



The Swamp Fox

VFW Post 4667 Newsletter

March 2003

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



Inside This Issue

- 2 - Commanders Corner
- 2 - Welcome to New Members
- 2 - A Word From the Chaplain
- 2 - Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail
- 3 - Taps
- 3 - News From the Auxiliary
- 4 - Donations
- 4 - Voice of Democracy
- 4 - Scholarships
- 5 - Volunteers
- 5 - Salvation Army Red Kettle
- 6 - Old Folks are Worth a Fortune
- 6 - The Lament of a Senior Citizen
- 6 - Service in the Persian Gulf

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

Comrades let us remember our troops, as the possibility of war in the Middle East grows ever so closer. As we witness an increase in protests against a possible war, let us not forget that *no sane person wants war*. Let's also not forget that the freedom to protest has been made possible by people, such as my fellow comrades, who have proudly fought to protect our freedom and rights. I feel that these protesters fail to remember the reason that they are able to protest so openly and freely. *Freedom has a price*. There comes a time when one must consider the long term affect of leaving a corrupt and brutal regime in power which threatens the stability of the Middle East and the safety of democratic societies around the world.

U.S. military forces have given their lives to liberate France not once but twice in the past century as a result of another corrupt and brutal regime. Now faced with the prospect of war, France sits on the sidelines while American and British military forces unselfishly put their lives on the line to ensure world stability. I wonder - *Will the French people ever wake up and face reality*. We hear repeatedly "Give inspections time to work". I proudly support our President and also believe that time has run out – Inspections have run their course. It is time that we disarm those regimes of tyranny and brutality for the safety of all mankind. May god continue to bless the United States of America and our troops.

Comrades you have heard the saying time flies when you're having fun. I must be having more than my fair share. It seems like only yesterday that I was addressing the subject of membership during last years August meeting. We are making progress in achieving our goal of 100% for 2003, the goal is 1,017 and I know this is attainable provided we work together. As of February 13th we have a total paid membership of 963. We need only 54 members to pay their 2003 dues and our goal will have been met. I have a listing of the unpaid members. If you are interested in helping to contact these members, please give me a call at 783-7971. To all who have paid, *Thank You*.

I offer a special thanks to all of those who continue to give of their time and energy to make this post so great. Last but not least, I offer a hardy congratulation to Archie Cornett and Porter Heath for their outstanding accomplishments and efforts toward our membership drive.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Howell, Charles H
Peters, Carsone

Peters, Carson E.
Ross, Joshua M

A WORD FROM THE CHAPLAIN

A moment of meditation. During His canthy life Jesus graciously welcomed all who came to Him with humility and faith. Little children were welcomed, publicans and sinners were welcomed, and even shunned lepers found a warm welcome with Him.

Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out". What a glorious privilege we have!—Chaplain, Haskin Kinser

RIFLE SQUAD AND FUNERAL DETAIL

For the year January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2003 the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail has participated in 56 funerals (23 VFW members and 33 Non-members), 22 Color Guard details, volunteered 1,936 man-hours, and driven 19,951 miles.

We sincerely thank the below listed members of the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail for giving of their time to pay tribute to our fellow veterans who have honorably served their country. Regardless of weather conditions these fine men have always been there to honor those who have served. (Member name/attendance for 2002)

RIFLE SQUAD AND FUNERAL DETAIL (Cont.)

Curtis Anderson	3	Robert Barker	12	Major Bowen	55
Richard Dolinger	22	Joe Ellis	27	Roy Gullion	16
James Hampton	21	Claude Harris	41	James Haulsee	32
Claude Heath	9	Porter Heath	60	Robert Hill	9
Turk Johnson	10	Robert Jones	28	Haskin Kinser	37
Edward Kuhn	26	Otis Long	49	Marshall McGrady	1
Cecil Pafford	36	Ed Pennington	22	Roy Pennington	3
Odell Sheets	9	Abe Slemp	16	Charles Thomas	17
Benjamin Umbarger	33	Max Waak	18		

As of December 1, 2002 the Rifle Squad and Funeral Detail have participated in 7 funerals and 1 Color Guard detail where the Colors were presented at the Sugar Grove Christmas parade.

