

POST 30 NEWS



Hezzie Griffis Post 30
314 Penn Street, PO Box 30, Edgefield, SC 29824

alpost30sc@gmail.com
www.alpost30sc.org
www.facebook.com/ALPost30SC



Commander's Comments

The building committee requests that all who volunteered to assist in checking the Post before and after rentals gather at the Post on Thursday, February 8, at 5:30 PM. We'll go over the checklist for pre and post-rental checks and sort out a schedule for the year. With our regular rentals and the members who volunteered, it looks like we might only need to pitch in two to three times this year. Your support makes all the difference.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or have any veteran oriented events you'd like to highlight, please send us an email – alpost30sc@gmail.com.

-- Tommy Tripp, Post 30 Commander

Adjutant Advisory

Quick update on our 2024 dues – we're at a solid 79%, but we're aiming for 85% by Feb 14. If you haven't paid up yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Your timely contributions play a key role in our tradition of achieving 100% dues paid each year. Let's keep the streak going strong!

Our annual dues are \$55.00. We accept cash or check, and you can turn in your dues to me at our monthly meeting or you can mail your check, made payable to American Legion Post 30, to:

American Legion Post 30
P.O. Box 30
Edgefield, SC 29824

You can also pay your dues on-line by going to Mylegion.org.

Thank you for being part of our Post 30 family.
-- Jane Doolittle, Post 30 Adjutant

Chaplain's Corner

FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS

Maybe you know the story of the Four Immortal Chaplains. It was during WWII on February 3, 1942, when US Army transport ship "Dorchester" was sunk by the Germans in the icy Atlantic waters near Greenland. There were not enough life vests for all on board, so these four Chaplains each gave up their own to save lives of others. They were last seen by survivors linking arms and singing hymns as the ship sank into the sea.

What made these Chaplains and their story immortal was their cooperation and sacrifice. George Fox was a Methodist, Alexander Goode was a Rabbi, Clark Poling was Dutch Reformed, and John Washington was a Catholic Priest. Yet in service to their country in a time of immediate crisis, they gave no second thought as to what needed to be done. They willingly joined together to save others' lives.

They are a true example of heroism, selfless service, sacrifice, humility, cooperation, and focus on the higher calling. They are remembered in February every year. Their story is legend.

At a time in 2024 when our nation seems more divided than ever, these Four Immortal Chaplains remind us what duty to God and Country looks like. It means to keep the important things the

priority, especially the eternal things. It means to find the way towards cooperation. When our goal is to serve others with our very best, it gives us opportunity for cooperation. Rather than sorting people according to religious beliefs or political views, as Legionnaires we can join together to serve others with our very best. I believe that my oath to serve God and Country never expires. I enjoy the way Veterans with different views from different eras and different branches of service can come together to serve our community! Cheers to the Four Immortal Chaplains! And cheers to you! I am happy to continue serving with you!

-- William Beaver, Post 30 Chaplain

Legionnaire of the Quarter



William "Bill" Jenison was born in 1938 at home in Langley, SC. His mother was a stay-at-home mom and his father worked in a local cotton mill. Their upbringing and guidance, along with his sister and brother, were instrumental in how he lived his life and any accomplishments achieved.

When Bill finished LBC High School in 1956, he was accepted at Georgia Tech for an engineering degree and ROTC. After a year at Tech he transferred to Clemson and graduated with a BS in Industrial Engineering and a 2nd Lt rank in the Army.

His first Army assignment included support to military families in Bad Kreuznach, Germany in the early 1960s. Later assignments were in Vietnam

during the war in 1967-1969 that included POL support to US II Corps during the first tour and as the US POL advisor to the South Vietnamese Army during the second tour. From there, assignments included duty in the Pentagon as the Army POL staff officer and in the Netherlands as the Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) POL staff officer. While on active duty, he completed an MS degree at Virginia Tech.

After retiring from the Army in 1983 as Lt Col, he worked for the Navy as a DoD civilian for about 15 years. This position was support to NAVAIR program managers with cost and schedule management in the development of fighter aircraft. While at NAVAIR he completed an MS degree from the University of Southern California. Subsequently, he worked for NASA supporting schedule management in the development of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWSST), which was to explore space beyond any capabilities available at that time.

February is Americanism Month

Americanism is defined as, "an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the U.S. flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Our forefathers laid the foundation for a civilization that is the envy of the world. It has brought us greater spiritual and material wealth than any people has ever known. This is our heritage".

In the past year, Post 30 has embraced Americanism by supporting a few of the American Legion Action Programs. We sent three young men to Boys State, hosted our first-ever Oratorical Contest, and shared the rich history and traditions of our flag with students at Wardlaw Academy and JET Middle School. Thanks to all the volunteers who made these programs happen! Let's keep the momentum going and continue nurturing our heritage together.

Rifle Raffle Fundraiser

The 2024 Rifle Raffle is underway, and the tickets practically sell themselves! For those unfamiliar, the American Legion Department of SC hosts this annual fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the department and participating posts. Tickets are \$25 apiece and each post retains \$10. Drawings begin on July 10, featuring a total of 52 rifles given away, two daily until August 4. Last year, we raised \$640, and this year, we want to surpass that. If you'd like to help us sell or snag a ticket for yourself, please let us know – your participation makes a significant impact!

