



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

PRESS RELEASE

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**John Muuss
Historian/Public Relations**

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Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769's Veterans Affairs Committee Donates Funds to American Legion Post 543's Vet to Vet Program

Attachment; Left to Right: Rob McKinley, immediate past Chaplain American Legion Post 543, and Elk Lodge member, Kevin Fogarty, Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769 Exalted Ruler, Joe Fitzpatrick, Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769 Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Gary Crowden, Commander. American Legion Post 543.

The Richard H. Stewart Jr. American Legion Post 543 accepted a donation from the Oak Island Elks Lodge, Veterans Affairs Committee at the Legion's July 27th meeting. The Elks Veterans Affairs Committee holds various fundraisers throughout the year and donates the proceeds to eligible veterans groups and projects. Several members of Post 543 are also members of the Elks Lodge. One of them, Rob McKinley, former Chaplain of Post 543 is also on the Elk's Lodge's Veterans Affairs Committee, and recommended the Post 543's Vet to Vet program as a worthy recipient for some of these funds. This recommendation was endorsed by the Veterans

Affairs Committee and brought before the Lodge's membership and was approved at a June meeting.

The Vet to Vet (V2V) is a new program created by Post 543 to aid other veterans with various problems including PTSD at Brunswick Community College.