TAPS

With sincere sadness and regret that 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.

08-31-01	Daniel, Charles W. Sr.	PO Box 721	Ridgeland, SC	29936
10-14-02	Miller, Lynn W.	571 Friendly Circle	Marion	24354
11-14-02	Patton, Samuel M (L)	402 Hulldale Ave.	Marion	24354
11-16-02	Osborne, John t. Jr. (L)	763 Apple Valley Rd.	Marion	24354
11-17-02	Mize, Roy E. (L)	313 Lincoln Ave.	Marion	24354
11-18-02	Terry, William L. (L)	2312 Scratch Gravel Rd.	Marion	24354
11-19-02	Goetzinger, Delbert	1459 Cedar Springs Rd.	Sugar Grove	24375
11-22-02	Hayes, Irvin	912 Fairview Dr. S.W.	Lenoir, NC	28645
11-30-02	Darnell, James H. (L)	820 Cumberland St.	Marion	24354
12-09-02	Hudson, Jack C.	321 Patton Ave.	Marion	24354
12-10-02	McKinney, Ira M.	106 Rowland Creek Lane	Marion	24354
01-02-03	Hutton, Hubert G. (L)	317 Currin Valley Rd.	Marion	24354
01-06-03	Combs, Roy James	8723 Granite Springs Rd.	Spotsylvania	22553
01-23-03	Miller, Deward B.	1330 N. Main St.	Marion	24354
01-27-03	Cave, John M. (L)	522 Keller Lane	Marion	24354
02-07-03	Owens, Ralph H.	323 Knight Rd.	Rural Retreat	24368

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

Ladies if you haven't paid your dues will you please send them in. Send to: Lena Wyatt, 628 Railroad Drive, Marion, VA, 24354 or Della Kinser, 805 Chatham Hill Rd., Marion, VA, 24354.

If you are a life member and haven't paid your \$4.95 cancer money, please do so.

We will be having a cake raffle at the VFW post home for six Saturday nights before Easter, at the bingo. Please ladies help us out. Make some cakes. It will start March 15th through April 19th. Bring cakes to the VFW on Saturday from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM. We will appreciate this.

Our meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We will meet at 2:00 PM at the Post Home until April and then in April we will go back to night. We will meet at 7:00 PM and the Post home in April.—Della Kinser, President.

DONATIONS

For the period of November 1, 2002 to January 31, 2003 the following donations have been made to our communities:

Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen

Jordon Burrows.....	\$200.00
Nathan Roberts.....	150.00
Lori Carlton.....	100.00
Marion Middle School	200.00
Brian Rice	300.00
Lindsay Surber	200.00
Nathan Chambers.....	100.00
Travis Terry	100.00
Marion Senior High School	200.00

Scholarships

Gardner Webb University	\$1,000.00
Virginia Tech	1,000.00
Emory & Henry College	1,000.00
Wytheville Community College	500.00

Other Donations

Marion Weekday Religious Education	\$1,000.00
Smyth Supervised Living Service.....	200.00
Northwood High School	250.00
Boy Scouts Troop 190	150.00
Salvation Army	101.85
Chilhowie Baptist Church.....	30.00
American Cancer Society	30.00
Mt. Rogers Shelter Home	30.00
Chilhowie High School.....	200.00
Marion Senior High School	500.00
Saltville Little League.....	500.00
TOTAL	\$8,041.85

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

The winners for the 2003-2003 year contest were:

First Place	Brian T. Rice	Marion Senior High School	\$300.00
Second Place	Lindsay M. Surber	Chilhowie Senior High School	200.00
Runner-up	Nathan Chambers	Marion Senior High School	100.00
Runner-up	Travis Terry	Chilhowie Senior High School	100.00

Marion Senior High School sponsor:	Annette Scott	\$200.00
Chilhowie Senior High School sponsor:	Joyce Untiedt	200.00

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Post has approved the awarding of three scholarships for \$2,000.00 each to a first year student attending a four-year college or university and three scholarships for \$500.00 each for a first year student attending a two-year community college.

