

# AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

## Commander

January 2025



Happy New Year! I'm glad to be back from my trip and to meet again with y'all.

Congratulations to Tom Yeoman for selection as Post 193 Legionnaire of the Year. Tom has successfully led our Be the One buddy checks, ALR ride coordinator, assistant for Unclaimed Veteran program, and Patriot Guard coordinator, as well as many other programs. He will be nominated for State Legionnaire representing our Post. Shake his hand when you see him.

We have many programs re-starting that we support: Oratorical Contest, Boys/Girls State, Softball, Breakfast, and of course, the new building progress. Bingo re-starts Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Look at the reports of all your committee members and support where you can. We accept ideas for supporting our Veterans, Defense, Youth, Americanism, and Community. I am proud to be associated with you and the Legion. Thank you for all you do.

Mark Harvey/ In Service  
Veteran Help Line: **Dial 988, option 1**

## Adjutant



Welcome 2025! We start the new year off with renewed energy and much anticipation for what the future will bring. I certainly am looking forward to being a part of the many activities, events and opportunities our Post will be involved in during 2025, I hope you are as well.

Thank you to everyone that came out and assisted with recovering all the wreaths at Ft. Jackson National Cemetery. We started early on a very sunny and chilly day with about 20 or so volunteers. Thankfully, 30 minutes after we started about 50 or so young folks from a private school showed up to assist and in about an hour or so we had recovered over 9k wreaths.

All the feedback we have received reference to the Chapin Wreaths Across America program has been positive. For your information we processed more than \$9.5k for wreath purchases and received \$2.4k in rewards back from Wreaths Across America. The rewards money we received was and will be used to purchase items in support of the Wreaths Across America Program and as approved by the Post Executive Committee.

The interment held for three Previously Unclaimed Veterans at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery on Friday January 17, went well. Thank you to everyone that came out, stood as family and honored the Service of these Veterans, "They are not Forgotten".

Our membership is going well, we are at **86.06** % of our membership goal for 2025, we have a renewal rate of **79.20%** and for the 2025 membership year we have added **18** NEW members to

our roster! Recently one of our members, Legionnaire Sandra Metzdorf, volunteered to take on the duties as our Post Membership Chairperson.

Sandra has a great deal of energy and is excited about building the program and growing our membership. She will be seeking advice, input and assistance from current members so let's all chip in and get our new committee up and running

Steven Goulet/" We Can Build It"/" Veterans Strengthening America"

## **First Vice Commander**



Now that the new year has begun, we are in the process of rejuvenating our Membership Program. We have initiated a Membership Committee led by Sandra Metzdorf to move the Post forward and increase our membership and ensure that the Post continues to grow now and into the future. Over the next few months more information about this revamped program will be available and distributed. If you know anyone that is a Veteran and is not a member of the American Legion, please invite them to a breakfast or encourage them to join.

We have submitted our Law Enforcement Officer candidates for the Department Awards and are preparing for the Teacher of the Year and Boy Scout of the Year Awards in February. Legionnaire of the Year is also being readied for submission along with other Post Awards.

Our next "Be the One" Buddy Check will be coming up in March. Thanks again to Tom Yeoman for running that excellent program.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country

## **Second Vice Commander**



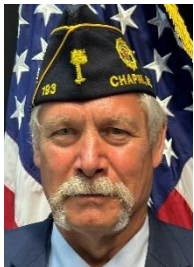
YOUR LEGION HAS A NEW BINGO HOME. As of February 6th, we will be playing Bingo at 157 NW Columbia Ave (The Chapin Town Hall) which has more comfortable seating a cleaner environment and is closer to home base. We have enjoyed working with The Barn for 3 plus years, but time moves on.

Recently we were the recipient of \$787 from the Greater Chapin Community Grant Foundation which will help us send some deserving young men in our community to Palmetto Boys & Girls State, hosted by Anderson Collage. This is a program designed to educate young men and women in leadership skills and the workings of your local and State government. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please see myself or any EC member to donate.

Our New Building is Beginning to take shape, slowly for many of us, much land work has been done to prepare for the actual building. Thanks to all the people working on this. Something else to look forward to is Baseball is around the corner including Ladies Fast Pitch Soft Ball. They need your support so please help. May our Legion enjoy a momentous year in 2025. God bless everyone and be safe.

