



# The American Legion

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January 2018

**Chapin Post 193 Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 897, Chapin, SC 29036-0897**

## Commanders Corner



The New Year has arrived and we are off to a great start. What better way to start 2018 than to have our Past Commander Tom Fincher be awarded the prestigious Order of the Saint Maurice. It was an honor for me to have been able to participate in the ceremony. It was good to see everyone at the meeting and enjoying the vegetable beef soup prepared by Jim Schafer which I was told was very tasty. I was off work last Monday and had the opportunity to go up to the Post for the Monday morning gathering and feast. Yes, a feast that is the way it looked to me, there was all types of breakfast food, coffee and

probably about 20 or so members enjoying the food and just having a good time telling stories. Our Facility Manager Dave Schimsa has certainly raised the bar on our Monday morning gatherings and by all accounts it is a big hit! I am pleased to announce that the Membership of Post 193 has selected long time member Gerald White as our Legionnaire of the Year for 2017. Gerald is a fine Legionnaire and has done a lot for the American Legion and for our Post. Our membership numbers are looking good, I am confident that we will exceed our membership goal for this year and I want to Thank all of you for the work you are doing to increase our membership. New members mean new ideas and a fresh perspective, new approaches to doing business etc. One of our newer members Bill Larochelle recently joined the Post and has taken over as our Oratorical Chairman and has experience in almost every leadership position of a legion Post. Our building fund is continuing to grow, each month we are getting more members to join the 20 buck a month club and or making large onetime donations. The building committee met the other night and have put together a draft of what is being put forth as our building of the future. You should be seeing a rendering posted sometime in the near future. We still need a building chairman to lead the charge, if you are interested please let me know. In February we will have our Valentines Dinner in lieu of our Post meeting the cost is \$15.00 per couple. In the past we have had a nice time and good food. This year we are going to raise the bar and try to make it an even better affair with an improved menu. Mark your calendars and bring your spouse or significant other out for a nice meal and a good time of fellowship with friends. If you need to get a copy of your DD 214 or other military records the link below will get you to the site that will direct you in how to do that. I cannot tell you how many family members of Veterans I speak with constantly that do not have the required documentation to get their loved one buried in a National Cemetery, to get a flag from the VA or to request Military Honors. One day all of us will need these documents and it is best to get them before they are needed. <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. Looking forward to seeing you all at the next gathering.

Steven Goulet/For God and Country – “We Can Build It”

## Adjutant



Welcome 2018, we started out with a bang at Post 193. It was an honor to witness one of our own rewarded with a the honor of being selected for the United States Army Infantry "Order of Saint Maurice" at our January meeting. Congratulations to Tom Fincher. Post 193 continues to climb towards our Goal of 231 members. We have had a few new members and transfers join in the last month or so. Currently we stand at 215 members renewed. At the Executive Committee meeting and Post regular meeting it was decided to renew all "Over 90 years of age Post 193 members". If you fall into that amazing category, first off, **congratulation's and**

**thank you.** Second, we will be renewing and mailing your membership card for 2018 free of charge. The "100th Annual Department Convention" is coming our way 6/1-6/3 this year. Come celebrate the American Legion's Centennial with us. As always, if you see the White Dodge Ram parked outside the Post, come in and say hello.

James Pepper/For God and Country

## First Vice



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year. Thanks to all those who sponsored a child from We Care. The Post sponsored 14 children. The Post also donated a truck load of toys to the Toys for Tots. I feel blessed to belong to Chapin American Legion Post 193 with the caring members that we have. I can't express how proud I am of all our Legion Family Members. Mark your calendar for March 15th for the next Family Night at the Post. We will be doing another Pot Luck supper. You will be getting more information on this in the near future. Please remember to sell and/or buy Post raffle tickets for the drawing held on Labor

Day. This is the Post major fund raiser for the year and we need all the members help and support in this. The Post is setting up some dates to sell tickets at sites around Chapin and Ballentine and will be letting you know when and where.

