



**American Legion Post 543
4136 Southport Supply Road
St. James, NC 28461**

August 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

It is an honor and privilege to be the North Carolina Post 543's newest Commander. Our membership is comprised of fellow Veterans who are dedicated to serving others. What sets aside our members from many citizens, is that at one (or more) time(s) in our lives we raised our hand and swore to protect and defend our Country, up to and including with our lives if necessary.

We are also bound together by common experiences. Who can forget that Training Instructor in the Smokey the Bear hat, "sharing" with us what we should be doing, that usually wasn't what we were indeed doing at that moment? Or the bonds we made at the Academies, college ROTC or 90-day commissioning programs.

Following initial training, our family's first Technical School assignment was to Biloxi Mississippi. This was followed by a PCS to Enid Oklahoma, a rural community surrounded by miles of wheat fields in north central Oklahoma. In these assignments and the countless that followed, we met wonderful people and made life-long friends. These experiences taught us the value of others, in ways previously unimaginable. Rich colorful patches of cloth, each one unique and highly valued that weave together to form our beautiful Country. It is these people and our way of life that we are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to preserve and defend.

As members of the American Legion we continue this mission through our service to preserving a strong National security by taking care of all Veterans, mentoring youth and promoting patriotism and honor. The former dates of Service limitations have been lifted. So, if you are a Veteran who served at any time, and not yet a member, please consider joining us.

To continue being successful as a Post in serving others, we ourselves must be strong. Hence my emphasis on taking care of one another. As a member of Post 543, you are a member of a family, forged in common commitment and experiences - creating a combined strength that is essential to successful attainment of our mission.

I look forward to serving you and together serving others.

Very Respectfully,


Commander