



*Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation*  
*National Security*  
*Americanism*  
*Children and Youth*

Richard H. Stewart, Jr  
American Legion Post 543  
St. James, NC 28461

**General Membership Meeting of May 24, 2017**

Commander Crowden called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Color Guard Advanced the colors.

Chaplain, Jimmy Perryman led the opening prayer.

2nd Vice Commander Mike Fegan placed the cover on the POW/MIA Chair

Commander Crowden led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Legion Constitution.

Roll Call of Officers: Present, Commander Crowden, Dan Bennett, Jimmy Perryman, Mike Fegan, Paul Witmer John Muuss, Rick Sessa, Doug Pratt, Chuck Blackburn  
Don Cunningham, Pom Pomeroy.

Commander Crowden led the introduction of visitors and guests.

Commander Crowden presided over the presentation of awards to the East Brunswick High School Students. Rick Sessa led the presentations of awards. Chuck Blackburn, Chair of Americanism assisted in the presentations, and Mike Fegan spoke to the Oratorical Awards.

The following is the script from the awards presentation:

# Student Awards Night May 24, 2017

## Introduction

\*Commander Gary G. Crowden

\*Americanism Chair, Chuck Blackburn

Introduction of Guidance Counselors

Introduction of Leadership & Development

### **HOLD ALL APPLAUSE UNTIL THE VERY END!**

**Department of NC, COLON FURR MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP** \*Past Cmdr. Rick Sessa  
Div. II, Repaint; **BCC Donovan Eric Testerman** \*Cmdr. Crowden  
BCC Foundation, Director Resource Development \***Elina DiCostanzo**

### **Post Oratorical Contest 2017**

**Mentors, Teachers & Judges**

**Post Oratorical Contest Runner-up;** **Previous Contestant SBHS Cagney Hodge**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place; Nestor Rodriguez Brunswick County Early College High School  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place; Olivia Corby West Brunswick High School  
1<sup>st</sup> Place; Post; & Dist. 9, Runner up Div. II, Richard J. (RJ) Thomas BCECHS

\*Past Cmdr. Sessa  
Introduction \***Mike Fegan**  
\*Mike Fegan/Gary  
\*Mike Fegan/Gary  
\*Mike Fegan/Gary  
\*Mike Fegan/Gary

### **JROTC Awards 2017**

**American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award;** **Cadet Tommy Nguyen Excused** \*Cmdr. **Crowden/LTC Blue**  
**This award is given to the JROTC Cadet that is in the top of his/her class in JROTC subjects; have demonstrated qualities of leadership; and have actively participated in related student activities.**

**American Legion Military Excellence Award; SBHS JROTC Cadet Brady Udlinek** \*Cmdr. **Crowden/LTC Blue**  
**The recipients of this award must be in the top of his/her class and have demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.**

**This year's air rifle team was very successful in the various competitions it entered. The team finished a respectable 36<sup>th</sup> out of 157 teams who participated in the 2017 American Legion Sporter Air Rifle Completion. The cadets from the "Cougar Battalion" also competed in the Orion Air Rifle competition and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in its Division which consists of teams from six states. In the Army "Best of the Best" competition the team finished 18<sup>th</sup> out of 53 teams invited by the Army nationwide to participate. They concluded the season with an impressive first place out of 16 teams from the local area.**

### **Marksmanship Awards;**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Marksman; Cadet Christina Girard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Marksman; Cadet Tommy Nguyen **Excused**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Marksman; Cadet Kourtney Burton

Intro. \*Past Cmdr. Sessa  
\***Cmdr. Crowden/LTC Blue**

### **Alumni 2016 – NC Highway Patrol Student Trooper**

Rachel Gibby Brunswick County Early College High School  
Christopher Anselmo South Brunswick High School  
Christian Coston South Brunswick High School

Intro. \*Past Cmdr. Sessa  
\***SPT/OKI Kiwanis Club**  
**President Patrick Boyce**  
\***Tom Balbert/Chuck**

### **Candidates 2017 – NC Highway Patrol Student Trooper**

Joseph Nieto Brunswick County Early College High School  
Ana Bottello South Brunswick High School  
Felicia Rainwater-Lyons South Brunswick High School

Intro. \*Past Cmdr. Sessa  
\***SPT/OKI Kiwanis Club**  
\***SPT/OKI Kiwanis Club**  
\***Post 543 L&D Team**

### **Alumni 2016 – Tar Heel Boys' State**

Jackson Maultsby Brunswick County Early College High School  
Alexander Grooms South Brunswick High School  
Jesse Narron South Brunswick High School

Intro. \*Past Cmdr. Sessa  
\***SPT/OKI Kiwanis Club**  
**President Patrick Boyce**  
\***Mark Bachara Attorney at Law**  
\***Lt Gen Joe Kinzer (Ret)**

Old Business:

Rob McKinley presented the following slate of candidates for officer positions for the coming fiscal year:

**Slate of Candidates for 2017 Post 543 Executive Committee as of March 22, 2017**

<b>Commander:</b>	Mike Fegan	_____
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Dan Bennett	_____
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Com:</b>	Rick Sessa	_____
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Com:</b>	Rick Quashne	_____
<b>Fin. Officer:</b>	Doug Pratt	_____
<b>Judge Advoc:</b>	Art “Doc” Liberty	_____
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Gary Crowden	_____
<b>Serv. Officer:</b>	Paul Witmer	_____
<b>Historian:</b>	John Muuss	_____
<b>Sgt. Arms:</b>	Chuck Blackburn	_____
<b>One At-Large ((3 year term):</b>	Tom Balbert	_____

**MOTION:** A motion was made seconded and passed. The slate was approved as presented.

Commander Crowden stressed the need for volunteers for proctoring at South Brunswick High testing. These are mandatory tests and very important.

We have an important need for volunteers at the SJMAD Golf Tournament. Steve Muir is coordinating volunteers for the event.

Rick Sessa, brought the membership up to date concerning the June 2, SJMAD Concert for the benefit of veterans, family, active service, and veterans. The concert will kick off at 5 PM at Woodlands Park.

Bill Morgan shared the planned events for Memorial Day ceremony. The event will start at 11 AM at the Veterans Memorial at the St. James Town Hall.

Commander Crowden discussed the various options our post has for funding veteran’s organizations. Our goal is to expend over 50% of our total funding for active duty military and veteran related service organizations.

Tom Bednarzack updated the posts new Military Appreciation Day shirts.

Mike Fegan updated the group on the St. James Military Appreciation Day Golf Tournament. We have 100 people signed up thus far. The concert and tournament accounts for most of funding of the services we provide.

Jimmy Perryman led the closing prayer.

Commander gave the post the closing Commander's Charge

Mike Fegan retrieved the POW/MIA chair cover.

The Color Guard retired the colors

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting a 7:51 PM