John Sieimers/For God and Country

## ALR Chapter Director



The Riders are in the process of selling tickets to our annual breakfast fundraiser. The cost of the tickets are \$10.00 each. This is for an all you can eat breakfast buffet at Zorba's. The date is 24 February from 0730 till 1000. See myself or any rider to purchase a ticket. The annual SC State Legacy Ride is upcoming in April. 100% of the monies raised goes to the American Legion Legacy Fund. The Riders pay all their own expenses (gas, food and lodging) so all donations go to the fund. Please think about sponsoring a rider. You can pledge so much a mile ridden (600 mile ride) or give a flat

donation. No donation is too small or too large.

John Siemers/For God and Country

## Chaplain



January is a good time to do some internal house cleaning. We normally think of "spring cleaning" but we old veterans will be way too busy for internal or external cleaning come spring time. Our calendars are already getting booked full. So, now would be a good time to do some soul searching and planning. I'm prone to staying too busy doing "busy" work. It takes good planning to make every lick count. The American Legion was established for Veterans to look after one another and they certainly need us. Our country needs us to teach patriotism to our youth and to keep our history alive. Our community needs us to provide challenges and opportunity for our future leaders through the programs that we support. Choose a program and determine to make it a priority. Partition the Lord to guide you and bless your efforts that they would be like those few little fish and those few loaves of bread that the Lord Jesus blessed to be adequate to feed thousands. Let's make things happen this year in Post 193. For the glory of God. For the benefit of our hurting and lonely comrades. For our community that it will stay on course. For our youth that they will be prepared to step in the gap and make up a protective hedge around our core values. Pray for our leadership at all levels.

Richard Mullinax Sr - If you believe in it you'll be recruiting for it

## Comrade Care List

Remember these "Daily" it doesn't take a formal prayer, it takes a compassionate heart. If you would like to add someone to this list, please call me, [803.622.4300](tel:803.622.4300). If you would like to contact any of these comrades, call me for contact information.

Past Commander Joyce Mustard, Keith Alverson, Roy Nelson, Ed Betts, Robert Barber, Hal Morrison, Jim Morris, Jim Allison – prayers please

Don Culver                      Death of his spouse, Chuck Ashmore – battling family medical issues

Wes Moore                      Son passed from a gun accident

Richard Mullinax Sr./Post Chaplain – For God and Country

## Facility Manager



"Post supplies are located in the storage room off of the kitchen. The storage room is secured, so if items are required for an event please let me know and I can provide the items you need or get you a key. There is also a key in the Adjutant's office. Please let me, the Commander, or one of the Vices know if there are items you would like to donate to the Post. If it is an item we can put to good use then I'll make arrangements to get those items from you. Anyone have a billiards or foosball table? We need to upgrade the Post first aid kit. Please let me know if this is something you would like to do for the Post. We continue to share fellowship, coffee, and breakfast Monday mornings. The Post is open by 0800 and breakfast is ready by 0900. A big thanks to Comrade Dan Goldston for donating fresh eggs and for his help in the kitchen. Also thanks to Chaplain Richard Mullinax who starts us out with a prayer and usually finds his way into the kitchen to help with cleanup after chow."

## Ladies Auxiliary



The Post has contributed \$300.00 to the Auxiliary for Girls State. A big thank you for their continued support. If anyone is interested the position of president will be open in June. We can not run an Auxiliary without a president. The other Executive Committee members would like to continue in their positions. If you would like to nominate yourself or anyone else for any of the positions please let me know. In March we will begin the work with Girls State. Nancy Graham will be reaching out for help on the selection panel. The District Meeting is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January at the District Office, if you want to attend please call me. We recruited 3 new members at our January meeting. Please continue to help us to grow strong by asking eligible ladies you meet to come for a visit.

Carmen Goulet/President

## Member Highlight



This month we will highlight Past Commander Cletis Smith, Cletis is a Charter member of Post 193, has served as Post Finance Officer, Vice Commander and Post Commander from 2005 -2006.

