

## VFW 445 and Auxiliary Newsletter

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! In America, St. Patrick's Day, on March 17, has long been commemorated with rollicking festivities, but until recent decades, the holiday, which honors Ireland's patron saint, was traditionally a more solemn occasion on the Emerald Isle.

The man for whom St. Patrick's Day is named was born into an aristocratic family in Roman Britain around the end of the fourth century. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland, where he was held as a slave for a number of years. He eventually escaped the island, only to return later as a missionary and convert part of the population to Christianity. Centuries after his death, which some sources cite as March 17, 461, although the exact date is unknown, Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland, and March 17 became a holy day of obligation for the nation's Catholics.

Thanks to Irish immigrants in the United States and elsewhere, St. Patrick's Day evolved from a religious holiday into a secular celebration of all things Irish. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in the 1760s, by Irishmen serving there in the British military. During the 19th century, when Irish Catholic immigrants faced discrimination in Protestant-majority America, St. Patrick's Day parades became an opportunity to show strength in numbers. Today, with some 34.5 million Americans claiming to be primarily or partially of Irish descent—making Irish ancestry the second-most commonly reported in the United States, after German—the wearing of the green on March 17 is still going strong. (Australia and Canada are among other locales with long-standing St. Paddy's Day traditions.)

Meanwhile, back in the old country, where until the 1970s pubs were closed on St. Patrick's Day, the Irish are catching up to their counterparts across the pond when it comes to revelry. Since the mid-1990s, the government, in part to promote tourism and boost the economy, has sponsored a multiday St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, featuring a parade and a variety of performances and activities; there are similar events in other sections of the country as well.



*May you always have rainbows and a Pot o' Gold!*



## COMMANDER'S



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recognize and report on Auxiliary activities and concerns. This however does not preclude participation in House Committee meetings and activities.

We are scheduling a Spring Cleaning Day at the Post commencing at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> until (you drop)? We need all the help we can get both outside and in. I'm sure its obvious that we absolutely need it. The Post will be providing lunch in the Pavilion!

We have tried to acknowledge the many contributions to our Relief Fund in honor of Eileen Hadbavny. If we have inadvertently missed someone, please make it known - we want to recognize you!

God Bless America and the VFW

Jim

Comrades and Auxiliary;

We are 25 members short of achieving our membership goal for the current year. I am asking for your help in reaching out to family and friends who are eligible, or who are members that have not yet renewed, and ask them to join us. I would be pleased to meet or talk with them personally if they desire.

We are continuing our commitment to assist Veterans in their time of need through the Military connection of SC Serves. They provide confirmation of a Veteran's status and need for assistance through the VA and other agencies involved in helping Veterans.

We will attend a Veterans Fair at Charleston Southern University on March 22, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00: p.m. The Fair will be held on the first floor of the Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership on Campus. I would welcome company to help inform our Student Veterans about the VFW and how we can assist them.

At our next Membership Meeting I will appoint a liaison to attend Auxiliary meetings to



To Post 445

### More parking

3/3 @ 6:30: Trae's Schnitzel Dinner  
Music by: Sweet Tea

3/10 @ 6:30: Paige & Kevin's Meatloaf  
Dinner

3/17 @ 6:30: St. Patrick's Day Corned  
Beef & Cabbage Dinner by  
Annie & Trae  
Music by: Cosmo

3/24 @ 6:30: Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner  
Music By: Ocean Drive

More Smiles...less grumbling...



### **March is the Month of the Military Caregiver:**

During the Month of the Military Caregiver, Americans recognize and honor military caregivers' sacrifices and successes.

**3/3:** Navy Reserve Birthday

**3/5:** Seabee Birthday

**3/13:** K 9 Veterans Day: A national effort to make March 13 K9 Veterans Day. March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps, and so it seems only right to annually honor their service on that date. They served to save, and they deserve to be remembered.

**3/29:** Vietnam Veterans Day: A day set aside to show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans.

### **February Meeting Minutes Highlight**

**Full minutes are posted on the clipboard in the Canteen hallway**

Welcome new members Susan Strobel and Nancy Bloodsworth. Both applications for membership were unanimously approved at February's meeting.

