



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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Oct. 22, 2016**

**John Muuss  
Historian/Public Relations  
910/253-3243**

### **American Legion, Post 543, Veterans Day 2016**

**American Legion Post 543 will host the annual Veterans Day ceremony at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 11, 2016, at the Veterans Memorial adjacent to the St. James Town Hall on Route 211. All local communities are invited to attend. Our guest speaker will be U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral (Retired) Steven H. Ratti.**

**Admiral Steve Ratti served our country for over 40 years. He commanded four ships with time in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Caribbean and Bering Seas, and the Gulfs of Mexico and Alaska. RADM Ratti also served as Director of the Joint Interagency Task Force charged with combatting Transnational Organized Crime in Asia and the Pacific. As Director of Operations for U.S. Southern Command, he directed all U.S. Military Operations in the Caribbean, and South and Central America. As his final assignment, Ratti commanded the Fifth U.S. Coast Guard District, which is responsible for all Coast Guard Operations in the Mid-Atlantic Region.**

**Steve Ratti was appointed by the Governor to the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission. He is a member of the non-profit "Mission: Readiness" which is focused on increasing the number of young Americans eligible for military service.**

**Steve & his wife moved to St. James in 2014 and recently moved into their new home.**

**Seating will be provided for all attendees at the Veterans' Memorial. Parking is limited and carpooling is strongly encouraged. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place inside the St James Community Center.**