Supreme Command calls his soldiers home. Now, more than ever, keeping our membership roll strong is vital. Large numbers will continue to make our collective voices heard in Washington to ensure veteran's benefits continue at an acceptable level.

As we look toward the future, let us be mindful that our country is involved in a bitter ware whose troops will need benefits upon their return. Our mission in this war is dual: to support the troops in the field and to fight for the rights of veterans on the home front as well. And when these troops return as veterans, let VFW members be the first to extend a helping hand to them and their families. We must continue to lay the ground work for the benefits of future generations of comrades.

With your help, I'm sure our Post will have a very successful year. I'd like to offer my gratitude to the outgoing officers and thank you for a job well done. You've left mighty big shoes for us new guys to fill and we'll try to continue the extraordinary works of this Post. I'd also like to thank all of you who work quietly behind the scenes - - You are truly the unsung heroes of this Post and I salute you.

Let's all continue to work together to make this year a very successful one for all of us!

Commander James Haulsee

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Clayton M. Barker	Roger L. Farmer	Ford Sage
Randal W. Cline	Jenifer L. Clark	Marc G McClellan
Robert A. Ross	Graham E. Heninger	Harry C. Anderson
Mark L Bellamy (Transfer from Florida)		
Charles L. Hopkins (Transfer From North Carolina)		

A WORD FROM THE CHAPLAIN

A covenant established: Genesis 17:1-8. Meditation – God promised to give Abraham and his heirs the land of Canaan and to bless those who blessed them and to curse those who cursed them. God put these promises in a covenant established with Abraham. As Christians we live under the New Covenant. We have covenant promises made to us by God for Christ's sake. God keeps his promises.

FISH-O-RAMA

On July 13th and 15th members of VFW Post 4667 and the Civitan Club will sponsor the fishing trip for local children to Cedar Springs fishing pond. All helpers are asked to be there at 9:00 AM. For further information please see Bill Falke.

TAPS

With sincere sadness and regret, we report that the below comrades who 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.

02-21-04	James R. Bowman	222 Walnut St.	Marion
02-21-04	Billy E. Heath	PO Box 125	Chilhowie
02-17-04	George R. Oakes	269 Ridgedale Rd.	Saltville
03-15-04 (L)	Howard F. Rhodes	PO Box 748	Chilhowie
04-15-04	Marvin Crewey	2754 Scratch Gravel Rd.	Marion
04-20-04	Adrian Counts	PO Box 115	Chilhowie
04-22-04 (L)	Wayne J. Sexton	625 Currin Valley Rd.	Marion
05-12-04	Reagan N. Webb	PO Box 5177	Chilhowie
05-26-04	Ernest W. Lowe	117 Short St.	Marion

POST 4667 OFFICERS FOR 2004 - 2005

Commander	James Haulsee
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NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4667 is meeting as at the Post home at 7:00 PM now. Please ladies come out to the meetings. The meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Ladies if you haven't paid your dues, please get them in. Dues are \$18.00. We will appreciate it.

Ladies, you that are Life Members will you please pay your \$4.95 Cancer Insurance, if you haven't paid it yet. We will appreciate it.

We will be having a yard sale July 29, 30, 31st. Come out and help us with this project.

HOW TO SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS

First, find out if the veteran is eligible. If you have a question on eligibility, call the Post Home at 783-7971.

Second, explain benefits of belonging to VFW such as:

- ✓ 12 free meals,
- ✓ 12 copies of VFW magazine,
- ✓ Free accident insurance,
- ✓ helping with Post projects, veterans fellowship,
- ✓ and our Post Service Officer who will work with you on veteran's benefits.

Third, you get all the above for only \$15 a year. Where else could you find a bargain like this?

DONATIONS

For the period ending June 19th, 2004 the following donations have been made to our communities:

VFW Post 4667 Auxiliary	350.00
Chilhowie Elementary School	870.00
Marion Intermediate School	1,025.00
Sugar Grove Combined School	1,300.00
American Cancer Society	500.00
Boy Scouts Troops 90	1,000.00
Chilhowie High School	1,000.00
Chilhowie Little League	500.00
Loaves & Fishes Chilhowie Area Food Pantry	500.00
March of Dimes	1,000.00
Marion Little League	500.00
Marion Primary School	520.00
Marion PTO	300.00
Marion Senior High School	2,800.00
Marion Weekday Religious Education	1,000.00
Mt. Rogers Shelter Home	500.00
Northwood High School	500.00
Rich Valley Elementary School	500.00
Veterans Care Center	300.00
Habitat for Humanity	500.00
Smyth County School Board	1,000.00
American Red Cross	517.20
Boy Scouts Mountain Empire District	500.00
Marion Dixie Baseball	500.00
S.C.A.L.E.	785.00
Saltville Elementary School	400.00
Smyth Bland Children Library	300.00
Smyth County Free Clinic	500.00
Marion Recreation Department	960.75
David Ewald (Eastern Kentucky University)	1,000.00
American Diabetes Association	30.00
Boy Scouts Troop 93	200.00
Marion Rotary Club (After prom party)	200.00
Junior National Leadership Conference	150.00
Saturday Youth Bowling League	150.00
Girl Scout Troop 304	150.00

