

POST 30 NEWS



Hezzie Griffis Post 30
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Commander's Comments

As the Commander of Post 30 for the past three years I'm very proud of the programs and improvements accomplished by the Post: new HVAC units, replacing all lights with LED lights, tankless water heater, and the upcoming removal of the gas space heaters are just a few to mention. Also, rentals are up significantly, and our financial condition is the best it has been in many years. All these accomplishments are the result of the hard work of all our officers, trustees, and members.

My special thanks to Jane Doolittle and Winston Boddie for their many hours of service to Post 30 without which we would not be in the great shape we are in.

My congratulations to our upcoming Commander, Winston Boddie, who has already proven himself to be an indispensable member of Post 30. Many of our improvements are direct results of his efforts.

Good luck to him and all the new officers in the future leadership of our Post.

Respectively,

-- Tommy Tripp, Post 30 Commander

Adjutant Advisory

We still have two members who have not paid their 2024 Dues. For the **2024** membership year, our annual Dues are **\$55.00**.

As of July 1, 2024, which is the American Legion **2025** membership year, our annual American Legion Dues will increase to **\$60.00**. Renewal notices will be mailed out in July, October, January, March, and May.

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

Here is what you need to know about the 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 or through MyLegion.org.**
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

A single year membership is still an option

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

"LOVE YOUR ENEMIES"

That is one of the most difficult of Jesus' commandments to me, to be honest. There's a reason why they are my enemies. But Jesus calls for me to pray for them and strive to forgive them. Lord, help me to do this.

When I was deployed to Europe in 2018, I had the privilege of attending an All-Saints Day service in a local cemetery in Swietoszow, Poland. In Poland, November 1 is a national holiday. Families dress up and travel to cemeteries where loved ones are buried. They decorate the graves and head stones with flowers and lit candles, and then sit and pray for them and reflect on the memories. A priest leads a mass in the cemetery and there is a walking procession of singing and prayers.

In this cemetery there was, off to the side, three tombstones and a memorial to the Communist soldiers who had occupied and sometimes violently harassed them and their families for decades. I was surprised they were buried in this local cemetery. Yet, when the mass ended and the prayerful procession began, the first place the crowd went was to the site of the deceased Communists! There they prayed over them. How difficult this must have been to pray for and forgive those who had tormented their families and ancestors since 1945!

I was moved in that moment by these Polish citizens who demonstrated that day what praying for and loving one's enemies is all about. Loving them at least starts by praying for them and forgiving them. The Polish people gave me something to strive for that day. May we all make a fervent effort to pray for and forgive our enemies, if it is Christ we claim to follow. May God help us all.

Blessings,

-- William Beaver, Post 30 Chaplain

Installation of 2025 Post Officers

Mark your calendars for our upcoming June meeting, where we will install the 2025 Post 30 officers. The ceremony will be presided over by District 17 Commander Jerome Childs.

As we welcome our new leadership team, we invite all members to join us in celebrating this moment in the life of our Post. Your presence will not only honor the

incoming officers but also demonstrate our unity and commitment to the continued success of our organization.

Guest Article

Remembering Post 30 Namesake On Memorial Day

Lest we forget, PVT Hezzie Franklin Griffis, for whom Post 30 is named, succumbed to wounds suffered in France during WWI some 106 years ago. He was a young 22 year-old farm boy from Cleora, Edgefield County when he enlisted in the South Carolina Militia shortly after the U.S. had declared war on the German Empire in April 1917. The militia was subsequently organized into the 118th Infantry Regiment, Hezzie's assigned unit, as part of the 30th "Old Hickory" Division commanded by General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, to fight in some of the fiercest combat on the Western Front. Hezzie was severely wounded necessitating amputation of his left leg, and died 22 days later on October 30, 1918 at a French hospital. He was exhumed and returned to Edgefield nearly three years later, proudly escorted by members of Post 30 for reburial at Berea Baptist Church.

-- Compiled by J.W. "Pete" Peterson

Rifle Raffle Success!

The annual Rifle Raffle Ticket Fundraiser was an outstanding success this year. Through the participation of our members and community supporters, we sold an impressive 114 raffle tickets. Additionally, we received \$30 in donations.

In total, this event raised a phenomenal \$1,170 for our Post. We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed by selling tickets or purchasing them.

As we await the drawing with great anticipation, we wish the best of luck to all ticket holders, especially those from Post 30. May the odds be in your favor!

District 17 Lady Fastpitch Softball Schedule

The schedule for SC Lady Fastpitch Softball has been released and below are the dates, times, and locations where the District 17 team will play. The team would greatly appreciate all the support it can get so if you have time please consider going to a game. If you do go introduce yourself to the coaches and team members so they know you're there to cheer them on.

