Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

We have now completed a full year following elections and installation of Officers, and to say that I am both excited and thrilled with our accomplishments would indeed be an understatement.

Our Adjutant, Michael Miranda was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and outgoing Service Officer Arthur Ranta received the Americanism Medal for their contributions to the post over their years of tenure.  Outgoing Commander David Robbins received a plaque and the Past Commander pin for his exceptional service as our leader.   As Springtime is a very busy school time and graduation time, Post 205 sponsored eight rising high school seniors to the Palmetto Boys State and awarded six School Award Medals to graduating seniors at three of our local high schools.  We are now the adopted sponsor for Bluffton High School Army JROTC, and look forward to another relationship with the May River High School Air Force JROTC in the 2023-2024 school year.  We were honored to present the Fire Fighter of the Year award at the Bluffton Township Fire Department Annual Dinner.  As the sponsor for Blufftons Memorial Day Ceremony, our guest speaker, Brennan Beck, representing the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs, provided a perspective of both his military service and the ongoing efforts of the States VA Department.   In June, our "Operation Wipeout", once again delivered the promise and $1000.00 worth of diapers to the needy young families of our local military at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, the Parris Island Recruit Depot and the Naval Hospital Beaufort.   At the Fall Department Convention, Post 205 was recognized with the 1st Place Award for the Department Top History Book, and our 2nd Vice Commander, newly elected as the District 16 Commander continues to represent both the Post and the District well.   Our Budget Committee continues to provide revised updates to insure that we maintain a solid financial base as we continue to increase our contributions to Veterans, Youth and the Community.   The annual September Post Golf Tournament, assisted by our outstanding Auxiliary Unit 205, exceeded it success of prior years and allowed us to present the "Fisher House" with a check for $2450.00.  Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate in allowing us to proceed with our annual Bluffton Veterans Day parade, as all schools and government facilities were shut down as a precaution.  We were however able to place flags at the gravesides of all our local Veterans.  In December, the Post was recognized at a Town Hall ceremony with the "1st Place Float" award in Bluffton's 51st Annual Christmas Parade.  Our Wreaths Accross America program grew to include sponsorship of wreaths at the gravesides of Veterans at all three Bluffton cemeteries and at the Bluffton Veteran's Memorial.  Into the new year we added another facility to our Vet- 2-Vet monthly visits with Veterans at the Benton House and now also at the Okatie Pines Retirement Community.  The biggest surprise and honor came from the Greater Bluffton Chamber of Commerce as the Post was recognized at a dinner and awards ceremony in March as a finalist for the Golden Oyster Award and in the top three non-profit organizations in greater Bluffton.  Our Service Officer has obtained by donation new metal containers for our unserviceable Flag donations at all of our Township Fire Halls.  We celebrated the 15 March Birthday of the Post and the American Legion, and on 29 March recognized National Vietnam Veterans Day with an open house and ceremonial cake, which included members of the community, first responders, the Bluffton Vietnam Veterans local lunch group as well as Post members.  We are now planning for these events and the nineteen programs we will continue to support in the coming months.

Sadly this past year we sent three of our members,  Peter DiSanto, Leslie Jones and William Cubley, into the service of our Supreme Commander.   We are comfortable that they are looking down and cheering us on as we continue our service to Veterans, youth and the community.

If you see something in this annual report that says to you, "I could do that", "I could become more involved", "I could check on a fellow Veteran from time to time", "I Could Be The One", then join us as we continue to move forward as Veterans Serving and Strengthening America"

With Pride and Respect, I remain

Steve

Stephen J. Robillard

Commander

Dennis J. Becker Post 205

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