Total: **\$21,127.95**

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Sunday, May 30, 2004, 2:00 PM was another important milestone in the life of VFW Post 4667 with the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at the Post Home.

The purpose for building this Veterans Memorial is to pay tribute to the patriotic sacrifices of the past, to help us appreciate the freedoms we enjoy today, and to inspire future generations to continue to defend our Nation with willingness to sacrifice and endure as our ancestor have done.

With over 1,000 guests in attendance, Commander Bill Sword presided over a very soul touching dedication of the Veterans Memorial.

Greeting visitors to the dedication ceremony was the Marion Volunteer Fire Departments presentation of a very large American flag; which they flew from the extended ladder of one of their fire engines.

Prelude – Marion Senior High School Band; Presiding – VFW Post 4667 Commander Bill Sword, Presenting of Colors – VFW Post 4667 Color Guard; National Anthem – Marion Senior High School Band; Invocation – Bill Baldwin, Post 4667 Chaplain Elect; Welcome and Introductions – Commander Bill Sword; Introduction of Speaker – Roy McNeil, Post 4667 Trustee; Memorial Day Speaker – Dan Boyer, State Jr. Vice Commander, Department of Virginia; Patriotic Songs – Rev. Mike Sage, Freedom Tabernacle Baptist Church; Memorial Dedication – Commander Bill Sword; Placing of Wreath – James Mason, Post 4667 member, Jack Post, Post 18 American Legion, and James Greer, Chapter 39 Disabled American Veterans; Honor Guard Salute – VFW Post 4667 Honor Guard; Benediction – Bill Baldwin; Taps – Noel Collins; Recessional – Marion Senior High School Band.

Upon conclusion of the ceremony all guests were invited into the Post home to enjoy refreshments provided by the Post 4667 Ladies Auxiliary.

For those who were not able to attend, VFW Post 4667 Commander Jim Haulsee has available for purchase video tapes or cd's of the dedication ceremony. He may be contacted at 783-7971 for further information.

We would like to thank the memorial committee for their hard work and dedication on making the memorial become a reality. An outstanding job was done by all.

The Price of Freedom

America's Wars: Veteran's and Casualties (Up to 1991)

American Revolution (1775–1783)	
Total service members	217,000
Battle deaths	4,435
Nonmortal woundings	6,188
War of 1812 (1812–1815)	
Total service members	286,730
Battle deaths	2,260
Nonmortal woundings	4,505
Indian Wars (approx. 1817–1898)	
Total service members	106,000 ¹

Battle deaths	1,000 ¹
Mexican War (1846–1848)	
Total service members	78,718
Battle deaths	1,733
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	11,550
Nonmortal woundings	4,152
Civil War (1861–1865)	
Total service members (Union)	2,213,363
Battle deaths (Union)	140,414
Other deaths in service (nontheater) (Union)	224,097
Nonmortal woundings (Union)	281,881
Total service members (Confederate)	1,050,000
Battle deaths (Confederate)	74,524
Other deaths in service (nontheater) (Conf.)	59,297 ²
Nonmortal woundings (Conf.)	unknown
Spanish-American War (1898–1902)	
Total service members	306,760
Battle deaths	385
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	2,061
Nonmortal woundings	1,662
World War I (1917–1918)	
Total service members	4,734,991
Battle deaths	53,402
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	63,114
Nonmortal woundings	204,002
World War II (1940–1945)	
Total service members	16,112,566
Battle deaths	291,557
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	113,842
Nonmortal woundings	671,846
Korean War (1950–1953)	
Total service members	5,720,000
Battle deaths	33,686
Other deaths in service (theater)	2,830
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	17,730
Nonmortal woundings	103,284
Vietnam War (1964–1975)	

Total service members	9,200,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia	3,100,000
Battle deaths	47,410
Other deaths in service (theater)	10,788
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	32,000
Nonmortal woundings	153,303
Gulf War (1990–1991)	
Total service members	2,322,332
Deployed to Gulf	1,136,658
Battle deaths	148
Other deaths in service (theater)	235
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	914
Nonmortal woundings	467
America's Wars Total	
Military service during war	42,348,460
Battle deaths	650,954
Other deaths in service (theater)	13,853
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	229,661
Nonmortal woundings	1,431,290
Living war veterans	19,421,266 ¹
Living veterans	25,497,691 ¹

1. Veterans Administration estimate.

2. Estimated figure. Does not include 26,000–31,000 who died in Union prisons.

Source: Department of Defense and Veterans Administration, May 2001.