Floyd Rogers/For God and Country

## Third Vice Commander/Quartermaster/Blood Drive Monitor



**Happy New Year!!** There was a Blood Drive on January 13, 2025. Five members of the Post participated in the Drive. We collected 17 units of blood. The next Blood Drive date is in March. I'm waiting for the new coordinator to confirm the date. For any that can donate it would be appreciated plus it adds to our total units given. Sign up will be on the Red Cross website. We will also need help taking down and setting up the chairs and tables.

I have approximately 31 name tags for people that have ordered them or they were ordered when they joined the Post.. Please come see me on Monday during breakfast or at the regular post meeting. The following people have ordered name tags:

Frank D. Graham  
Ragan Newell  
Charles Hurd  
Cheryl Hill  
Jeremy Coulter  
Ryan Smith  
Phil Keener  
Jonathan Maness  
Tonya Ridgeway  
Travis Holdorf

Michael Roderick  
Mark Campbell  
Dan Goldston  
Donald Holster  
Russell Lynam  
Marc Stanley  
Gary Green  
Doug Thrailkill  
Damon Gordon  
David Copoely

Michael Swain  
Charles Case  
Chad Eisenhower  
Thomas Brancher  
Ken Moulton  
Philip Sobeeek  
Bobby Havird  
Les Carroll  
Erika Easler  
Robert George

Please come and pick these up !!!!!!! I am at the breakfast almost every Monday and at the Monthly Post meeting.

If you have input for the monthly newsletter please have it to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

Jerry Lebar/For God and Country

## Facility Manager/NBC



We are looking for two or three volunteers who would like to join the Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast crew. Let me know if you are interested (803-960-8708). A big thanks to Doug Abramson and Fred Beauchemin for installing a new dishwasher in the kitchen; and thanks to Doug for replacing lights in the kitchen area. Also a big thanks & job well done to Steve Turner who heads up our US Flag Retirement Program where we properly dispose of unserviceable US flags. Steve disposed 2,021 unserviceable US flags in 2024. A reminder to please do not drop off donated items at the Post without checking in with me. We get lots of items we can't use or store.

## New Building Committee:

Land clearing is nearly complete. The detention pond is in and the pad has been formed - showing the outline of the foundation. Weather dependent, the next steps this week are to dig the footers, install rebar, and pour concrete. We have raised a total of \$1,500,000 to date.



Prices have stabilized, but as everyone knows there were significant price increases since we set the initial budget. We appreciate everyone's help and focus on our goal to build our new Post. The PFC Gerald White Multipurpose Room fund now stands at \$72,000!! Great job everyone. We are close to the \$100,000 goal. I know Gerald is smiling.

David W. Schimsa / For God and Country

## ALR Director



We've certainly had a busy few months. The Gun Raffle was quite successful netting \$10,075! We will be donating money to the Post Building Fund for the Gerald White Room in the new building, The Veteran and Children's Foundation, and, of course, we will be keeping a portion for our accounts. Thank you to all who helped with this effort, and I give a special shout-out to Jean Kennedy for sitting at Boland's to sell tickets for 6 straight Fridays. I'd also like to congratulate Bill Larochelle who won the Sig Sauer P365. In December, the Blackwell's hosted a festive and fun Christmas party for the Riders at their home. Fun was had by all in attendance. As we enter 2025, we have many events, including the ROMP in May in MO and Sturgis in August. If you have an idea for a ride or destination, please let me or Wes Moore know. The more we are involved in our activities, the more we can accomplish. Ride safely!

Kevin F. Reynolds/For God and Country/Safety First, People Always

## Chaplain's Corner



Quite often someone will ask me if I know where someone is. Being the wise guy that I am, I will say have you tried Genesis Chapter 4 verse 9 ? God is talking with Cain and asking Cain where is your brother Abel? Cain then asks God, am I my brother's keeper? From this point on all the way to the end of the Bible God is teaching us that we are our brother's keeper. The American Legion was founded on the principle of Veterans taking care of veterans. Our pillars are just ways of us taking care of each other. I think that our BE the One program is a great way for us to find veterans and discover their needs. I met a telephone repairman earlier today and after asking if he was a veteran I ask him if he had ever thought of harming himself, have you ever thought of suicide? His answer was I think that I've got things under control. This week I've asked six men that pointed question. Each time it led to a good encounter and visit with them. I challenge you to be a brother's keeper. Why do we do the things that we do? Because we are our brother's keeper.