Cletis enlisted in the Army January 20, 1947, attended basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington. His assignments include, E troop, 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Tokyo, Japan (during the occupation of Japan). GHQ Honor Guard for General Douglas MacArthur. Cletis served at the Pueblo Colorado Ordnance Depot, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, 65<sup>th</sup> AAA Gun Battalion

Okinawa, Artillery OCS Fort Sill, Ok, Headquarters and Service Battery 68<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> AD, Ft. Hood Texas, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Bn, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Student Micro-Wave Equipment, Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, 999<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, Ft. Dix, New Jersey, Joint Communications Agency, Ft. Ritchie, Maryland. In 1961 Cletis switched from the US

Army to the US Air Force, McDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. 218<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, Aviano Air force Base Italy. 2189<sup>th</sup> Detachment, 8 Placenza, Italy. 3400 Instructor Squadron Keesler Air Force Biloxi, Mississippi. Retired from the military service June 30, 1967. Total active military service 20 year 28 days. His most memorable experiences while serving was his tour in Japan with the Army and his assignment with the Air Force in Italy. Cletis started his military service young, retired from the military young and enjoyed every minute of it.

After retirement from the service, Cletis worked in the maintenance department for the Orange County public school system, Orlando Florida and then at Martin Marietta Orlando, Florida building WallEye Missiles, this contract was completed in 1969. Cletis was fortunate to find work as an Electronic Tech, with Diebold Inc., in Orlando, Florida. In 1970 Cletis transferred to Birmingham, Alabama and opened a new installation department and managed this department until transferring to Columbia, SC as service manager to oversee the installation of the first ATM's in South Carolina. Cletis resigned from Diebold in 1982 to build his home in Chapin which took him five years to complete. In 1989 Cletis went back to work full time as a Service Manager for Bank and Business Systems in Lexington, SC and retired in 1992.

Cletis and his wife Eleanor were married in Clintwood, Virginia, August 17, 1953 and are blessed with two boys and two girls, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They live on twenty one acres with a dirt road which takes up much of Cletis's time. He would like us to know that the time he spent with the post when he was active and involved with the everyday activities was most enjoyable and rewarding. When the National Commander, Thomas Bock visited when he was Post 193 Commander and that was one event he will always remember. Two other events he is proud to mention are that as Post 193 Commander he initiated the required paperwork to start the Post Auxiliary. The action was finalized and a charter was issued during the tenure of Commander Joyce Mustard. Also with the help of then Adjutant William Chick and the post membership who worked hard, Cletis received the Commander of the Year Award for the State of South Carolina.

American Legion Post 193 is a great Post due to the hard work and vision of members like Cletis. I am sure time spent speaking and listening to Cletis would be a very rewarding experience. So if you have the opportunity I am sure he would welcome the fellowship.

## Calendar Events

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| February 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Executive Committee Meeting 6:15 pm   |
| February 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Post 193 Annual Valentines Dinner 6:30 pm   |
| February 10 <sup>th</sup> | District meeting Cayce American Legion Post 30 10:00 am   |
| February 17 <sup>th</sup> | Quadrant Two Oratorical Contest St. Paul's Lutheran Church, <u><a href="#">1715 Bull Street, Columbia, SC</a></u> 10:00 am (Must provide an escort) |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup> | ALR Chapter 193 meeting   |
| February 24 <sup>th</sup> | ALR Chapter 193 Breakfast at Zorba's \$10.00 per person   |
| March 5 <sup>th</sup>     | Executive Committee Meeting 6:15 pm   |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup>     | Regular Membership Meeting 7:00 pm, (dinner 6:15 pm) Quilt of Valor Presentations   |

More calendar items can be seen on the Post webpage at [www.americanlegionpost193.com](http://www.americanlegionpost193.com)  
Join our Post 193 Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionpost193/>

Reminder: Post 193 is open every Monday morning from 0900-1200. Come on by and have some coffee, breakfast and a little comradery

## Highlights



Past Commander Tom Fincher being presented with the Order of Saint Maurice by BG (RET) Mick Zais.



Oratorical Competition Chairman Bill Larochelle with two student competitors from Chapin High School.



Post member Ernie Masamo presenting Department Adjutant Nick Diener with a \$500.00 check for the National Emergency Fund.



Post 193 members enjoying Monday morning breakfast.