

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

As your incoming Commander for 2024-2025, I am honored to lead our Post into the coming year. I want to express my gratitude for the trust you have placed in me and our newly elected officers.

Commander Tripp did an outstanding job leading our Post the past three years and I am committed to building upon his achievements. I extend my sincere thanks to District 17 Commander Jerome Childs for presiding over our installation ceremony on June 20th.

Our top priority this year will be to grow our membership. We will focus on engaging younger veterans, enhancing our community outreach, and forging meaningful partnerships within local businesses, schools, and the community. Expanding our membership base offers several benefits:

- Increased impact and support in our community
- Stronger advocacy for veteran issues
- Increased financial stability and fundraising capabilities
- Sustained legacy to keep our Post strong
- Diverse perspectives and skills
- Improved networking opportunities
- Enhanced credibility within our community

I'm counting on each of you to participate in our programs and initiatives. Your involvement is what makes us successful. I'm excited to work side by side with all of you as we keep Post 30's traditions alive. Let's make this a year of growth, service, and camaraderie!

-- Winston Boddie, Post 30 Commander

Adjutant Advisory

As of July 3, 2024, 6 members have already Paid their 2025 Dues, this is a great start!

As of July 1, 2024, which is the American Legion 2025 membership year, our annual American Legion Dues have **increased to \$60.00**. Renewal notices will be mailed out in July, October, January, March, and May. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is possible your July Renewal Notice will show \$55.00 instead of \$60.00 because National did not update their system timely. If your Renewal Notice shows \$55.00, please remember to pay the increased amount of \$60.00.

American Legion members can now take advantage of a three-year membership starting July 1, 2024. This is also called: Multiyear membership.

Multiyear membership sign-up is **ONLY** available on the national American Legion website (legion.org/renew for Current members). Current members **CANNOT** renew for a three-year membership at the local Post level.

A single year membership is still an option by going through me to pay your Dues.

National has set the membership goals for 2024-2025, and we're determined not just to meet them but to exceed them. Here's our roadmap to success:

- September 11 – 50%
- October 16 – 55%
- November 14 – 65%
- December 11 – 75%
- January 15, 2025 – 80%
- February 12 – 85%
- March 12 – 90%
- April 9 – 95%

- May 14 – 100%

Let's make 2024-2025 our strongest year yet! If you have questions about membership or know someone interested in joining, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

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

Chaplain's Corner

"In God We Trust"

July is when we celebrate our nation's independence from being a colony of Great Britain. While our national motto "In God We Trust" was not adopted until 1956, it is clear that our Founding Fathers acknowledged God as the source of our rights.

They wrote in our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..."

"For the support of this Declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

I pray that each of us use our freedoms for good, and to seek a relationship with God as you understand God. To continue your service not only to our community and Nation but to God. I believe that as great as our nation is, at some point in the future all we know will be gone and the Kingdom of God will be established for all eternity. There is a Higher purpose and a Higher Power. As we approach the elections this fall, I put more trust in God than ever before.

-- William Beaver, Post 30 Chaplain

Welcome Post 30 Newest Member

J.W. "Pete" Peterson, Lt. Col., US Air Force (Retired).

Pete's military career spanned 26 years, during which he served as a pilot, including a tour of duty during the Vietnam War.

Currently residing in Chandler, Arizona with his wife Sandy, Pete continues to serve our post through his frequent contributions to our newsletter. His insights and stories provide valuable perspective and keep us connected to our shared military heritage. Be sure to look for Pete's latest articles later in this edition.

We're proud to have veterans like Pete as part of our Post 30 family.

American Legion Post 30 Installs New Officers for 2024-2025

This article was published in The Edgefield Advertiser on July 3, 2024



American Legion Post 30 held its monthly meeting on June 20, 2024, during which the installation of the 2024-2025 Post Officers took place. This installation ceremony is a significant event in the American Legion, marking the transition of leadership and the continuation of the post's mission.

The ceremony was presided over by American Legion Department of South Carolina District 17 Commander Jerome Childs. Outgoing Post 30 Commander Tommy Tripp opened the meeting, and after the posting of the colors, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the American Legion Preamble, he handed over the proceedings to Commander Childs.

Before conducting the installation ceremony, Commander Childs provided an update from the American Legion Department of South Carolina spring conference held in May. Following the update, he called the new officers forward to administer the oath of office. Commander Childs conducted the ceremony, ensuring that each officer was duly sworn in and ready to assume their responsibilities for the upcoming year. He reminded the officers of their obligation to show loyalty to their post, its members, the Department of South Carolina, and the American Legion.

The new officers for the 2024-2025 are:

- Commander: Winston Boddie
- Vice Commander: Tommy Tripp
- Adjutant: Jane Doolittle
- Treasurer: Doug Timmerman
- Sergeant at Arms: Charles Ashley
- Chaplain: William Beaver
- Historian: Suzy Spurgeon
- Trustees: Roger Ellis, Alan Perano, and Luther Beason

This ceremony not only marks a new chapter in Post 30's leadership but also reinforces the organization's enduring commitment to serving veterans and the Edgefield community.

Guest Article

A Free People, Undivided, Under One Flag

The following essay was provided by Legionnaire Tom Yoder. It was written by his late grandfather Thomas P. Williams, born March 26, 1875, died September 8, 1953, who was a Spanish American War Veteran.