The team plays a total of 8 games, 4 home and 4 away. They play two games a week, every Tuesday and Thursday in June.

Date	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Location
6/4/2024	6:00PM	District 17	Greenwood Post 20	Ridge Spring-Monetta High School at 1071 Trojan Road, Monetta
6/6/2024	6:00PM	District 17	Aiken Post 26	Ridge Spring-Monetta High School at 1071 Trojan Road, Monetta, SC
6/11/2024	6:00PM	North Augusta Post 71	District 17	North Augusta Riverview Park 100 Riverview Park Drive, N. Augusta
6/13/2024	6:00PM	District 17	Abbeville Post 02	Ridge Spring-Monetta High School at 1071 Trojan Road, Monetta
6/18/2024	6:00:PM	North Augusta Post 71	District 17	North Augusta Riverview Park 100 Riverview Park Drive, N. Augusta
6/20/2024	6:00PM	Greenwood Post 20	District 17	Greenwood High School 1816 Cokesbury Road, Greenwood
6/25/2024	6:00PM	Aiken Post 26	District 17	Aiken Citizens Park Field 651 Old Airport Road
6/27/2024	6:00PM	District 17	North Augusta Post 71	Ridge Spring-Monetta High School at 1071 Trojan Road, Monetta

Edgefield County Honors Fallen Heroes at Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

While Memorial Day weekend unofficially marks the start of summer, a time for backyard barbecues and family gatherings, we must never lose sight of the profound significance behind this day. Memorial Day is, in essence, the most expensive holiday we celebrate as a nation – a day that carries a debt we can never truly repay.

On Monday, May 27, 2024, the Edgefield County community came together to pay their respects and honor the 71 Edgefield County service members who were killed in action and the 8 that were held as a POW during World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

American Legion Post 30 Treasurer Doug Timmerman opened the ceremony, followed by Evangelist Henrietta Grimes who delivered the opening prayer. Students from the Fort Eisenhower Youth Challenge Academy posted the colors and were followed by the placing of a wreath at the flagpole by American Legion Department of South Carolina District 17 Commander Jerome Childs and Johnny Abney from the Johnston American Legion Post 222. A beautiful rendition of the National Anthem and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was performed by Zariah Brown. Next, guest speaker Chaplain Major William Beaver from Fort Eisenhower and American Legion Post 30 delivered a powerful message. His words reminded us of the enduring courage and selflessness of our fallen brethren, and the profound impact their sacrifices have had on or way of life. Ms. Sara Rainsford recited the poem ‘Why Wear a Poppy’ and American Legion Post 30 Adjutant Jane Doolittle paid tribute to our POW/MIA service members. American Legion Post 30 legionnaire Paul May read aloud the names of the 71 Edgefield County service members who were killed in action along with the 8 that were held as a POW. Adding to the solemnity of the ceremony, Ms. Carley Baird’s rendition of “Taps” on the bugle echoed through the air.

As the ceremony drew to a close, a silence fell over the crowd – a silent tribute to the heroes who gave their all for our freedom. It was a powerful reminder that the cost of freedom can truly never be repaid, and that we must never take for granted the sacrifices made on behalf of our great nation.

-- Winston Boddie, Post 30 Vice Commander

New HVAC System Installed

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of our long-awaited HVAC upgrade project. Our facility now has two 2 ½ ton split units installed at each end of the building, ensuring optimal climate control and comfort for all.

This marks the end of our reliance on the outdated and hazardous open-face heaters, significantly enhancing the safety and well-being of our members, visitors, and renters.

We extend our sincere thanks to every member who volunteered their time and effort at our various fundraising events throughout the past year. Your contributions were instrumental in making this upgrade a reality.

Furthermore, we would like to express our appreciation to Edgefield County for their generous support, funding 50% of the project costs.

Invitation to Attend Palmetto Boys State Opening Ceremony

All South Carolina American Legion members are cordially invited to join Palmetto Boys State as special guests for the official launch of the 2024 encampment on Sunday, June 9th.

The festivities will begin with a reception at 6:00 PM at the Ross Anderson Student Center at Anderson University. This will be followed by an assembly at 7:30 PM at the Henderson Auditorium, also located on the Anderson University campus.

Parking for the event will be available at 910 E Calhoun St, Anderson, SC.

To ensure proper planning, Palmetto Boys State kindly requests that all attendees RSVP by Monday, June 3rd, using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/PBSReception24>

Calendar of Events

June 9-15, 2024

Boys State at Anderson University
Girls State at Presbyterian College

June 20, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.
2025 Post 30 Officers Installed. Dinner menu: hot

dogs/chili dogs with slaw, sausage dogs, fries and dessert.

July 18, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

August 15, 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.