American Prisoners of War

Congress defines a former prisoner of war as a person who, while serving on active military, naval, or air service, was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or a hostile force, during a period of war or in situations comparable to war. Less than half (40%) of the Americans held prisoner in the last six conflicts are now living.

	Total	WWI	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Persian Gulf	Somalia
Captured and interned	142,257	4,120	130,201	7,140	772	23	1
Returned to U.S. military control	125,202	3,973	116,129	4,418	658	23	1
Refused repatriation	21	0	0	21	0	0	0
Died while POW	17,034	147	14,072	2,701	144	0	0
Alive, Jan. 1998	55,999	5	52,531	2,814	625	23	1

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

VETERANSS AND RADIATION-RISK STUDIES

Beginning March 26, 2002, veterans who participated in "radiation-risk activities" while in the military and have been diagnosed with cancer of the bone, brain, colon, lung and ovary will have an easier time establishing their eligibility to receive government aid. In 1988 Congress established a presumption of service connection for 13 cancers, including cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, gall bladder, bile ducts, salivary gland, and urinary tract in veterans exposed to "ionizing radiation." Congress later expanded that list to 16.

In addition, VA announced that radiation-risk activities has been expanded to include veterans assigned to Amchitka Island, Alaska, before Jan, 1, 1974, who performed duties related to underground nuclear testing and service at three gaseous diffusion plants: Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and K25 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Previously, illnesses associated with radiation exposure was limited to service members who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki; those who were onsite at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and American POWs interred in Japan during World War II.

For help in filing a claim, contact a VFW Service Officer at (202) 543-2239. To locate a service officer in your area, visit: <http://206.246.115.210/NVS/sor.htm>.

FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS)

Who are former prisoners of war?

Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans, including 85 women, have been captured and interned as POWs. Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost or never recovered. Only one third of America's former POWs since World War I are still living (about 36,500). More than 90% of living former POWs were captured and interned during World War II. Over 21,000 former POWs are in receipt of compensation for service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses.

In 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-37 entitled "Former Prisoners of War Benefit Act." This law accomplished several things. It established an Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War and mandated medical and dental care. It also identified certain diagnoses as presumptive service-connected conditions for former POWs. Subsequent public laws and policy decisions by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs have added additional diagnoses to the list of presumptive conditions.

What are the presumptive conditions for former POWs?

Today, former POWs are generally entitled to a presumption of service-connection for five diseases, regardless of the length of captivity, if manifested to a degree of 10 percent or more after discharge or release from active military, naval or air service. These diseases are:

- Psychosis
- Dysthymic disorder, or depressive neurosis
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
- Any of the Anxiety States
- Cold Injury

If a former POW was interned for 30 days or more, the following additional diseases are presumed to be service-connected:

- Avitaminosis
- Chronic Dysentery
- Helminthiasis
- Malnutrition, including associated Optic Atrophy
- Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Ischemic Heart Disease*
- Beriberi
- Cirrhosis of the Liver
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Pellagra and any other nutritional deficiency
- Peripheral Neuropathy, except where directly related to infectious causes

* *Ischemic Heart Disease (coronary artery disease), applies to former POWs who suffered from edema (swelling of the legs or feet) during captivity, also known as "wet" beriberi.*

How should a former POW apply for VA Compensation?

Former POWs can apply for Compensation for their service-connected injuries, diseases or illnesses by completing VA Form 21-526 (Veterans Application for Compensation or Pension), and submitting it to the VA regional office serving their. They can also apply on the Internet at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

Are there medical benefits for POWs?

The VA health care system affords priority treatment for former POWs. Those who have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA health care. This includes hospital, nursing home, and outpatient treatment. Former POWs who do not have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA hospital and nursing home care – without regard to their ability to pay. They are also eligible for outpatient care on a priority basis – second only to veterans with service-connected disabilities. While former POWs are receiving treatment in an approved outpatient treatment program, they are eligible for needed medicines, glasses, hearing aids, or prostheses. They are also eligible for all needed dental care. There is no co-payment requirement for former POWs at VA pharmacies.