The American flag was born in the cradle of liberty, dyed red in the blood of the Revolutionary War. Made white through the sacrifice of Washington's starving army, its field of blue reflects the noble deeds of its many sons; its stars keep guard over us, its children.

No matter where we may be, we are always in the shadow of the flag.

As we recall the many brave men who have fought to have it, their spirits march past in countless array. We remember the message of Captain Perry on board the Niagara. "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."

We recall the many words of dying Lawrence as he exclaimed, "Don't give up the ship, boys." Who does not know those never-to-be-forgotten words of John Paul Jones, who, when the British officer asked him if he had struck his colors, replied, "I have not begun to fight." Nor do we forget the Intrepid Decatur at Tripoli.

We see those fearless few at the Alamo when Santa Anna with his 4,000 (sic) [c, 1,400] Mexicans attacked them, not one of the 172 Americans were left to tell the story; only the heaps of slain Mexicans told how dearly their victory cost them. The Spartans at Thermopylae had one left to tell the tale; the Alamo had none.

So on down through the years, the brave deeds of the men who have fought under the glorious flag are legion. Perry was carried it to the farthest north, where the northern lights keep guard over it as it waves through the long cold night of the arctic winter.

East, its starry folds kissed by the warm winds of the south sea, hold safe the route to the Far East.

Westward today, it is being carried to France, where it brings a message to the old world from the new, the message of liberty and truth, telling the free people of Europe that it, too, believes in the things they are fighting for.

So today, Old Glory is fighting side by side with the Tri-Color of France and the Union Jack of England. How it must have thrilled those Americans who had already been fighting under the flags of France and England when they saw the Stars and Stripes go by, knowing at last it had come to fight on the side of justice.

Thousands will lay their lives down in a foreign land that the tradition of the flag may live, but their deaths will not be in vain, for the Stars and Stripes will wave triumphant over the enemy.

And we who are left behind must see that those who are fighting on the field of Europe have the support of a united nation behind them. There is no East, no West, no North, no South. We are all one people under one flag.

We must all hold true to Americanism. We must have not diluted Americanism. We must all be true to the old flag; we dare not divide our allegiance with any other.

And when peace shall come and the battle worn flags return, they will bring to us a feeling that those who have fought and bled and died to save the flag have indeed fought the good fight, have fought for what the flag stands for; liberty, truth, and justice.

So when we bare our heads to the flag, let us not forget that those who have died, died that we may be a free people under one flag.

Generation Z, Where Are You?

The military recruiting outlook is grim. During Department of Defense (DOD) fiscal year 2023 ending last September, the military services collectively missed recruiting goals by about 41,000 recruits. Of the five DOD service branches, only two met active-duty enlisted recruiting goals – the Marine Corps and the

Space Force – by far the smallest services, squeaked by. The Army, Navy and Air Force all fell short.

Compare this with the period following 9/11 in 2001 when 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners and coordinated al-Qaeda Islamist suicide attacks against the United States killing near 3,000 Americans. More than 250,000 people enlisted in its wake. They joined to defend America and exact justice for the single day in 2001 that was one of our darkest.

While the response to 9/11 by our troops disrupting terrorist networks can't be discounted, the broader picture has again left Afghanistan in the hands of the Taliban, al-Qaeda dominance in Iraq, and a growing Iranian threat in the middle east and Red Sea area. Veterans of these conflicts have suffered immensely and left them and the public disillusioned. Morale is low. Officials say that that only 23 percent of young people between 17 and 24 even qualify to join the military. Even fewer have expressed the propensity to enlist.

Influencing and mentoring Generation Z -- those born between 1996 and 2014, the 14 to 28 year-olds of today -- towards service in the military is crucial. It sounds like a pillar of the American Legion mission statement to "educate, mentor and lead the new generations of Americans" doesn't it? I think so.

-- Op-Ed by J.W. 'Pete' Peterson

There's a New Kid on the Block

On December 20, 2019, the Department of Defense (DOD) gave birth to the United States Space Force (USSF), the first new branch of the armed services in 73 years. With bi-partisan passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, the now almost five-year old joined a family of older military siblings, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, as the fifth service. It should be noted that the United States Coast Guard remains under DHS, the Department of Homeland Security, as an armed force.

Birth of the Space Force consolidated then existing military space programs under a single command in recognition of a growing threat of space superiority by our adversaries. The USSF would design, acquire, field test, operate, and defend the critical space systems supporting our national interests.

Raising a newborn can be a challenge. There can be some growing pains. As we have soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, what would we call members of

the USSF? Spacies and Rockettes were out. Wookies, Homo Spaciens, Anti-Gravity Gang, Rocketmen and Floaty Bois also weren't in the running. Guardians of the Galaxy was also a submission in over 400.

Space enthusiasts and military members quickly pointed out that "Guardians" invoked Marvel Comics' "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise about a motley crew of superheroes in space. Then-Vice President Pence announced just before USSF's first birthday that "Guardians" would be the name.

Belated happy birthday, "Guardians". You just can't please everybody!

-- J.W. 'Pete' Peterson

Calendar of Events

July 18, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830. 2025. Dinner menu: Spaghetti, sweet pea salad, garlic bread and dessert.

August 15, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

August 22-29, 2024

2024 National Convention, New Orleans, LA

September 14, 2024

District 17 Meeting at 1000, Saluda Post 65, 108 South Rudolph St, Saluda

September 19, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

October 17, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

October 25-27, 2024

2024 SC Fall Conference, The Columbia Marriott, 1200 Hampton St, Columbia

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.