Post Trustee Mike Hadbavny has been nominated for the position of District Trustee. Congratulations, Mike!

### **House Committee**

A motion was made to extend the smoking ban to one hour prior to any meal service.

The motion was unanimously approved and was put in effect immediately.



### **Veteran's Information Expo**

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 until 3:00 at Lowcountry Harley Davidson. Food, music, and other information on Veteran's resources, benefits, and Services.

Our Post will be one of the participants. Please contact Annie Allison if you would like to help out.

### **Service Notes:**

#### **Meeting the Needs of Female Veterans:**

On Tuesday, the VFW, alongside the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans and Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL) met with Forward Assist, a veterans group from the United Kingdom. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the successes in gender specific health care, transition from military to civilian life and other needs of female veterans in the United States. Since there is still more work that must be done for female veterans, leadership at Forward Assist traveled to research and discuss ways to begin addressing the needs of female veterans in the U.K.

Learn more about what the VFW is doing for women veterans by visiting [vfw.org/women-veterans](http://vfw.org/women-veterans).

### Parking Lot update:

Trees have been removed and the curbs have been ordered. The parking lot expansion will add 20+ spots to our existing parking options.

It was noted that siding repairs are needed. Quotes are being obtained for this work.

Sr. Vice DeMers will be coordinating a grounds clean up party.

### CAREER READINESS SEMINAR

The Charleston County VA Office in partnership with Volvo, Prudential and the College of Charleston North Campus is having a **Career Readiness Seminar March 2-4, 2017** with an employment **hiring event scheduled for April 4, 2017.**

The workshops and the employment hiring event is being offered to Veterans, Military Men and Women that may be in transition from military to the civilian world looking for employment, as well as the military family members seeking employment.

The workshops will offer facts and training on how to successfully interview for a job, as well as have professionals to review an existing resume or assist them with building a resume. The College of Charleston will have the computers and flash drives available to help with these needs. The free workshops will make a candidate more successful at the hiring event, although participating in the workshops are not required to attend the April 4th Hiring Event.

The Hiring Event will host up to 20 companies with available employment opportunities.



### AUXILIARY MEMBERS!

Because you care we accomplished the following in the past year:

- ◆ Donated to the Fisher House
- ◆ Helped a family have a terrific Christmas
- ◆ Supported our Post with financial help and elbow grease
- ◆ Achieved 100%+ 2017 membership already
- ◆ Donated to a Veterans homeless shelter
- ◆ Sent boxes of goodies to our deployed Men and Women—every month.
- ◆ Made several donations to the VA
- ◆ Helped our members in need
- ◆ Donated to the War Horse Brotherhood



Our March Dinner is a very large Pot of Spaghetti and meatballs—with garlic Bread.

**Free of Charge**

Ocean Drive is playing!

Enjoy the break!



Our Mardi Gras dinner was a fun time with some truly delicious food prepared by our Members. Following are some pictures for your enjoyment.



This picture of Irene and Bob was actually taken by a Post and Gazette photographer at the parade in Charleston.



Hmmmm, I wonder who is behind the Mask???



Tamme holds a copy of "Molly's Adopt a Sailor" items that our deployed Veterans would like to have. The boxes behind her were full of these items.

# Molly's Adopt A Sailor

## March Adoption

### Blue Hawks - USS Lake Champlain

The March 2017 adoption is the Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 78, the Blue Hawks, deployed on the USS Lake Champlain. The group consists of 25 males and 8 females. They do not have access to a microwave or refrigerator.

#### Wish List:

Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Feminine hygiene products  
Cookies  
Goldfish crackers  
Candy  
Blue T-shirts (S to XL)  
Cards and letters

Body wash  
Toothbrushes  
Razors (both male & female)  
Hair care (female)  
Beef jerky  
Granola bars  
Gum  
DVD movies

Shipping will be March 25.

**Thank you for your support. God Bless and protect our Troops.**

**Tamme Suggs**