Are there benefits for survivors of former POWs?

Yes. The major benefit is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) which is a monthly benefit payable to the surviving spouse (and the former POW's children and parents in some cases) when the former POW:

- was a service member who died on active duty; *or*
- died from service-related disabilities; *or*
- died on or before September 30, 1999 *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 10 years immediately preceding death; *or*
- died after September 30, 1999, *and* was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 1 year immediately preceding death.

DIC is terminated for a surviving spouse who remarries, but can be resumed if the remarriage ends in death, divorce or annulment.

Also, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC.

However, a surviving spouse who remarried *before* December 16, 2003, *and on or after* attaining age 57, must apply no later than December 15, 2004, to have DIC restored. VA must deny applications received after that date.

Are there related benefits for former POWs and their dependents/survivors?

The following are other significant VA benefits to which certain veterans may be entitled: disability pension, medical care, education and training, home loan guaranty, and burial benefits. Certain disabled veterans may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation and employment services, insurance, clothing allowance, special adapted housing assistance, and specially adapted automobile equipment. Certain dependents/survivors may be entitled to health care, death pension, education and training, home loan guaranty, and burial in a national cemetery. See other VA fact sheets on those benefits, or contact VA for more information.

Is special assistance available to former POWs?

Each VA Regional Office has a coordinator for former POWs. Any former POW who needs special assistance should ask to speak to the Former POW Coordinator. Additional former POW information is available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm>.

VETERANS BURIAL AND PLOT-INTERMENT ALLOWANCES

What Is A VA Burial Allowance?

A VA burial allowance is a partial reimbursement of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- ✧ you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral **AND**
- ✧ you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer **AND**
- ✧ the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- ✧ the veteran died because of a service-related disability **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay **OR**
- ✧ the veteran died in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay?

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$1,500 toward burial expenses for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. For deaths on or after September 11, 2001, VA will pay \$2,000. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the deceased may be reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$150 plot interment allowance for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$300 for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the deceased's remains may be reimbursed.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Allowance. You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid.

14TH ANNUAL VFW POST 4667 ROY ERNEST MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Roy Ernest was a Post Trustee for many years and Post Commander from July 1978 until his death on June 13, 1982. He started the post's life membership program.

Where: Holston Hill County Club, Marion, Virginia
When: Tuesday, September 9, 2004. Tee Time: 11:00 AM
Format: Captain's choice. Four man teams will be determined by the Tournament Committee.
Play from Gold Tees.

- Rules:
1. Each team must use at least one (1) tee shot from every member on each regulation 9 holes. Mark your score card to indicate this choice.
 2. You may place the ball for every shot within one club length of the chosen ball no closer to the hole. Ball cannot be removed from the rough, hazard, or placed onto green.
 3. When putting, you may tap-in without penalty.
 4. Three man teams - Each player will alternate putting twice upon reaching the green, but only three shots will be played elsewhere.

Prizes: 1st Place \$100.00 Gift Certificate (4 @ \$25.00)
2nd Place \$60.00 Gift Certificate (4 @ \$15.00)
3rd place \$40.00 Gift Certificate (4 @ \$10.00)

Prizes for nearest to pin on par 3 holes and longest drive.

Hamburgers on the patio from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

ENTRY FORM: Cut along dotted line and returned to VFW Post 4667, PO Box 767,
Marion, Virginia 24354

ELIGIBILITY: VFW MEMBER TIME: September 9, 2004 – 11:00 AM

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

TOWN/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HANDICAP: _____ Holston Hill Country Club Members.

***** OR *****

HANDICAP: _____ LOWEST SCORE: _____ WHERE?? _____

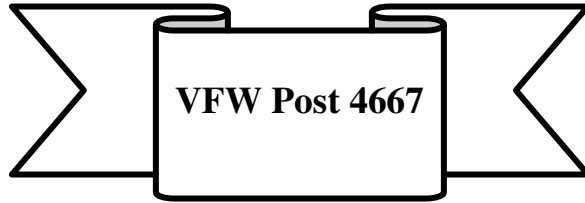
ENTRY FEE: Holston Hills Country Club Members\$15.00

Non-HHCC Members\$30.00

Make Check Payable to VFW Post 4667 Golf Tournament

*****PLEASE RETURN BEFORE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004 *****

Only a veteran has earned the right to belong to the VFW. We are proud of our motto: "*We honor the dead by helping the living.*" If you know of a veteran that is not a member, please make an effort to sign them up. You can pick-up a membership application at our next meeting.



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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POST NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2004