

# Memorial Day



Remember -  
our fallen heros.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.

VFW POST 445 and AUXILIARY  
*May 2018 Newsletter*



## COMMANDERS COMMENT;



VFW Post 445 and its Auxiliary are commemorative Partners of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. We have committed to holding two events each year through 2020 honoring our Vietnam Veterans.

In April our ceremony was highlighted by remarks from former Navy Commander Mike Hadbavny, Flight Nurse Jacki Hall and Gunnery Sargent James Gregory. (pictures below)

The formal ceremony included placing of the POW/MIA flag by American Legion Post 147 Honor Guard.

At the end of our formal ceremonies Vietnam Veterans and their Families and guests were invited to enjoy an old-fashioned 'Pig Pickin' prepared by our newly adopted Pit Crew. Our Auxiliary provided Chicken, Brats and Dogs along with Pasta and Potato salads.

Thank y'all for great Comradeship, good food and your help in making this event a success.

God Bless America and the VFW

Jim



Jackie and Mike



Commander Jim giving Vets  
their commemorative Pins

Honor  
Guard  
Sharon



Post 445

Viet Nam Vets







Did you know that every day in May has a “celebration” named for it? Following are just a few (don’t want to overwhelm you...)

May 8 – VE day

May 13 – Mother’s Day

May 28 – Memorial day

May 1 – May day

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo and then just for levity.....

May 3 – Lumpy Rug Day

May 4 – No pants Day

May 6 – World Laughter Day



*on the elections*

# AUXILIARY

AND

# POST 445

## POST 445 OFFICERS 2018-19

Jim Barger – Commander  
Nim DeMers – Sr Vice Commander  
Jacki Hall – Jr Vice Commander  
Jim Morris – Quartermaster  
Chuck Blankin – Chaplain  
Harvey Thomas – Judge Advocate  
Nancy Bloodsworth – Service Officer  
Adjutant – TBA  
Richard Schram – Trustee  
Mike Hadbavny – Trustee  
Henry Augustine – Trustee

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2018-19

Joyce Simmons – President  
Tamme Suggs – Sr Vice President  
Cheryl Greene – Jr Vice President  
Dennis Baker – Treasurer  
Jan Maria Pittman – Chaplain  
Secretary – TBA  
Richard Hunt – Conductor  
Ruby Kvestad – Guard  
Barb Barger – Trustee  
Jan Maria Pittman – Trustee  
Greg Ingalls – Trustee

## *Happy Birthday!*

We celebrated  
Toni Stramm's  
97<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday  
last week.





Toni and daughter, Carol



Toni and Marianne Eagan

Toni was looking good and so happy to see everyone.



*What do you mean you don't like chicken!!!!!!*

Chef Greg is cooking dinner this month – his fabulous Chicken!

*See you at the Post May 18<sup>th</sup> .....*

## NEWS FROM THE VA

### **Soldiers' Angels Mobile Food Distribution**

Soldiers' Angels Hunger Relief Program will be hosting a Mobile Food Distribution to supply low-income veteran families with food assistance

When: **Friday, May 11, 2018 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Where: The Ralph H. Johnson VAMC,

[109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401](#) (Back parking lot)

You **MUST** sign up ahead of time: Call: 210-629-0020 or

<https://soldiersangels.formstack.com/forms/charlestonmfd>

### **Veterans Fellowship Network**

This is a monthly dinner followed by a guest speaker on a variety of topics that affect Veterans and their families and ways Veterans can access benefits available to them in the Lowcountry. All Veterans are welcome!

Contact: Byron Lee (843) 217-9248

SAINT JUDE'S CHURCH

[907 WICHMAN ST. WALTERBORO](#)

### **THE RALPH H. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER Memorial Day Ceremony**

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 10 A.M. | VAMC MAIN AUDITORIUM

All are invited to join us as we pay tribute to the men and women who, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "gave the last full measure of devotion" in service to their country.

Musical Selections will be performed by the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command Choir beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Josh Strimple, a Major and Military Intelligence Officer with the U.S. Army Reserve & Friends of Fisher House Charleston President.



## Parris Island Marine Band Free Concert

Free spring concert being put on by the Parris Island Marine Band at the Battery Creek High School in Beaufort on **May 18th at 7 pm**

## Donations requested by the VA:

Chess and Dominos Sets

Pre-packaged snacks

For Veterans on 3A – request for a **portable musical keyboard**

**Desperate Need:** Sturdy backpacks

**Desperate Need:** Reading glasses in strengths +2.25 and higher

## Volunteer Needs

Corporate, Non-Profit, or groups needed to volunteer for coffee service on **all Thursdays** except the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. Also needed for the last Wednesday of the month.

Our Auxiliary took many of the items on VA list to the VA in April as follows:

Personal Care items: 6 bags full



- 5 Bags of Paper Back Books
- Several Large Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Multiple pairs of sweat pants were ordered & will be delivered this month.

### If you use Tricare:

DHA MSO/VSO Working Group: On Wednesday, the VFW participated in the monthly Defense Health Agency (DHA) MSO/VSO Working Group led by DHA Deputy Director Guy Kiyokawa. The meeting provided updates on service treatment record processing and modernization, TRICARE implementation, and upcoming changes to the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program which is set to end on Dec. 31, 2018. Also discussed was the importance of ensuring that beneficiaries who pay their premiums and fees by credit card have contacted their new regional contractor to ensure that their payment information is correct. Beneficiaries who fail to authorize or update their payment information with their new TRICARE contractor before May 31, 2018, will lose coverage and must wait a full year to re-enroll. As of March, there were still approximately 44,000 beneficiaries who have failed to update their payment information. If you are unsure of your current payment authorization status, please contact your regional TRICARE contractor.

### May Events at the Post:

Breakfast – Sundays from 9:00–11:30

Pool Tournament – Mondays @ 7:00. \$10 entry fee – Prizes awarded!

Wings & Things – Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:30

Shuffleboard Tournament every Friday @ 7:00. \$5 entry fee Winner takes all!

Building & Grounds 5/1 @ 6:30 p.m.

House Committee 5/1 @ 7:00 p.m.

General Membership Meeting 5/8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Auxiliary and Post Installation 5/10 @ 7:00 p.m.





## FRIDAY DINNER MENU

5/4 – Half way to Thanksgiving *with Music*

5/11 – Mexican Nite *with Music*

5/18 – Greg's amazing Chicken *with Music*

5/25 – Fish Fry *with Music*