SCHOLARSHIPS (Cont.)

Scholarship applications will be available at the guidance counselor's office at each Smyth County Public High School, from the Commander's office at VFW Post 4667 or by contacting Roy McNeil at McNeil Furniture Company at 227 East Main St., Marion, VA, 24354. Applications will be available March 15th, 2003.

Any student is eligible and does not have to attend a Smyth County Public School.

VOLUNTEERS

- 1). Money donated to our communities comes from Bingo.
- 2). Bingo players make Bingo possible.
- 3). VFW volunteers run Bingo night.
- 4). No new VFW volunteers to help with Bingo, then number 1) may be significantly impacted!

We need volunteers to help with Bingo night PERIOD!!!

See John Thompson or Commander Sword to volunteer.

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE

As chairperson of the Smyth County Unit of the Salvation Army, I would like to thank each person who helped with the Red Kettle Drive. It takes many people to make it a success and each job is important.

I especially want to thank everyone who rang the bell or just sat with a kettle, because most people just do not put money in the kettle if someone isn't there to smile and say Thank You.

In many ways it was a hard winter, it was really COLD and WINDY out there.

We did not reach our goal of \$50,000.00, but we did exceed \$35,000.00. Our final count was \$35,506.89.

We had several problems this year, it was a short season and I should have been aware of that, so we could have begun the drive earlier and I wasn't. My mistake. We lost Big A in Chilhowie, we were limited to 14 days at Wal Mart, the weather was cold and the economy isn't doing well. All things considered I think we did well.

I want to thank the membership of VFW Post 4667 for the generous donation of \$1,000.00 and for all the other help.

What really impresses me about the Red Kettle drive in Smyth County is the way the people in the community support the Red Kettle. People of all walks of life take their turn with the Kettle.

This is the result of the VFW members encouraging their friends and families to be Bell Ringers. (In Maryland I always saw a uniformed member of the Salvation Army ringing the bell in the mall, never anyone from the community)

I am aware that the success of the Salvation Army here is the direct result of the efforts of the VFW members. I appreciate all that you do.—Sue Thompson.

OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE

With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs. I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old dog. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, will power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed –with Ben Gay. What a Life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do – all the time. No matter where I am – in the parlor, up-stairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?" – Submitted by Jim. D. Haulsee

THE LAMENT OF A SENIOR CITIZEN

Everything is farther away now than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner and I've noticed they have added a hill.

I've given up running for the bus. It leaves faster than it used to, and it seems to me they are making the stairs steeper than in the old days. And have you noticed the smaller print in the newspaper? There is no need in asking anyone to read aloud. Everyone speaks in such a low tone I can hardly hear them. The material in our clothes is so skimpy and it is almost impossible to reach down to put my shoes on.

Even people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand people my age are so much older looking than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day and she had aged so much she didn't recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor thing while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing to, I glanced at my own reflection. Confound it, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to! – Submitted by Jim. D. Haulsee

SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF

Military personnel who served in the Gulf War have had a significantly higher incidence of undiagnosed illnesses than those who were not deployed to the theatre of operations.

Persian Gulf veterans have reported suffering from one or more symptoms that include fatigue, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, rashes and pains in muscles and joints. The symptoms range in severity from barely detectable to completely debilitating. There have been no single accepted diagnosis or group of diagnoses identified that describes and explains these symptoms although some of the possible causes are suspected to be associated with multiple environmental exposures.

What is "Persian Gulf Syndrome" or "Gulf War Syndrome"?

These are terms used to describe symptoms and illnesses reported by individuals who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia in 1990-91. Researchers are considering many possible causes including, but not limited to:

What is "Persian Gulf Syndrome" or "Gulf War Syndrome"? (Cont.)

