



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

PRESS RELEASE

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American Legion, Post 543 Receives A Lecture On PTSD And TBI

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Post 543, Legionnaires and concerned citizens in and around St. James, NC attended a very special event. Immediately after the opening ceremonies concluded, the National Anthem was sung by the very talented Erinn Dias. Mrs. Dias and her husband Nelson received national recognition with the award of an Emmy for Best Magazine Documentary. They are also the creators of "Letters from Home" which is a song and dance USO-type show of past military related music. The show has traveled nationally and received many accolades from veteran organizations. This was followed by a donation from the Post to the 40 and 8 Nursing Scholarship Fund. This fund provides scholarships to people desiring to become nurses under the Nurses' Training Program. A prospective nurse need not be a military veteran to receive aid under the Program. The highlight of the evening was a 45-minute presentation by Bill Bauer, Clinical Counseling Advocate assigned to the Wounded Warrior Battalion–East at Camp Lejeune, NC. His topic was the symptoms, causes, and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) suffered not only by service men and women but by first responders, athletes, and victims of domestic abuse. His presentation was extremely informative and helpful to

the Vietnam era veterans in the audience. It was obvious that many lecture attendees were unaware of the many aspects of PTSD and TBI. The evening came to a close with the presentation of “Challenge Coins” to a number of Legionnaires who have performed above and beyond the call of duty to support veterans in the local area, the youth of Brunswick County, and the Post.

Photograph #1....

Left to right: Nelson Dias, Gary Crowden and Erinn Dias accepting the Commander’s “Challenge Coin” for their support of veterans with their show “Letters from Home”.

Photograph #2....

Rick Sessa (Left), past commander of American Legion Post 543, and Gary Crowden (Right), current commander of Post 543, present Don Eisenman (Center), representative from the 40 & 8 Nursing Endowment Fund, with a donation for the Endowment Fund.

Photograph #3....

Mr. Bill Bauer (Left) accepting a “Challenge Coin” from Gary Crowden, current Commander of Post 543, as a token of appreciation for enlightening the audience with his talk on PTSD and TBI.

Photograph #4....

Left to Right: Bill McGreevy, Doug Elznic, Gary Crowden, Peter del Sol, and George Freeman. Legionnaires recognized for their contributions assisting veterans and the youth of Brunswick County by the Post Commander, Gary Crowden.