American Legion Oratorical Contest

The contest was a resounding success. The room came alive when the contestants took the stage. They captivated the audience with their speeches that were rooted in the principles of the U.S. Constitution. We express our gratitude to Edgefield United Methodist Church and to the volunteers for making the event a success. Our contestant, Piper Kerlin, will compete in the quadrant level which will be held on 10 Feb beginning at 1000 at Greenwood Post 20, located at Greenwood County Veterans Affairs Office, 106 Main St North, Greenwood, SC. We encourage you to support Piper and attend if you're available. Also, you can view pictures and read about our contest on our website; <https://www.alpost30sc.org>

American Legion Riders – Ride on Military Pride (ROMP) 2024

ROMP is coming to SC for the first time, hosted by Post 186 in Little River. It's happening from June 20-23. While it's not open to the public, it's an exclusive American Legion event for Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, and Riders, plus their guests. If you have a bike and would like to ride, you'll need a sponsor. Good news: Post 71 Riders in North Augusta are offering to sponsor. Just reach out to them at 803-341-9552 or post71commander@gmail.com. For more details, check out the ROMP 2024 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ROMP2024/>

Veteran Support – Spread the Word

The Department is holding another Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC) March 21-23, 2024 at South Carolina National Guard, 1328 Old Dairy Dr, Columbia, SC.

March 21, 0900-1500 (Thursday)

March 22, 0900-1500 (Friday)

March 23, 0900-1400 (Saturday)

The VEAC is a great opportunity for eligible veterans and their dependents to be assisted by a team that includes Veteran's Organization Service Officers, Department of Veterans Affairs Benefit Officials and Healthcare Representatives. These representatives can help facilitate and *expedite* your new or existing VA disability claims, appeals, or other healthcare problems. You must come prepared with the proper documentation about your case: DD214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian.

Transfer to Post Everlasting

★ *Thurmond Burnett passed away on Friday February 2, 2024 at the age of 85. Thurmond devoted his life to the duty of tending to the needs of his community. He was the owner of the Edgefield Mercantile Funeral Home and Jennie's Flower Shop and served as the county coroner. For a span of 66 years, he stood as a pillar of support for the residents of Edgefield County, navigating them through their most trying moments. In April 2018, Thurmond was honored with the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Henry McMaster which is the highest honor given to a civilian in the state of South Carolina for his many contributions to Edgefield County and a 47-year position that made him the longest serving Coroner in South Carolina. He attended Edgefield First Baptist Church and was a lifelong member of Post 30.*

1st Vietnam War Medal Of Honor Winner Dies Jan. 25th

Col. Roger Donlon, U.S. Army, Ret., age 89, the first Medal of Honor Vietnam War recipient, died Jan. 25th, 2024, in Kansas. Wounded four times,

then captain Donlon distinguished himself in combat as a Green Beret in 1964. "*Beyond Nam Bong*" (1968) is his story. Sixty four recipients are still living: Congressional MOH Society.

This Bud's For You

Guest entry by J.W. "Pete" Peterson



Legionnaires may recall the Budweiser marketing campaign beginning in 1979 that touted "This Bud's For You." The message went on to say "There is no one who does it quite the way you do. So here's to you, you know is isn't only what you say, it's what you do."

One Bud that mirrored that cliché was Col. George Everette "Bud" Day who as a youth in 1942 dropped out of high school to enlist in the USMC. He later served in the Army reserve, Iowa Air National Guard, and the USAF, spanning WWII, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam War. He was to become the nation's most highly decorated military officer since Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and the only aviator to be awarded both the Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross.

In 1967 on his 65th mission into North Vietnam he was shot down and captured by enemy militia, only to escape and evade for fifteen days until captured again by Viet Cong. He was imprisoned for five years and seven months. John McCain, future senator and presidential candidate was his cell mate. A repatriated Day spent over a year regaining his health and with many waivers eventually returned to flight status. He retired in 1977.

During his military career, Day would complete college and graduate school, receiving masters, JD and PhD degrees. After retirement he returned to practicing law, becoming a staunch advocate of military retirees. He sued the US government over promised free lifetime medical care. As result of his effort, Congress would later pass the Tricare for Life medical benefit enjoyed today.

John McCain said of Day's death in 2013, "He was the bravest man I ever knew, and his fierce resistance and resolute leadership set the example for us in prison of how to return home with honor."

Bud Day was later posthumously advanced to brigadier general. He authored *Return With Honor, and Duty, Honor, Country* that updated his life story after his USAF career.

There can be no doubt, This Bud's For You!
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Calendar of Events

February 10 2024

Quadrant Oratorical Contest, Post 20, Greenwood, SC

February 15, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

March 21, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

March 21-23, 2024

VEAC, SCNG, 1328 Old Dairy Dr, Columbia, SC

April 18, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

NOTE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING:

You must call Jane Doolittle (803-480-1061) or email the post no later than the Monday prior to our scheduled meeting so we can have an accurate headcount for dinner.