Oil, smoke and other petrochemical agents

- Leishmaniasis (Sand flies)
- Pyridostigmine bromide, malaria prophylaxis and other prophylactic drug treatments;
- Inoculations (Anthrax, botulism, etc.)
- Infections
- Chemicals
- Pesticides
- Microwaves
- Depleted uranium
- Pyridostigmine bromide
- Chemical and biological warfare agents.
- Contaminated food and water obtained in the Persian Gulf

What are some of the symptoms associated with Gulf War Syndrome?

Gulf War veterans have commonly reported that they suffer from a wide range of symptoms, including:

- Chronic fatigue
- Skin rash
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Memory loss and difficulty concentrating
- Shortness of breath
- Sleep disturbances
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Chest pain
- Flu-like conditions
- Sinus congestion
- Post nasal drip
- Hair loss
- Loose teeth, sore and/or bleeding gums
- Dizziness, vertigo

Who is eligible for compensation?

Veterans serving on active military duty in Southwest Asia from Aug. 2, 1990, until Congress or the president ends the war (38 USC Section 101(33)) and were assigned to duty in the following areas:

- Kuwait
- Iraq
- Arabia
- The neutral zone (between Iraq and Saudi Arabia)
- Bahrain
- Qatar
- The United Arab Emirates
- Oman
- Gulf of Aden
- Gulf of Oman
- Waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and the Red Sea

I am a Gulf War veteran. What services will the VA provide for me?

Health-care services will be provided to veterans who, while serving on active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, may have been, or were, exposed to a toxic substance or environmental hazard. All Gulf War veterans, even if feeling healthy, are encouraged to visit a VA facility for a comprehensive physical evaluation.

Such health-care services will be provided without regard to the veteran's age, service-connected status or ability of the veteran to defray the expenses of such care.

Veterans furnished outpatient care under this authority receive priority medical care equal to former Prisoners of War who are receiving care for non service-connected conditions.

VA operates a toll-free hotline at **1-800-749-8387** to answer Gulf War veterans' questions and to assist them with referrals to VA facilities for medical care if needed.

I served in the Gulf War. Do I automatically receive disability compensation?

No. You must first receive a comprehensive health examination, available at no-cost at a VA medical facility.

What is the Gulf War Registry Program?

The Gulf War Registry program is an active outreach program for Gulf War veterans to share information with other Gulf War veterans and other interested individuals.

Veterans who choose to participate are asked about their medical history, their experiences in the Gulf War, including possible exposures to environmental hazards, and health problems they have had since returning from the Gulf region. Once registered, participants receive priority health care at VA facilities. They also are notified of any Gulf War-related medical developments, benefit changes and related matters.

Can an ill Gulf War veteran get medical treatment at VA for his or her medical problems?

In 1993, at VA request, Congress enacted Public Law 103-210, giving Gulf War veterans special eligibility for VA health care for medical conditions possibly related to their Gulf War experience.

Eligible individuals can apply by calling the VA Gulf War Veterans Help line at **1-800-PGW-VETS**.

Can the spouses and children of Gulf War veterans get free medical examinations?

Yes. To be eligible to participate in this VA-funded effort, an individual must:

- Be the spouse or child of a veteran listed in the VA registry, and suffer from an illness or disorder;
- Be suffering from, or may have suffered from an illness or disorder (including a birth defect, miscarriage, or stillbirth) which could be connected to the veteran's service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations; and
- Have granted VA permission to include in the registry medical information from the evaluation.

What happens if a Gulf War veteran has symptoms that cannot be diagnosed by doctors at the local VA medical center?

While most veterans can be diagnosed and treated at their local VA medical center, some have conditions that are unusual and difficult to diagnose. Sometimes this requires continued testing and observation by a team of specialists. The local VA physician may refer these veterans to a special VA Gulf War referral center.