## Comrade Care List:

When you pray, remember those listed on our Comrade Care List. Remember our Post family, **Betsy Harvey** working through some health issues. **John Graham** is recovering and should be back in action soon, **Chris Christopher** who is currently in Rehab, **Ed Abston** is recovering from back surgery Buddy Miller who is battling lung cancer, **Jack Hulet** as he battles cancer.

**Richard Royer** as he recovers from his motorcycle accident and his battle with cancer, **Ron Saxton** recovering from back surgery and works through rehab **Paul Holliday** as he is continuing to have issues with his heart **Chaplain Mullinax** Health issues concerning a mass on his kidney **Peter Prim** recovering from knee replacement and wrist surgery, **Walt Richardson** health issues and **Jim Schafer** health concerns.

Forward your request for this list to me at [rcmullinax@gmail.com](mailto:rcmullinax@gmail.com)

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

## Auxiliary



Unit 193 ended 2024 with 42 members having already paid dues for 2025, including three new members and only four previous members not renewing. We had a very successful "Cookies for Soldiers" project the week before Christmas in which we baked and delivered 655 bags of cookies and savory snacks to Fort Jackson. Now we are planning a very fun and eventful 2025!

Our Unit was to have hosted a meeting for SC ALA District 15 on Sat., Jan. 11, but it was rescheduled due to weather concerns and will now be held on Sat., Feb. 1., at 9:30am. All Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend! We are continuing to collect new clothing items for Veterans residing at CM Tucker Nurse Care Center which will be delivered after our February meeting. All volunteers are excited about the new BINGO location and hoping to see concessions sales increase, so additional volunteers are always needed! Besides BINGO, our next fundraiser of the year, "Painting with a Purpose", will be held on Sun., April 13, at 2:00pm at "Painting with a Twist", an art studio on Harbison Blvd. This event is open to the public and will be advertised on the studio's website.

Happy New Year to all,

Marthalyn Schimsa/President/In the Spirit of Service, Not Self



Unit 193 Members organizing and packing up homemade cookies for Soldiers to be delivered to the Ft. Jackson Troops.

Thanks to all who baked for the cause!



# Post Activities and Events

- 21 Jan: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Kevin Reynolds  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Gerry LeBar
- 25 Jan: Oratorical Contest. 1000-1400. Post Building. POC: Bill LaRoche
- 27 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 1 Feb: Auxiliary District Meeting, Post Building, POC: Marthelyn Schimsa
- 3 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 4 Feb: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 6 Feb: BINGO 1730-2200, Chapin Town Hall, 157 Columbia Ave.  
Chapin. POC: Floyd Rogers. Come help or play
- 10 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 13 Feb: Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building,  
POC: Steve Goulet
- 14 Feb: Valentines Day
- 17 Feb: President's Day  
Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 18 Feb: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Kevin Reynolds  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Gerry LeBar
- 24 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](http://americanlegionpost193.com)

For info on our Chapin Newberry Baseball Team visit, [South Carolina American Legion Baseball Home Page \(scalb.org\)](http://scalb.org). You can find a great deal of info on our Post website at [www.americanlegionpost193.com](http://www.americanlegionpost193.com) or on our Facebook page [Chapin American Legion Post 193 | Chapin SC | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Chapin-American-Legion-Post-193-1016284111111111)

# *This and That, Here and There*



Members of Post 193 and a couple of potential members had a great time recovering wreaths at FJNC



A great crowd of folks came out to clean up the Veteran wreaths at the FJNC and we were done in under two hours.

## **Congratulations**



**Tom Yeoman**  
2024  
*Legionnaire of the Year*



**Richard Royer**  
2024  
*ALR Rider of the Year*



Post 193 Sgt at Arms was on hand to be sure all went well, and things were orderly