Is an infectious agent making Gulf War veterans ill?

Many fewer infectious diseases occurred during the Gulf War than in any previous war. However, in 1991, a small number of Gulf War veterans returned from Southwest Asia with infectious diseases that have been diagnosed and treated. Infections with viruses, mycoplasma, microsporidia and various bacteria are among the agents hypothesized but not conclusively shown to be related to chronic multi-symptom illnesses experienced by many Gulf War veterans.

Extensive medical testing by the DoD, VA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and academic medical centers have not found a link between infectious agents and the chronic, as yet unexplained, illnesses of Gulf War veterans.

Can a veteran be compensated for illnesses related to Gulf War service?

Yes. Since early 1995, VA has been providing special compensation payments to chronically disabled Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. This benefit was expanded under an April 29, 1997, regulation that essentially eliminated the date of initial manifestation of latent symptoms as a consideration in adjudication through the end of the year 2001. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

Gulf War veterans who have illnesses that developed in or made worse during their military service should file a claim for disability compensation. Completing the Gulf War Registry health examination is not the same as filing a claim for compensation.

VFW Service Officer, located throughout the United States, can provide the application and any needed assistance. To find a VFW Service Officer visit: <http://www.vfwdc.org/NVS/sor.htm> or call National Veterans Service Phone: **(202) 543-2239**.

How do I submit a claim?

Veterans who wish to submit a claim for conditions possibly related to Persian Gulf service should file a claim via the normal claims process through a Veterans Benefits Counselor (VBC) at the nearest VA medical center or regional office. For help in filing a compensation claim, contact a VFW Service Officer. To find one in your area, go to <http://www.vfwdc.org/NVS/sor.htm>.

What is the period for filing a claim?

In light of the continuing scientific and medical inquiry into the nature and cause of undiagnosed illnesses suffered by Gulf War veterans, the continuing military operations in the Gulf region, and the new claims still being received from Gulf War veterans, the presumptive period for disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses that become manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more through December 31, 2006.

I would like a veterans' service agency to help me in filing a claim. Where can I go for help?

Anyone can contact the VFW's Tactical Assessment Center **(1-800-VFW-1899)** for assistance in resolving treatment or compensation problems involving issues on Gulf War Undiagnosed Illnesses.

I would like a veterans' service agency to help me in filing a claim. Where can I go for help? (Cont.)

The VFW directly assists individual Gulf War veterans (and family members as necessary) in claims with the VA. We are committed to ensuring quality representation and VA decision-making. Along this line, the national VFW staff will soon begin to review and analyze VA regional office rating decisions on disability claims from Gulf War veterans represented by the VFW.

Are there any new developments that link Gulf War Syndrome to a particular disease?

Recently, some concern has arisen regarding a possible increased rate of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig 's Disease) among veterans who served in the Gulf War. In response, VA began a new investigation to determine if they show a higher than expected rate of ALS, a neurological disease, which results in degeneration of the nervous system. To find out more, click here <http://www.vfw.org/news/gulfwarvets.htm>

Where can I find out more about Gulf War Syndrome?

VA's Gulf War Review newsletter provides detailed information on Gulf War Syndrome. Veterans who are part of the Gulf War Registry automatically are mailed this periodical. Anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list, should send his or her name and address to the following address: **VACO, Gulf War Review, Environmental Agents Service (131), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420**

VA operates a toll-free hotline at **1-800-749-8387** to answer Gulf War veterans' questions and to assist them with referrals to VA facilities for medical care if needed.

Useful links:

The VA Gulf War Veterans' Website: <http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/>
Department of Defense GulfLINK Website: <http://www.gulfink.osd.mil>

Useful phone numbers:

VFW National Veterans Service Phone: **(202) 543-2239**
DoD Incident Reporting Line: **1-800-497-6261**
DoD Gulf War Medical Registry (CCEP): **1-800-796-9699**
Veterans' Affairs Registry: **1-800-749-8387 (PGW-VETS)**

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...***

